

2.1 The amounts that may be spent for each
 2.2 purpose are specified in the following
 2.3 subdivisions.

2.4 **Subd. 2. Protection Services**

	<u>Appropriations by Fund</u>	
	<u>2026</u>	<u>2027</u>
2.6		
2.7	<u>22,333,000</u>	<u>22,836,000</u>
2.8	<u>399,000</u>	<u>399,000</u>

2.9 (a) \$399,000 the first year and \$399,000 the
 2.10 second year are from the remediation fund for
 2.11 administrative funding for the voluntary
 2.12 cleanup program.

2.13 (b) \$639,000 the first year and \$639,000 the
 2.14 second year are for the soil health financial
 2.15 assistance program under Minnesota Statutes,
 2.16 section 17.134. The commissioner may award
 2.17 no more than \$50,000 of the appropriation
 2.18 each year to a single recipient. The
 2.19 commissioner may use up to 6.5 percent of
 2.20 this appropriation for costs incurred to
 2.21 administer the program. Any unencumbered
 2.22 balance does not cancel at the end of the first
 2.23 year and is available in the second year.

2.24 Appropriations encumbered under contract on
 2.25 or before June 30, 2027, for soil health
 2.26 financial assistance grants are available until
 2.27 June 30, 2029.

2.28 (c) \$350,000 the first year and \$350,000 the
 2.29 second year are for compensation for
 2.30 destroyed or crippled livestock under
 2.31 Minnesota Statutes, section 3.737. The first
 2.32 year appropriation may be spent to compensate
 2.33 for livestock that were destroyed or crippled
 2.34 during fiscal year 2025. If the amount in the
 2.35 first year is insufficient, the amount in the

3.1 second year is available in the first year. The
3.2 commissioner may use up to \$5,000 each year
3.3 to reimburse expenses incurred by university
3.4 extension educators to provide fair market
3.5 values of destroyed or crippled livestock. If
3.6 the commissioner receives federal money to
3.7 pay claims for destroyed or crippled livestock,
3.8 an equivalent amount of this appropriation
3.9 may be used to reimburse nonlethal prevention
3.10 methods performed by federal wildlife services
3.11 staff.

3.12 (d) \$310,000 the first year and \$310,000 the
3.13 second year are for compensation for crop
3.14 damage under Minnesota Statutes, section
3.15 3.7371. If the amount in the first year is
3.16 insufficient, the amount in the second year is
3.17 available in the first year. The commissioner
3.18 may use up to \$10,000 of the appropriation
3.19 each year to reimburse expenses incurred by
3.20 the commissioner or the commissioner's
3.21 approved agent to investigate and resolve
3.22 claims, as well as for costs associated with
3.23 training for approved agents. The
3.24 commissioner may use up to \$40,000 of the
3.25 appropriation each year for grants to producers
3.26 for measures to protect stored crops from elk
3.27 damage. If the commissioner determines that
3.28 claims made under Minnesota Statutes, section
3.29 3.737 or 3.7371, are unusually high, amounts
3.30 appropriated for either program may be
3.31 transferred to the appropriation for the other
3.32 program.

3.33 (e) \$825,000 the first year and \$825,000 the
3.34 second year are to replace capital equipment

4.1 in the Department of Agriculture's analytical
4.2 laboratory.

4.3 (f) \$75,000 the first year and \$75,000 the
4.4 second year are to support a meat processing
4.5 liaison position to assist new or existing meat
4.6 and poultry processing operations in getting
4.7 started, expanding, growing, or transitioning
4.8 into new business models.

4.9 (g) \$420,000 the first year and \$923,000 the
4.10 second year are for additional funding to
4.11 maintain the current level of service delivery
4.12 for programs under this subdivision.

4.13 (h) \$1,000,000 the first year and \$1,000,000
4.14 the second year are for grants to counties to
4.15 support county agricultural inspectors under
4.16 section 13. These are onetime appropriations.
4.17 The commissioner of agriculture may use up
4.18 to three percent of the appropriation each year
4.19 for administration.

4.20 (i) \$850,000 the first year and \$850,000 the
4.21 second year are for additional meat and poultry
4.22 inspection services. The commissioner is
4.23 encouraged to seek inspection waivers,
4.24 matching federal money, and offer more online
4.25 inspections for the purposes of this paragraph.

4.26 (j) \$1,250,000 the first year and \$1,250,000
4.27 the second year are appropriated to establish
4.28 and administer the biofertilizer innovation and
4.29 efficiency program. The commissioner may
4.30 use up to 6.5 percent of this appropriation for
4.31 costs incurred to administer the program.
4.32 Notwithstanding Minnesota Statutes, section
4.33 16A.28, any unencumbered balance at the end

5.1 of fiscal year 2026 does not cancel and is
5.2 available until June 30, 2027.

5.3 **Subd. 3. Agricultural Marketing and**
5.4 **Development**

24,676,000

24,676,000

5.5 (a) \$150,000 the first year and \$150,000 the
5.6 second year are to expand international trade
5.7 opportunities and markets for Minnesota
5.8 agricultural products.

5.9 (b) \$634,000 the first year and \$634,000 the
5.10 second year are for the continuation of the
5.11 dairy development and profitability
5.12 enhancement programs, including dairy
5.13 profitability teams and dairy business planning
5.14 grants under Minnesota Statutes, section
5.15 32D.30.

5.16 (c) The commissioner may use money
5.17 appropriated in this subdivision for annual
5.18 cost-share payments to resident farmers or
5.19 entities that sell, process, or package
5.20 agricultural products in Minnesota for the
5.21 costs of organic certification. The
5.22 commissioner may allocate these funds for
5.23 assistance to persons transitioning from
5.24 conventional to organic agriculture.

5.25 (d) \$100,000 the first year and \$100,000 the
5.26 second year are for mental health outreach and
5.27 support to farmers, ranchers, farm workers
5.28 and employees, and others in the agricultural
5.29 profession and for farm and farm worker
5.30 safety grant and outreach programs under
5.31 Minnesota Statutes, section 17.1195. Mental
5.32 health outreach and support may include a
5.33 24-hour hotline, stigma reduction, and
5.34 education. Notwithstanding Minnesota
5.35 Statutes, section 16A.28, any unencumbered

6.1 balance does not cancel at the end of the first
6.2 year and is available in the second year. These
6.3 are onetime appropriations.

6.4 (e) \$20,082,000 the first year and \$20,082,000
6.5 the second year are for the agricultural growth,
6.6 research, and innovation program under
6.7 Minnesota Statutes, section 41A.12. Except
6.8 as provided in paragraph (f), the commissioner
6.9 may allocate this appropriation each year
6.10 among the following areas: (1) facilitating the
6.11 start-up, modernization, improvement, or
6.12 expansion of livestock operations, including
6.13 beginning and transitioning livestock
6.14 operations with preference given to robotic
6.15 dairy-milking equipment; (2) assisting
6.16 value-added agricultural businesses to begin
6.17 or expand, to access new markets, or to
6.18 diversify, including aquaponics systems, with
6.19 preference given to hemp fiber processing
6.20 equipment; (3) facilitating the start-up,
6.21 modernization, or expansion of other
6.22 beginning and transitioning farms, including
6.23 by providing loans under Minnesota Statutes,
6.24 section 41B.056; (4) sustainable agriculture
6.25 on-farm research and demonstration; (5) the
6.26 development or expansion of food hubs and
6.27 other alternative community-based food
6.28 distribution systems; (6) enhancing renewable
6.29 energy infrastructure and use; (7) crop
6.30 research, including basic and applied turf seed
6.31 research; (8) Farm Business Management
6.32 tuition assistance; (9) supporting the
6.33 commercialization of an innovative material
6.34 additive utilizing agricultural coproducts or
6.35 waste streams to produce fiber-based barrier
6.36 packaging to reduce perfluoroalkyl and

7.1 polyfluoroakyl substances (PFAS) and plastics
7.2 in packaging products; and (10) Good
7.3 Agricultural Practices and Good Handling
7.4 Practices certification assistance. The
7.5 commissioner may use up to 6.5 percent of
7.6 this appropriation for costs incurred to
7.7 administer the program.

7.8 (f) Of the amount appropriated for the
7.9 agricultural growth, research, and innovation
7.10 program in paragraph (e):

7.11 (1) \$1,000,000 the first year and \$1,000,000
7.12 the second year are for distribution in equal
7.13 amounts to each of the state's county fairs to
7.14 preserve and promote Minnesota agriculture;

7.15 (2) \$3,000,000 the first year and \$3,000,000
7.16 the second year are for incentive payments
7.17 under Minnesota Statutes, sections 41A.16,
7.18 41A.17, 41A.18, and 41A.20. Notwithstanding
7.19 Minnesota Statutes, section 16A.28, the first
7.20 year appropriation is available until June 30,
7.21 2027, and the second year appropriation is
7.22 available until June 30, 2028. If this
7.23 appropriation exceeds the total amount for
7.24 which all producers are eligible in a fiscal
7.25 year, the balance of the appropriation is
7.26 available for other purposes under this
7.27 paragraph or paragraph (e);

7.28 (3) \$4,500,000 the first year and \$4,500,000
7.29 the second year are for grants that enable retail
7.30 petroleum dispensers, fuel storage tanks, and
7.31 other equipment to dispense biofuels to the
7.32 public in accordance with the biofuel
7.33 replacement goals established under
7.34 Minnesota Statutes, section 239.7911. A retail
7.35 petroleum dispenser selling petroleum for use

8.1 in spark ignition engines for vehicle model
8.2 years after 2000 is eligible for grant money
8.3 under this clause if the retail petroleum
8.4 dispenser has no more than 20 retail petroleum
8.5 dispensing sites and each site is located in
8.6 Minnesota. The grant money must be used to
8.7 replace or upgrade equipment that does not
8.8 have the ability to be certified for E25. A grant
8.9 award must not exceed \$200,000 per station.
8.10 The commissioner must cooperate with biofuel
8.11 stakeholders in the implementation of the grant
8.12 program. The commissioner, in cooperation
8.13 with any economic or community development
8.14 financial institution and any other entity with
8.15 which the commissioner contracts, must
8.16 submit a report on the biofuels infrastructure
8.17 financial assistance program by January 15 of
8.18 each year to the chairs and ranking minority
8.19 members of the legislative committees and
8.20 divisions with jurisdiction over agriculture
8.21 policy and finance. The annual report must
8.22 include but not be limited to a summary of the
8.23 following metrics: (i) the number and types
8.24 of projects financed; (ii) the amount of dollars
8.25 leveraged or matched per project; (iii) the
8.26 geographic distribution of financed projects;
8.27 (iv) any market expansion associated with
8.28 upgraded infrastructure; (v) the demographics
8.29 of the areas served; (vi) the costs of the
8.30 program; and (vii) the number of grants to
8.31 minority- or female-owned businesses. The
8.32 base under this clause is \$3,000,000 for fiscal
8.33 year 2028 and each year thereafter;
8.34 (4) \$1,250,000 the first year and \$1,250,000
8.35 the second year are for grants to facilitate the
8.36 start-up, modernization, or expansion of meat,

9.1 poultry, egg, and milk processing facilities. A
9.2 grant award under this clause must not exceed
9.3 \$200,000. Any unencumbered balance at the
9.4 end of the second year does not cancel until
9.5 June 30, 2028, and may be used for other
9.6 purposes under this paragraph or paragraph
9.7 (e). The base under this clause is \$250,000 in
9.8 fiscal year 2028 and each year thereafter;

9.9 (5) up to \$1,294,000 the first year and up to
9.10 \$1,294,000 the second year are for providing
9.11 more fruits, vegetables, meat, poultry, grain,
9.12 and dairy for children in school and early
9.13 childhood education settings, including, at the
9.14 commissioner's discretion, providing grants
9.15 to reimburse schools and early childhood
9.16 education and child care providers for
9.17 purchasing equipment and agricultural
9.18 products. Organizations must participate in
9.19 the National School Lunch Program or the
9.20 Child and Adult Care Food Program to be
9.21 eligible. Of the amount appropriated, \$150,000
9.22 each year is for a statewide coordinator of
9.23 farm-to-institution strategy and programming.
9.24 The coordinator must consult with relevant
9.25 stakeholders and provide technical assistance
9.26 and training for participating farmers and
9.27 eligible grant recipients;

9.28 (6) up to \$2,000,000 the first year and up to
9.29 \$2,000,000 the second year are for urban
9.30 youth agricultural education or urban
9.31 agriculture community development;

9.32 (7) up to \$1,000,000 the first year and up to
9.33 \$1,000,000 the second year are for the good
9.34 food access program under Minnesota
9.35 Statutes, section 17.1017; and

10.1 (8) \$200,000 the first year and \$200,000 the
 10.2 second year are for cooperative development
 10.3 grants.

10.4 Notwithstanding Minnesota Statutes, section
 10.5 16A.28, any unencumbered balance does not
 10.6 cancel at the end of the first year and is
 10.7 available for the second year, and
 10.8 appropriations encumbered under contract on
 10.9 or before June 30, 2027, for agricultural
 10.10 growth, research, and innovation grants are
 10.11 available until June 30, 2028.

10.12 (g) The base for the agricultural growth,
 10.13 research, and innovation program is
 10.14 \$17,582,000 in fiscal year 2028 and each year
 10.15 thereafter.

10.16 **Subd. 4. Administration and Financial**
 10.17 **Assistance**

14,980,000

11,121,000

10.18 (a) \$474,000 the first year and \$474,000 the
 10.19 second year are for payments to county and
 10.20 district agricultural societies and associations
 10.21 under Minnesota Statutes, section 38.02,
 10.22 subdivision 1. Aid payments to county and
 10.23 district agricultural societies and associations
 10.24 must be disbursed no later than July 15 of each
 10.25 year. These payments are the amount of aid
 10.26 from the state for an annual fair held in the
 10.27 previous calendar year.

10.28 (b) \$500,000 the first year and \$500,000 the
 10.29 second year are for grants to the Minnesota
 10.30 Agricultural Education and Leadership
 10.31 Council for programs of the council under
 10.32 Minnesota Statutes, chapter 41D.

- 11.1 (c) \$2,000 the first year is for a grant to the
11.2 Minnesota State Poultry Association. This is
11.3 a onetime appropriation.
- 11.4 (d) \$36,000 the first year is for a grant to the
11.5 Minnesota Livestock Breeders Association.
- 11.6 (e) \$120,000 the first year is for a grant to the
11.7 Northern Crops Institute and may be used to
11.8 purchase equipment.
- 11.9 (f) \$68,000 the first year is for a grant to the
11.10 Minnesota State Horticultural Society.
- 11.11 (g) \$50,000 the first year is for a grant to the
11.12 Center for Rural Policy and Development.
- 11.13 (h) \$150,000 the first year is for grants to the
11.14 Minnesota Turf Seed Council for basic and
11.15 applied research on: (1) the improved
11.16 production of forage and turf seed related to
11.17 new and improved varieties; and (2) native
11.18 plants, including plant breeding, nutrient
11.19 management, pest management, disease
11.20 management, yield, and viability. The
11.21 Minnesota Turf Seed Council may subcontract
11.22 with a qualified third party for some or all of
11.23 the basic or applied research. The Minnesota
11.24 Turf Seed Council must prepare a report
11.25 outlining the use of the grant money and
11.26 related accomplishments. No later than
11.27 January 15, 2027, the council must submit the
11.28 report to the chairs and ranking minority
11.29 members of the legislative committees and
11.30 divisions with jurisdiction over agriculture
11.31 finance and policy.
- 11.32 (i) \$400,000 the first year is for grants to
11.33 GreenSeam for assistance to
11.34 agriculture-related businesses to support

12.1 business retention and development, business
 12.2 attraction and creation, talent development
 12.3 and attraction, and regional branding and
 12.4 promotion. No later than December 1, 2026,
 12.5 and December 1, 2027, GreenSeam must
 12.6 report to the chairs and ranking minority
 12.7 members of the legislative committees with
 12.8 jurisdiction over agriculture and rural
 12.9 development with information on new and
 12.10 existing businesses supported, number of new
 12.11 jobs created in the region, new educational
 12.12 partnerships and programs supported, and
 12.13 regional branding and promotional efforts.
 12.14 (j) \$1,250,000 the first year and \$1,250,000
 12.15 the second year are for grants to Second
 12.16 Harvest Heartland on behalf of Minnesota's
 12.17 six Feeding America food banks for the
 12.18 following purposes:
 12.19 (1) at least \$850,000 each year must be
 12.20 allocated to purchase milk for distribution to
 12.21 Minnesota's food shelves and other charitable
 12.22 organizations that are eligible to receive food
 12.23 from the food banks. Milk purchased with
 12.24 grant proceeds must be acquired from
 12.25 Minnesota milk processors and based on
 12.26 low-cost bids. The milk must be allocated to
 12.27 each Feeding America food bank serving
 12.28 Minnesota according to the formula used in
 12.29 the distribution of United States Department
 12.30 of Agriculture commodities under the
 12.31 Emergency Food Assistance Program. Second
 12.32 Harvest Heartland may enter into contracts or
 12.33 agreements with food banks for shared funding
 12.34 or reimbursement of the direct purchase of
 12.35 milk. Each food bank that receives funding

13.1 under this clause may use up to two percent
13.2 for administrative expenses. Notwithstanding
13.3 Minnesota Statutes, section 16A.28, any
13.4 unencumbered balance the first year does not
13.5 cancel and is available the second year;
13.6 (2) to compensate agricultural producers and
13.7 processors for costs incurred to harvest and
13.8 package for transfer surplus fruits, vegetables,
13.9 and other agricultural commodities that would
13.10 otherwise go unharvested, be discarded, or be
13.11 sold in a secondary market. Surplus
13.12 commodities must be distributed statewide to
13.13 food shelves and other charitable organizations
13.14 that are eligible to receive food from the food
13.15 banks. Surplus food acquired under this clause
13.16 must be from Minnesota producers and
13.17 processors. Second Harvest Heartland may
13.18 use up to 15 percent of each grant awarded
13.19 under this clause for administrative and
13.20 transportation expenses; and
13.21 (3) to purchase and distribute protein products,
13.22 including but not limited to pork, poultry, beef,
13.23 dry legumes, cheese, and eggs to Minnesota's
13.24 food shelves and other charitable organizations
13.25 that are eligible to receive food from the food
13.26 banks. Second Harvest Heartland may use up
13.27 to two percent of each grant awarded under
13.28 this clause for administrative expenses. Protein
13.29 products purchased using grant proceeds must
13.30 be acquired from Minnesota processors and
13.31 producers.
13.32 Second Harvest Heartland must submit
13.33 quarterly reports to the commissioner and the
13.34 chairs and ranking minority members of the
13.35 legislative committees with jurisdiction over

- 14.1 agriculture finance in the form prescribed by
14.2 the commissioner. The reports must include
14.3 but are not limited to information on the
14.4 expenditure of money, the amount of milk or
14.5 other commodities purchased, and the
14.6 organizations to which this food was
14.7 distributed.
- 14.8 (k) \$25,000 the first year and \$25,000 the
14.9 second year are for grants to the Southern
14.10 Minnesota Initiative Foundation to promote
14.11 local foods through an annual event that raises
14.12 public awareness of local foods and connects
14.13 local food producers and processors with
14.14 potential buyers.
- 14.15 (l) \$750,000 the first year and \$750,000 the
14.16 second year are for the Emerging Farmers
14.17 Office to provide services to beginning and
14.18 emerging farmers to increase connections
14.19 between farmers and market opportunities
14.20 throughout Minnesota. This appropriation may
14.21 be used for grants, translation services,
14.22 training programs, or other purposes in line
14.23 with the recommendations of the emerging
14.24 farmer working group established under
14.25 Minnesota Statutes, section 17.055,
14.26 subdivision 1.
- 14.27 (m) \$337,000 the first year and \$337,000 the
14.28 second year are for farm advocate services.
14.29 Of these amounts, \$50,000 the first year and
14.30 \$50,000 the second year are for the
14.31 continuation of the farmland transition
14.32 programs and may be used for grants to
14.33 farmland access teams to provide technical
14.34 assistance to potential beginning farmers.
14.35 Farmland access teams must assist existing

- 15.1 farmers and beginning farmers with
15.2 transitioning farm ownership and farm
15.3 operation. Services provided by teams may
15.4 include but are not limited to mediation
15.5 assistance, designing contracts, financial
15.6 planning, tax preparation, estate planning, and
15.7 housing assistance.
- 15.8 (n) \$260,000 the first year and \$260,000 the
15.9 second year are for a pass-through grant to
15.10 Region Five Development Commission to
15.11 provide, in collaboration with Farm Business
15.12 Management, statewide mental health
15.13 counseling support to Minnesota farm
15.14 operators, families, and employees, and
15.15 individuals who work with Minnesota farmers
15.16 in a professional capacity. Region Five
15.17 Development Commission may use up to 6.5
15.18 percent of the grant awarded under this
15.19 paragraph for administration.
- 15.20 (o) \$150,000 the first year and \$150,000 the
15.21 second year are for administrative support for
15.22 the Rural Finance Authority.
- 15.23 (p) \$137,000 the first year and \$204,000 the
15.24 second year are to maintain the current level
15.25 of service delivery.
- 15.26 (q) \$1,000,000 the first year and \$1,000,000
15.27 the second year are to award and administer
15.28 down payment assistance grants under
15.29 Minnesota Statutes, section 17.133, with
15.30 priority given to eligible applicants with no
15.31 more than \$100,000 in annual gross farm
15.32 product sales and eligible applicants who are
15.33 producers of industrial hemp, cannabis, or one
15.34 or more of the following specialty crops as
15.35 defined by the United States Department of

16.1 Agriculture for purposes of the specialty crop
 16.2 block grant program: fruits and vegetables,
 16.3 tree nuts, dried fruits, medicinal plants,
 16.4 culinary herbs and spices, horticulture crops,
 16.5 floriculture crops, and nursery crops.
 16.6 Notwithstanding Minnesota Statutes, section
 16.7 16A.28, any unencumbered balance at the end
 16.8 of the first year does not cancel and is
 16.9 available in the second year and appropriations
 16.10 encumbered under contract by June 30, 2027,
 16.11 are available until June 30, 2029.

16.12 (r) \$3,100,000 the first year is for a grant to
 16.13 First District Association for a wastewater
 16.14 pretreatment project.

16.15 (s) The commissioner shall continue to
 16.16 increase connections between ethnic minority
 16.17 and immigrant farmers to farming
 16.18 opportunities and farming programs
 16.19 throughout Minnesota.

16.20 **Sec. 3. BOARD OF ANIMAL HEALTH** **\$ 6,767,000 \$ 6,767,000**

16.21 (a) \$200,000 the first year and \$200,000 the
 16.22 second year are for agricultural emergency
 16.23 preparedness and response.

16.24 (b) \$357,000 the first year and \$357,000 the
 16.25 second year are to maintain the current level
 16.26 of service delivery.

16.27 **Sec. 4. AGRICULTURAL UTILIZATION**
 16.28 **RESEARCH INSTITUTE** **\$ 4,388,000 \$ 4,434,000**

16.29 \$45,000 the first year and \$91,000 the second
 16.30 year are to maintain the current level of service
 16.31 delivery.

17.1 Sec. 5. TRANSFERS.

17.2 (a) \$100,000 in fiscal year 2026 and \$100,000 in fiscal year 2027 are transferred from
17.3 the general fund to the pollinator research account established under Minnesota Statutes,
17.4 section 18B.051. This transfer is \$100,000 in fiscal year 2028 and each year thereafter.

17.5 (b) \$186,000 in fiscal year 2026 and \$186,000 in fiscal year 2027 are transferred from
17.6 the general fund to the Minnesota grown account and may be used as grants for Minnesota
17.7 Grown promotion under Minnesota Statutes, section 17.102. Notwithstanding Minnesota
17.8 Statutes, section 16A.28, the appropriations encumbered under contract on or before June
17.9 30, 2027, for Minnesota Grown grants in this paragraph are available until June 30, 2029.
17.10 This transfer is \$186,000 in fiscal year 2028 and each year thereafter.

17.11 (c) \$10,852,000 in fiscal year 2026 and \$10,852,000 in fiscal year 2027 are transferred
17.12 from the general fund to the agriculture research, education, extension, and technology
17.13 transfer account under Minnesota Statutes, section 41A.14, subdivision 3, and the
17.14 commissioner shall transfer funds each year to the Board of Regents of the University of
17.15 Minnesota for purposes of Minnesota Statutes, section 41A.14, subdivision 1, clauses (1)
17.16 and (2), and must supplement and not supplant existing sources and levels of funding. The
17.17 commissioner may use up to one percent of this transfer for costs incurred to administer
17.18 this program.

17.19 (d) Of the amount transferred for the agriculture research, education, extension, and
17.20 technology transfer grant program under Minnesota Statutes, section 41A.14:

17.21 (1) \$600,000 in fiscal year 2026 and \$600,000 in fiscal year 2027 are for the Minnesota
17.22 Agricultural Experiment Station's agriculture rapid response fund under Minnesota Statutes,
17.23 section 41A.14, subdivision 1, clause (2);

17.24 (2) up to \$1,000,000 in fiscal year 2026 and up to \$1,000,000 in fiscal year 2027 are for
17.25 research on avian influenza, salmonella, and other turkey-related diseases and disease
17.26 prevention measures;

17.27 (3) \$2,750,000 in fiscal year 2026 and \$2,750,000 in fiscal year 2027 are for grants to
17.28 the Minnesota Agricultural Educational Leadership Council to enhance agricultural education
17.29 with priority given to Farm Business Management challenge grants;

17.30 (4) \$350,000 in fiscal year 2026 and \$350,000 in fiscal year 2027 are for potato research;

17.31 (5) \$802,000 in fiscal year 2026 and \$802,000 in fiscal year 2027 are to fund the Forever
17.32 Green Initiative and protect Minnesota's natural resources while increasing the efficiency,
17.33 profitability, and productivity of Minnesota farmers by incorporating perennial and winter

18.1 annual crops into existing agricultural practices. By February 1 each year, the dean of the
18.2 College of Food, Agricultural, and Natural Resources Sciences must submit a report to the
18.3 chairs and ranking minority members of the legislative committees with jurisdiction over
18.4 agriculture finance and policy and higher education detailing uses of the money in this
18.5 paragraph, including administrative costs, and the achievements this money contributed to;

18.6 (6) \$200,000 in fiscal year 2026 and \$200,000 in fiscal year 2027 are for research on
18.7 natural strands of wild rice; and

18.8 (7) \$250,000 in fiscal year 2026 and \$250,000 in fiscal year 2027 are for the cultivated
18.9 wild rice forward selection project at the North Central Research and Outreach Center,
18.10 including a tenure track or research associate plant scientist.

18.11 The transfer for the agricultural research, education, extension, and technology transfer
18.12 program is \$10,852,000 in fiscal year 2028 and each year thereafter.

18.13 (e) \$1,425,000 in fiscal year 2026 and \$1,425,000 in fiscal year 2027 are transferred
18.14 from the general fund to the agricultural and environmental revolving loan account
18.15 established under Minnesota Statutes, section 17.117, subdivision 5, for low-interest loans
18.16 under Minnesota Statutes, section 17.117. This transfer is \$1,425,000 in fiscal year 2028
18.17 and each year thereafter.

18.18 **Sec. 6. CANCELLATION.**

18.19 \$3,000,000 of the fiscal year 2024 general fund appropriation for grants to cooperatives
18.20 to invest in green fertilizer production facilities under Laws 2023, chapter 60, article 10,
18.21 section 4, is canceled.

18.22 **Sec. 7. FISCAL YEAR 2025 APPROPRIATIONS.**

18.23 (a) \$125,000 in fiscal year 2025 is appropriated to the commissioner of agriculture for
18.24 compensation for destroyed or crippled livestock under Minnesota Statutes, section 3.737.
18.25 The commissioner of agriculture may use up to \$5,000 to reimburse expenses incurred by
18.26 university extension educators to provide fair market values of destroyed or crippled
18.27 livestock. If the commissioner of agriculture receives federal funding to pay claims for
18.28 destroyed or crippled livestock, an equivalent amount of this appropriation may be used to
18.29 reimburse nonlethal prevention methods performed by federal wildlife services staff. This
18.30 is a onetime appropriation and is available until June 30, 2026.

18.31 (b) \$125,000 in fiscal year 2025 is appropriated to the commissioner of agriculture for
18.32 compensation for crop damage under Minnesota Statutes, section 3.7371. The commissioner

19.1 of agriculture may use up to \$10,000 of the appropriation to reimburse expenses incurred
19.2 by the commissioner of agriculture or the commissioner of agriculture's approved agent to
19.3 investigate and resolve claims, as well as for costs associated with training for approved
19.4 agents. The commissioner of agriculture may use up to \$40,000 of the appropriation to make
19.5 grants to producers for measures to protect stored crops from elk damage. If the commissioner
19.6 of agriculture determines that claims made under Minnesota Statutes, section 3.737 or
19.7 3.7371 are unusually high, amounts appropriated for either program may be transferred to
19.8 the appropriation for the other program. This is a onetime appropriation and is available
19.9 until June 30, 2026.

19.10 **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective the day following final enactment.

19.11 **Sec. 8. FISCAL YEAR 2025 TRANSFER.**

19.12 \$1,500,000 in fiscal year 2025 is transferred from the general fund to the agricultural
19.13 emergency account established under Minnesota Statutes, section 17.041.

19.14 **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective the day following final enactment.

19.15 **Sec. 9.** Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 17.133, subdivision 2, is amended to read:

19.16 **Subd. 2. Grants.** The commissioner may award farm down payment assistance grants
19.17 of up to \$15,000 per eligible farmer purchasing less than 80 acres of farmland, and up to
19.18 \$30,000 per eligible farmer purchasing 80 acres or more of farmland. Each award must be
19.19 matched with at least \$8,000 of other funding. Grants under this subdivision may be awarded
19.20 by a randomized selection process after applications are collected over a period of no less
19.21 than 30 calendar days. An eligible farmer must commit to own and farm the land purchased
19.22 with assistance provided under this section for at least five years. For each year that a grant
19.23 recipient does not own and farm the land during the five-year period, the grant recipient
19.24 must pay a penalty to the commissioner equal to 20 percent of the grant amount.

19.25 **Sec. 10.** Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 18C.005, is amended by adding a subdivision
19.26 to read:

19.27 **Subd. 4a. Commercial nitrogen fertilizer.** "Commercial nitrogen fertilizer" means a
19.28 fertilizer with a nitrogen content that is not less than 25 percent.

20.1 Sec. 11. **[18C.113] BIOFERTILIZER INNOVATION AND EFFICIENCY**
20.2 **PROGRAM.**

20.3 Subdivision 1. **Program established.** In consultation with the commissioner of natural
20.4 resources and soil and water conservation districts in Minnesota, the commissioner of
20.5 agriculture must develop and administer a biofertilizer innovation and efficiency program
20.6 to address water quality by incentivizing Minnesota farmers to improve nitrogen management
20.7 and incorporate innovative technologies into the farmers' crop nutrient management plans.
20.8 The commissioner must determine which products qualify for the program, including soil
20.9 amendments, fertilizers with nitrogen fixing properties, biological sources of nitrogen, and
20.10 other biofertilizers.

20.11 Subd. 2. **Payments to qualified farmers.** (a) In consultation with farmers and the
20.12 fertilizer industry, the commissioner must establish a per-acre payment rate, not less than
20.13 \$5 per acre, for payments provided to a qualifying farmer. The program must provide an
20.14 annual per-acre incentive payment to a qualifying farmer who verifies through documentation
20.15 that the farmer has reduced commercial nitrogen fertilizer rates by using a qualifying product
20.16 in the farmer's crop nutrient management plans by the lesser of:

20.17 (1) 15 percent; or

20.18 (2) 30 pounds per acre.

20.19 (b) The commissioner must annually review and may adjust the per-acre payment rate
20.20 based on inflation and emerging fertilizer technology.

20.21 Subd. 3. **Qualifications.** To qualify for the biofertilizer water preservation program, a
20.22 farmer must:

20.23 (1) be a Minnesota resident operating farmland located in Minnesota;

20.24 (2) submit documentation to the commissioner, including a crop nutrient management
20.25 plan that will reduce the use of commercial nitrogen fertilizers at the reduction rate required
20.26 under subdivision 2 by using a qualifying product determined by the commissioner under
20.27 subdivision 1; and

20.28 (3) enroll a minimum of 40 eligible acres.

20.29 Subd. 4. **Review required.** Every two years, the commissioner must review:

20.30 (1) the program's required minimum commercial nitrogen fertilizer reduction rate under
20.31 subdivision 2 and determine whether an increase in the minimum reduction rate is necessary;
20.32 and

21.1 (2) additional qualifying products that may be used by farmers in the program. When
21.2 making this determination, the commissioner must consider newly available technologies
21.3 and products capable of reducing commercial nitrogen fertilizer applications.

21.4 Subd. 5. **Rulemaking required.** The commissioner must adopt rules using rulemaking
21.5 authority under section 18C.121, subdivision 1, to implement this section.

21.6 Sec. 12. Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 41A.16, subdivision 7, is amended to read:

21.7 Subd. 7. **Eligibility for participants after April 1, 2023.** (a) A facility eligible for
21.8 payment under this section must source at least 80 percent raw materials from Minnesota.
21.9 If a facility is sited 50 miles or less from the state border, raw materials may be sourced
21.10 from within a 100-mile radius. Raw materials must be from agricultural or forestry sources
21.11 or from solid waste. The facility must be located in Minnesota, must begin production at a
21.12 specific location after April 1, 2023, and before June 30, 2025, and must not begin operating
21.13 above 23,750 MMbtu of quarterly advanced biofuel production before July 1, 2015. Eligible
21.14 facilities include existing companies and facilities that are adding advanced biofuel
21.15 production capacity, or retrofitting existing capacity, as well as new companies and facilities.
21.16 Production of conventional corn ethanol and conventional biodiesel is not eligible. Eligible
21.17 advanced biofuel facilities must produce at least 23,750 MMbtu of biofuel quarterly.

21.18 (b) No payments shall be made for advanced biofuel production that occurs after June
21.19 30, 2035, for those eligible biofuel producers under paragraph (a).

21.20 (c) An eligible producer of advanced biofuel shall not transfer the producer's eligibility
21.21 for payments under this section to an advanced biofuel facility at a different location.

21.22 (d) A producer that ceases production for any reason is ineligible to receive payments
21.23 under this section until the producer resumes production.

21.24 (e) Renewable chemical production for which payment has been received under section
21.25 41A.17, and biomass thermal production for which payment has been received under section
21.26 41A.18, are not eligible for payment under this section.

21.27 (f) Biobutanol is eligible under this section.

21.28 Sec. 13. **COUNTY AGRICULTURAL INSPECTORS.**

21.29 (a) To be eligible for grants under this section, a county must employ a county agricultural
21.30 inspector or a county-designated employee who:

22.1 (1) has attended training for new county agricultural inspectors offered by the
22.2 commissioner of agriculture;

22.3 (2) coordinates with the commissioner of agriculture to review applicable laws and
22.4 enforcement procedures;

22.5 (3) compiles and submits to the commissioner of agriculture local weed inspector annual
22.6 report data;

22.7 (4) conducts an annual meeting and training for local weed inspectors; and

22.8 (5) assists the commissioner of agriculture with control programs and other agricultural
22.9 programs when requested under Minnesota Statutes, section 18.81, subdivision 1b, as
22.10 directed by the county board.

22.11 (b) County agricultural inspectors and county-designated employees must annually
22.12 submit an application, on a form approved by the commissioner of agriculture, to be eligible
22.13 for funding during a given year. The commissioner of agriculture must equally divide
22.14 available grant money among eligible counties.

22.15 **ARTICLE 2**

22.16 **BROADBAND**

22.17 Section 1. **BROADBAND DEVELOPMENT APPROPRIATIONS.**

22.18 The sums shown in the columns marked "Appropriations" are appropriated to the agencies
22.19 and for the purposes specified in this article. The appropriations are from the general fund,
22.20 or another named fund, and are available for the fiscal years indicated for each purpose.

22.21 The figures "2026" and "2027" used in this article mean that the appropriations listed under
22.22 them are available for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2026, or June 30, 2027, respectively.

22.23 "The first year" is fiscal year 2026. "The second year" is fiscal year 2027. "The biennium"
22.24 is fiscal years 2026 and 2027.

22.25 **APPROPRIATIONS**
22.26 **Available for the Year**
22.27 **Ending June 30**

22.28 **2026 2027**

22.29 **Sec. 2. DEPARTMENT OF EMPLOYMENT**
22.30 **AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

\$ **1,001,000 **\$** **1,001,000****

22.31 \$1,001,000 each year is for the Office of
22.32 Broadband Development.

23.1 Sec. 3. Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 326B.198, subdivision 2, is amended to read:

23.2 Subd. 2. **Installation requirements.** (a) The installation of underground
23.3 telecommunications infrastructure that is located within ten feet of existing underground
23.4 utilities or that crosses the existing underground utilities must be performed by
23.5 safety-qualified underground telecommunications installers as follows:

23.6 (1) the location of existing utilities by hand- or hydro-excavation or other accepted
23.7 methods must be performed by a safety-qualified underground telecommunications installer;
23.8 and

23.9 (2) where telecommunications infrastructure is installed by means of directional drilling,
23.10 the monitoring of the location and depth of the drill head must be performed by a
23.11 safety-qualified underground telecommunications installer; ~~and.~~

23.12 ~~(3) no fewer than two safety-qualified underground telecommunications installers must~~
23.13 ~~be present at all times at any location where telecommunications infrastructure is being~~
23.14 ~~installed by means of directional drilling.~~

23.15 ~~(b) Beginning July 1, 2025, all installations of underground telecommunications~~
23.16 ~~infrastructure subject to this subdivision within the seven-county metropolitan area must~~
23.17 ~~be performed by safety-qualified underground telecommunications installers that meet the~~
23.18 ~~requirements of this subdivision.~~

23.19 ~~(e)~~ (b) Beginning January 1, 2026, all installations of underground telecommunications
23.20 infrastructure subject to this subdivision within this state must be performed by
23.21 safety-qualified underground telecommunications installers that meet the requirements of
23.22 this subdivision.

23.23 **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective the day following final enactment.

23.24 Sec. 4. Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 326B.198, subdivision 3, is amended to read:

23.25 Subd. 3. **Certification Standards.** (a) The commissioner of labor and industry, in
23.26 consultation with the Office of Broadband, shall approve standards for a safety-qualified
23.27 underground telecommunications installer certification program that requires a person to:

23.28 (1) complete a ~~40-hour~~ ten-hour initial course that includes classroom and hands-on
23.29 instruction covering proper work procedures for safe installation of underground utilities,
23.30 including:

23.31 (i) regulations applicable to excavation near existing utilities;

- 24.1 (ii) identification, location, and verification of utility lines using hand- or
- 24.2 hydro-excavation or other accepted methods;
- 24.3 (iii) response to line strike incidents;
- 24.4 (iv) traffic control procedures;
- 24.5 (v) use of a tracking device to safely guide directional drill equipment along a drill path;
- 24.6 and
- 24.7 (vi) avoidance and mitigation of safety hazards posed by underground utility installation
- 24.8 projects;

24.9 (2) demonstrate knowledge of the course material by successfully completing an
 24.10 examination approved by the commissioner; and

24.11 (3) complete a four-hour refresher course within three years of completing the original
 24.12 course and every three years thereafter in order to maintain certification.

24.13 (b) The commissioner must develop an approval process for training providers under
 24.14 this subdivision and may suspend or revoke the approval of any training provider that fails
 24.15 to demonstrate consistent delivery of approved curriculum or success in preparing participants
 24.16 to complete the examination.

24.17 **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective the day following final enactment."

24.18 Delete the title and insert:

24.19 "A bill for an act
 24.20 relating to state government; establishing a budget for the Department of
 24.21 Agriculture, the Board of Animal Health, the Agricultural Utilization Research
 24.22 Institute, and the Office of Broadband Development; making policy and technical
 24.23 changes to agricultural provisions; making policy and technical changes to
 24.24 broadband provisions; authorizing rulemaking; requiring reports; appropriating
 24.25 money; amending Minnesota Statutes 2024, sections 17.133, subdivision 2;
 24.26 18C.005, by adding a subdivision; 41A.16, subdivision 7; 326B.198, subdivisions
 24.27 2, 3; proposing coding for new law in Minnesota Statutes, chapter 18C."

24.28 With the recommendation that when so amended the bill be re-referred to the Committee
 24.29 on Ways and Means.

24.30 This Committee action taken March 12, 2025

24.31, Chair