

April 7, 2021

Rep. Mike Sundin, Chair  
MN House Agriculture Policy Committee  
417 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.  
St Paul, MN 55155

Chairman Sundin:

In regards to possible Federal funding, Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA) does anticipate being eligible for up to \$500,000 in federal funding from the USDA as a result of the Continuing Resolution (CR) passed by Congress at the end of 2020 to support farm mental health stress efforts. MDA is still awaiting the rules and timing of the program, but anticipates eligibility may cover hotlines, outreach campaigns and other items.

In addition, MDA is working within the administration to assess and put forward a package of proposals that would support efforts to address priority issues such as meat processing, hunger and supply chain issues impacted by COVID-19 through dollars awarded Minnesota through the American Rescue Plan (ARP) recently passed by Congress. Again, we are awaiting information on rules and timing on the ARP as well.

MDA looks forward to working with you and the legislature as we receive more information on these possibilities. Please let me know if you have questions about these issues.

Regards,



Thom Petersen  
Commissioner