

Subject Livestock Market Agency, Food Inspection, and the Board of Animal Health

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Overview

This bill makes a number of changes to the Livestock Market Agency and Dealer Licensing Act, the Minnesota Department of Agriculture's (MDA) food inspection and enforcement authority, and the membership of the Board of Animal Health.

Summary

Section	Description
1	Livestock dealer agent. Modifies the name of the defined term "agent" to "livestock dealer agent."
2	Meat packing companies, packers, and slaughtering houses. Modifies the name of the defined term "packing plants and slaughtering houses" to "meat packing companies, packers, and slaughtering houses." Changes the definition to places of business "in the business of (1) buying livestock for purposes of slaughter, (2) manufacturing or preparing meats or meat food products for sale or shipment, or (3) marketing meats, meat food products, or livestock products in an unmanufactured form acting as a wholesale broker, dealer, or distributor."
3	Buying station. Makes conforming change for section 2.
4	Meat packing company agent. Adds a definition of "meat packing company agent" under the Livestock Market Agency and Dealer Licensing Chapter.
5	Licensing provisions. Requires meat packing companies and their agents be licensed under the Livestock Market Agency and Dealer Licensing Act. Allows licenses to be renewed annually after the initial issuance.

Section	Description
6	Application. Makes a conforming change for section 5.
7	Surety bonds required. Strikes citation to the session law that established the Livestock Market Agency.
8	Refusal to license. Makes conforming changes for section 5.
9	Revocation of license. Removes the availability of a hearing if a licensee loses their dealer license.
10	Suspension of license. Makes a conforming change for section 9.
11	Hearing on claims. Modifies the requirements for Livestock Market Agency and Dealer Licensing Act hearings on the bonds that reimburse the seller if the buyer does not make a payment, including requiring the MDA to make an initial determination on the validity of the claim and notifying the licensee to pay the claim.
12	Public notice. Makes conforming changes for section 5 and 11.
13	Prohibited conduct. Makes conforming changes for sections 5 and 11.
14	Record keeping. Allows the MDA to take enforcement actions against businesses who are required to retain records under the Livestock Market Agency and Dealer Licensing Act.
15	Fee. Allows MDA to accept payment from exporting companies requesting certificates of health, sanitation, purity, free sale, origin, etc. with the initial request for certification before having to bill the exporting company.
16	Food sampling and demonstration. Clarifies language for food product sampling or demonstrations.

Section	Description
17	Reporting requirements. Gives the MDA permissive authority to require annual reporting from packers when the authority is currently mandatory.
18	Enforcement required. Includes the Livestock Market Agency and Dealer Licensing Chapter under the MDA's Food Inspection and Enforcement authority.
19	Members; officers. Modifies the Board of Animal Health to include 11 members, with one member who is a member of a federally recognized Tribe located in Minnesota and eight regional members. Requires members to be knowledgeable in animal agriculture, animal health, or pets and companion animals. Requires two members who are not employed in agriculture, veterinary medicine, pet industry, or other related field to represent the public. Requires the commissioners of agriculture, natural resources, and health, the dean of the College of Veterinary Medicine, and the director of the Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory of the University of Minnesota to serve as consultants to the board. Requires the governor to appoint a nonboard member veterinarian to the board's executive director. This section would be effective July 1, 2026.
20	Repealer. Repeals the rabies proclamation requirement and the written bill of sale for sellers of branded livestock requirement.



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