

**Subject** Depredation Compensation

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## Summary

This bill would appropriate \$250,000 in the fiscal year 2025 to compensate farmers for crop or fence damage caused by elk and livestock killed or crippled by wolves. The appropriation sets aside designated amounts for specific purposes. Any unspent money will roll over to fiscal year 2026.

Under the wolf depredation program, the Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA) compensates livestock owners whose livestock were killed or crippled by a wolf. Compensation payments are calculated as fair market value as determined by the MDA in consultation with a university extension agent. Livestock owners' ability to receive compensation under this section is capped at \$20,000.

Under the elk depredation program, the MDA compensates landowners whose crops or fence are damaged by elk. An approved agent authorized by the MDA investigates and estimates the value of damage. Landowners' ability to receive compensation under this section is capped at \$20,000.