

Subject Agriculture
Authors Poppe
Analyst Colbey Sullivan
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Overview

As amended, this is the 2020 omnibus supplemental agriculture finance bill. It provides supplemental fiscal year 2020-2021 funding to the Minnesota Department of Agriculture for specified purposes, establishes a farm safety grant and outreach program, and gives MDA discretion to issue a food handler license to a person or company with a water supply or disposal system that does not satisfy relevant state standards.

Article 1: Agriculture Appropriations

This article authorizes additional funding for MDA in fiscal year 2021 for specified purposes, including a grant to the University of Minnesota.

Section Description – Article 1: Agriculture Appropriations

- 1 Agricultural marketing and development.**
Provides additional funding to MDA in fiscal year 2021 for farm and rural mental health services and expands eligible uses to include suicide prevention training, and mental health awareness and training for farm and rural adolescents.
- 2 Agriculture, bioenergy, and bioproduct advancement.**
Provides additional funding to MDA in fiscal year 2021 for assistance to farmers and value-added agricultural businesses negatively impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. MDA would award this assistance through the Agricultural Growth, Research, and Innovation program.
- 3 Administration and financial assistance.**
Provides additional funding to MDA in fiscal year 2021 for farm advocate services.
- 4 Farm safety grant and outreach; appropriation.**
Appropriates money to MDA in fiscal year 2021 for the farm safety grant and outreach program established in article 2.

Section Description – Article 1: Agriculture Appropriations

- 5 Veterinary diagnostic equipment; appropriation.**
Appropriates money to MDA in fiscal year 2021 for a grant to the University of Minnesota’s Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory to purchase testing equipment and supplies.

Article 2: Statutory Provisions

This article establishes a farm safety grant and outreach program at MDA and authorizes MDA to issue food handler licenses in certain circumstances. Under current law and this article, a state food handler license issued by MDA is generally required for permanent and mobile retail food establishments, food wholesalers, food processors, food manufacturers, and food brokers.

Section Description – Article 2: Statutory Provisions

- 1 Farm safety grant and outreach programs.**
Reestablishes a tractor rollover prevention grant program that expired in 2019. Establishes a new grain facility safety grant program. Authorizes MDA to create a farm safety outreach campaign. Authorizes MDA to spend up to six percent of program dollars for promotion and administration costs.
- 2 Water, plumbing, and sewage.**
Grants MDA discretion to issue a food handler license to a person or company with a water supply or disposal system that does not satisfy relevant state standards. Requires MDA to perform an investigation before making this determination.



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