

AGRICULTURE FINANCE AND POLICY COMMITTEE MINUTES

Representative Rick Hansen, Co-Chair of the Committee on Agriculture Finance and Policy, called the meeting to order at 1:00 P.M., on Wednesday, February 18, 2026, in Room G3 of the Minnesota State Capitol Building.

The Committee Legislative Assistant noted the roll.

Members Present:

HANSEN, Rick (DFL Co-Chair)
ANDERSON, Paul (GOP Co-Chair)
SMITH, Andy (DFL Co-Vice Chair)
HARDER, Bobbie (GOP Co-Vice Chair)
AGBAJE, Esther
BURKEL, John
FREDERICK, Luke
GANDER, Steve
GOTTFRIED, David
JACOB, Steve
LAWRENCE, Bryan
LEE, Fue
NELSON, Nathan
VANG, Samantha

A quorum was present.

Representative Gottfried moved to approve the minutes from April 9, 2025. THE MOTION PREVAILED.

Presentation from the Minnesota Department of Agriculture

Presenting:

- Thom Petersen, Commissioner
- Andrea Vaubel, Deputy Commissioner

Co-Chair Anderson assumed the gavel at 1:46 P.M.

Presentation from the Minnesota Board of Animal Health

Presenting:

- Dr. Brian Hoefs, State Veterinarian and Executive Director
- Michelle Medina, Director of Government Relations

Co-Chair Hansen assumed the gavel at 2:19 P.M.

Presentation from Agricultural Utilization Research Institute

Presenting:

- Shannon Schlecht, Executive Director
- Dan Sparks, Director of Government and Industry Relations
- Frederico Tripodi, Chair of the Board of Directors

Co-Chair Anderson assumed the gavel at 2:48 P.M.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:48 P.M.

Representative Rick Hansen, Co-Chair

Representative Paul Anderson, Co-Chair

Grace Johnson, Committee Legislative Assistant

Isabelle Warwas, Committee Legislative Assistant