

**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, March 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 Vang moved to approve the minutes from April 9, 2025. THE MOTION PREVAILED.

Co-Vice Chair Smith assumed the gavel at 1:00 P.M.

HF 4080 (Hansen, R.); Certain retailers prohibited from obtaining an ownership interest in livestock dealers or meat packing companies, and certain exclusive contracts prohibited.

Co-Chair Hansen moved that HF 4080 be re-referred to the Committee on State Government Finance and Policy.

Co-Chair Hansen moved the A3 amendment. THE MOTION PREVAILED. THE AMENDMENT WAS ADOPTED.

Co-Chair Hansen presented HF 4080, as amended.

Testifying:

- Robert Lopez, UFCW International
- Steve Barthel, Minnesota Grocers Association
- Leon Pleatz, Minnesota Farmers Union

Co-Chair Hansen renewed the motion that HF 4080, as amended, be re-referred to the Committee on State Government Finance and Policy. THE MOTION PREVAILED.

Co-Chair Hansen assumed the gavel at 1:30 P.M.

HF 3693 (Lee, F.); Previous Department of Agriculture appropriation modified.

Representative Lee moved that HF 3693 be re-referred to the Committee on Ways and Means.

Representative Lee moved the DE1 amendment. THE MOTION PREVAILED. THE AMENDMENT WAS ADOPTED.

Representative Lee presented HF 3693, as amended.

Testifying:

- April LeDoux, Chum Food Shelf
- Dan Zimmerli, Minnesota Farmers Union
- Andrea Vaubel, Deputy Commissioner, Minnesota Department of Agriculture
- Kaylee Thornley, Grants Supervisor, Minnesota Department of Agriculture

Representative Lee renewed the motion that HF 3693, as amended, be re-referred to the Committee on Ways and Means.

Representative Lee requested a roll call on HF 3693 as amended.

The clerk took the roll on HF 3693 as amended:

AYES

Hansen

Smith

Agbaje

Frederick

Gottfried

Lee

Vang

NAYS

Anderson

Harder

Burkel

Gander

Jacob

Lawrence

Nelson

There being 7 ayes and 7 nays, THE MOTION DID NOT PREVAIL.

HF 1857 (Smith); Cats; elective declawing of cats prohibited and civil penalties imposed.

Co-Chair Smith moved that HF 1857 be re-referred to the Committee on Judiciary Finance and Civil Law.

Co-Chair Smith presented HF 1857.

Testifying:

- Ronald W. Gaskin, Main Street Veterinary Service
- Robert Memmen, Minnesota Veterinary Association
- Megan Hamilton, Basil's Cradle

Co-Vice Chair Smith renewed the motion that HF 1857 be re-referred to the Committee on Judiciary Finance and Civil Law. THE MOTION PREVAILED.

Co-Chair Anderson requested a division.

The result of the division is as follows: 7 AYES and 7 NAYS. THE MOTION DID NOT PREVAIL.

Co-Vice Chair Smith assumed the gavel at 2:33 P.M.

HF 4350 (Hansen, R.); Agriculture policy provisions modified.

Co-Chair Hansen moved that HF 4350 be re-referred to the General Register.

Co-Chair Hansen moved the A2 amendment. THE MOTION PREVAILED. THE AMENDMENT WAS ADOPTED.

Co-Chair Hansen moved to orally amend HF 4350, as amended as follows:

- Page 11, delete section 21
- Page 12, delete section 22
- Page 14, delete section 23

Co-Chair Hansen renewed the motion to orally amend HF 4350, as amended. THE MOTION PREVAILED. THE AMENDMENT WAS INCORPORATED.

Co-Chair Hansen presented HF 4350, as amended.

Testifying:

- Andrea Vaubel, Deputy Commissioner, Minnesota Department of Agriculture
- Anthony Cortilet, Minnesota Department of Agriculture

Co-Chair Hansen moved that HF 4350 be laid over for possible inclusion. The bill was laid over.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:45 P.M.

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Representative Rick Hansen, Co-Chair

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Grace Johnson, Committee Legislative Assistant