

The Hormel Institute

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

RESEARCH



Leena Hilakivi-Clarke, PhD, Receives Grant to Study Possible Health Benefits of Organic, Pasture-Raised Beef

Leena Hilakivi-Clarke, PhD, Professor at The Hormel Institute, University of Minnesota, is the recipient of a two-year grant of more than \$250,000 from Applegate Farms, LLC, a subsidiary of Hormel Foods Corporation. The grant will support research performed by The Hormel Institute's clinical studies group to investigate the possible health benefits of eating pasture-raised, organic beef.

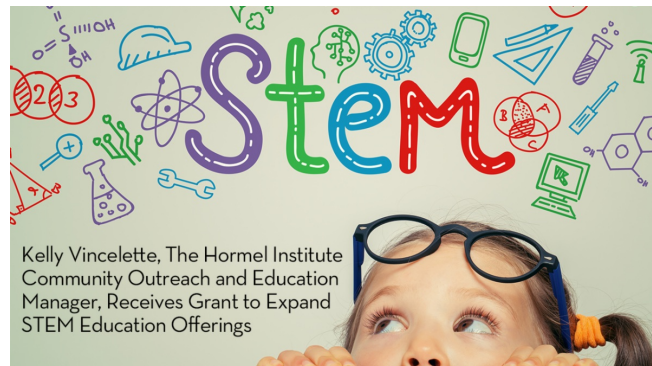
If study findings reveal that consuming organic, pasture-raised beef improves gut health and suppresses inflammatory markers, it would highlight the significant impact of farming practices on human health.

[Read more](#)



NEWS

The Hormel Institute's Community Outreach & Education Department Receives Future Forward Impact Grant



Kelly Vincelette, Community Outreach and Education (COE) Manager at The Hormel Institute, University of Minnesota, is the recipient of a \$25,000 FutureForward Impact grant from Southeast Service Cooperative.

The grant will allow for expansion of the department's Young Scientist Program for middle school students and add a teacher externship program and a lending library that will allow teachers to use lab equipment not commonly available in schools so they can incorporate current, real-world research applications into STEM education for the benefit of students

[Read more](#)



Minnesota Bonding Bill Stalls, But MBiC Goes On

The Hormel Institute continued lobbying efforts to gain support for its ongoing Minnesota Bioimaging Center (MBiC) project throughout the legislative session with all coming to a halt when no bonding bill was passed for 2024. With leadership provided by Austin Port Authority and Representative Patty Mueller, Senator Gene Dornink, Senator Carla Nelson, former Senator Dave Senjem, Austin City Administrator Craig Clark, Austin Port Authority President Jason Baskin, DCA President John Garry, and The Hormel Institute's team of Robert Clarke, Liz Fedie, and Gail Dennison, progress was made with visits by the House Capital Investment Committee, the Senate Capital Investment Committee, and Governor Tim Walz.

"To be clear, MBiC already exists, and we will continue to grow it," said Executive Director Robert Clarke, PhD. "Researchers across the Midwest already partner with our facility to investigate scientific questions across biology, agriculture, ecology, and more. New technology not yet available anywhere else in North America will be installed at The Hormel Institute later this year, further expanding our state-of-the-art bioimaging capabilities to include tomography. We continue to expand our STEM educational opportunities and aim to create a dedicated learning space on our campus so that Minnesotans from K-12 up to the graduate level may develop as research leaders and innovators. Our partnership with Riverland Community College will help to facilitate vital workforce training for a rapidly growing field that is experiencing high global demand at virtually every level. We remain committed to ensuring that our ultimate vision of MBiC may be fully realized—for the benefit of all of Minnesota and beyond."

The Hormel Institute's MBiC team and legislative leaders will convene this month to plan next steps for state funding.

[Learn more about MBiC](#)



SAVE THE DATES

- Wednesday, June 5 - [4th Ave Fest](#) - Horace Park, Austin, MN, 5-8 p.m.
- Saturday, June 15 - [Discover Science Together](#) - The Hormel Institute - 9 a.m.-12 p.m.
- Saturday, June 15 - [Dutchtown Jumpers Golf Tournament](#) - Meadow Greens Golf Course, Austin, MN
- Tuesday, June 25 - [Wellness on Wheels](#) - Grand Meadow School, Grand Meadow, MN - 2-5 p.m.



SUPPORT



Farm to Wellness

Compeer Financial's \$1 million legacy gift in establishing the "Farm to Wellness" research program is underway with a project that will study the diet and its important role in the prevention of breast cancer. Dr. Leena Hilakivi-Clarke will study the connection between a person's unique gut microbiome and how the microbiome responds to consuming milk, consuming soy products, consuming fiber, or a combination of milk, soy, and fiber and if dietary interventions affect breast cancer risk.

The goal is to develop tools that will allow each woman to identify what she should consume to reduce her risk of developing breast cancer. Thank you, Compeer Financial, for making this groundbreaking research possible.

[Donate to help research like this continue](#)

Biofuels Research

Gail Dennison, Director of Development & External Relations, gave an update on the Biofuels Research Project spearheaded by Absolute Energy and The Hormel Institute to the AAE (Ag-Auto-Ethanol) 2024 Spring Forum held in Detroit. The study is funded by 15 major agricultural groups, including Absolute Energy, National Corn Growers Association, Renewable Fuels, US Grains Council, and more. The study is researching aromatic hydrocarbon compounds in tailpipe emissions and impact on cancer development.



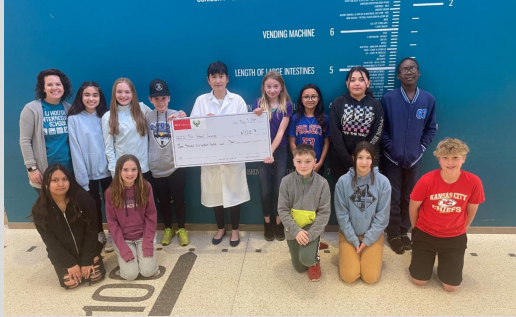
Hormel Plant Helping Hands Committee

They truly are helping hands. The Austin Hormel Plant Helping Hands group raised \$12,000 this year for Paint The Town Pink. Since 2012, the group has raised more than \$140,000! Thank you so much for the donation and your continued support!



IJ Holton Penny Wars

Every penny makes a difference! Students at IJ Holton Intermediate School held Penny Wars and raised \$3,200 for cancer research at The Hormel Institute. Pictured are Mrs.



Ashley McClaren, members of IJ Holton's student council, and The Hormel Institute's Dr. Li Wang. Thank you for your support!

[DONATE NOW](#)



COMMUNITY OUTREACH & EDUCATION



Summer Undergraduate Research Experience (SURE) Interns Begin Internship at The Hormel Institute

On May 28, The Hormel Institute welcomed Summer Undergraduate Research Experience (SURE) Interns from all over the United States! These interns will be spending 10 weeks working in labs this summer with the goals of:



- Increasing a student's knowledge in the biomedical research field
- Providing opportunities for students to apply their knowledge and skills they have acquired in an academic setting to practical, hands-on professional development opportunities within a lab and inside a research facility
- Increase interest in research- and science-related careers
- Enable students to develop new skills in research and science
- Expand a student's opportunity to work with professionals in the field of research



A hearty welcome goes to our 2024 SURE Interns: Laney Killpack, Marc Bindzius, Lily Flaherty, Brynn Johnson, Joseph Garry, Cynthia Dong, Ashley Wise, Francis Perroud, Rachel Trebesch, Allison Tanabe, Katrina Yaeger, Marta Bacon, Hannah Brenke, Morgan Arnold, Daniela Hernandez-Merlin, Lexie Griebner, and Kate Kurotani!

Attention, Past Institute Interns

We want to continue to connect with our SURE interns after their time at The Hormel Institute. Our goal is to keep you connected with us and to help you maintain and strengthen your relationships with one another, as well as with current and prospective interns and with faculty/staff. We also want to know what our SURE intern Alumni are doing, from careers, family and more. Our interns are a valued part of our family!

Young Scientists Complete Program

Thank you for a successful year at The Hormel Institute Young Scientist Program! We were able to celebrate this great program on May 23, 2024 with an end of year celebration. We had nearly 140 participants made up of our Young Scientists, their families, and our faculty and staff that helped contribute to this program.

Thank you to Austin Public Schools for their help in ensuring the success of this program. This program was made possible thanks to a generous donation from Paul and Joanne Worlein and development of the new Education Fund at The Hormel Institute. If you would like to support education and outreach at The Hormel Institute, please visit makingagift.umn.edu.



The Hormel Institute in the Community

The Community Outreach and Education Team had a busy May! They hosted 3rd grade students from Stewartville, 6th grade students from Lake Mills, and 6th grade students from Austin Public Schools. They participated in hands-on STEM activities and learned about the cutting-edge research at The Hormel Institute.



**Lake Mills Educational Experience
(May 22)**



**Stewartville Educational Experience
(May 23)**



Taste of Nations

Find Us at 4th Avenue Festival

Connect with our community and learn about a special research technique used by scientists at The Hormel Institute!

When: Wednesday, June 5, 5-8 p.m.

Where: Horace Park, Austin, MN

The Hormel Institute will showcase chromatography at 4th Avenue Festival in Austin. Chromatography is a technique used by scientists to separate mixtures. Participants will have the opportunity to create a project using chromatography. They can watch marker ink mix with water that will be filtered through a coffee filter. The different colors of ink particles travel at different speeds through the paper, allowing you to see how the colors mix.

Don't Miss Discover Science Together

Mark your calendar for The Hormel Institute's Discover Science Together!

When: Saturday, June 15 from 9 a.m.-12 p.m.

Where: The Hormel Institute, 801 18th Avenue NE, Austin

Go "Strollin' Through the Colon" to learn about colorectal cancer prevention, participate in hands-on science activities and experiments, and watch presentations from scientists. **This event is free and open to all ages!**



You can help contribute to education initiatives at The Hormel Institute by donating to our [Education Fund](#).

DONATE NOW





Blog: Cancer Immunotherapy Month

June is Cancer Immunotherapy Month. This relatively new form of cancer treatment got its first FDA approval in 2011 after decades of research.

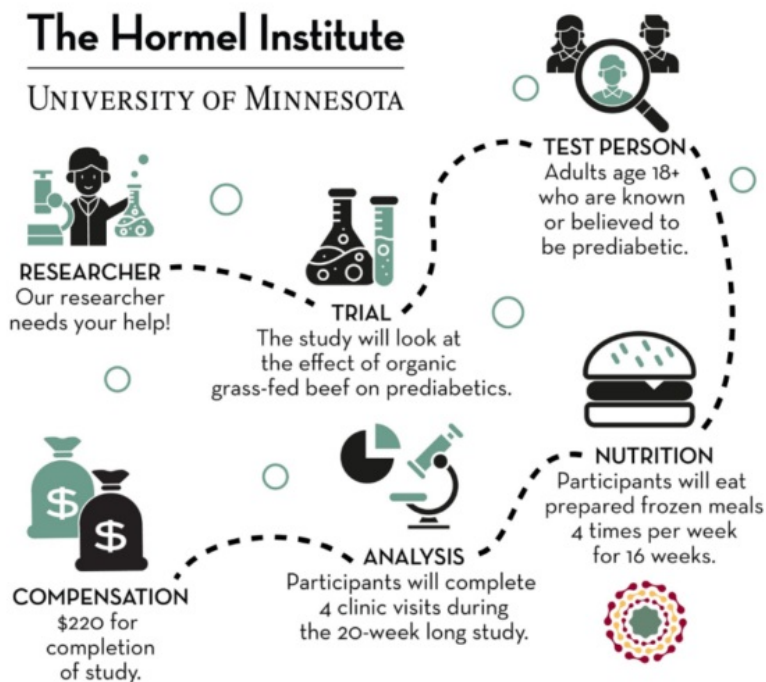
Clinical Research and Outreach Lead Emily Heath lays out different forms of immunotherapy and how they've transformed the landscape of cancer treatment options.

[Read More](#)



CLINICAL STUDIES

Participate in a Dietary Study



Help with important research! At The Hormel Institute, University of Minnesota, we are looking for men and women 18 years or older to take part in a 20-week long dietary research study looking at the effects of organic grass-fed beef on gut health. Participants will get four free meals per week for 16 weeks and compensation up to \$220. For more information, visit redcap.link/HormelBeefStudy.

10,000 Families Study

The Hormel Institute is partnering with the [10,000 Families Study \(10KFS\)](#) of the University of Minnesota. 10KFS is a study of family health across Minnesota, looking at how environment, genetics, and daily life affect health and illness over time. We invite families from Mower County and broader Southeast Minnesota to join the study. Let's make sure our region is represented in this landmark project! Participants can come to The Hormel Institute for the in-person part of the study.

To find out if your family is eligible to join 10KFS, [click here](#). Questions? Email tenkfs@umn.edu.



The Hormel Institute UMN | www.hi.umn.edu



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