

**Subject** Agriculture finance and policy

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### Overview

This is Minnesota Department of Agriculture's (MDA) agriculture finance and policy bill. Among other things, this bill combines reports, modernizes the seed potato sections, and broadens the agroforestry loan program.

## Article 1: Appropriations

This article modifies appropriations enacted in last session's agriculture finance and policy bill (Laws 2025, chapter 34).

Section	Description - Article 1: Appropriations
1	<b>Protection services.</b> Makes technical and conforming changes.
2	<b>Agricultural marketing and development.</b> Moves the Emerging Farmers Office appropriation from the administration and financial assistance subdivision. Makes technical changes.
3	<b>Administration and financial assistance.</b> Strikes the Emerging Farmers Office appropriation to move it to the agricultural marketing and development subdivision.

## Article 2: Agriculture Policy

This article amends agriculture statutes, notably modifying sections regarding seed potatoes, reports, agroforestry, industrial hemp, and food handlers.

**Section Description - Article 2: Agriculture Policy**

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- 1 Legislative report.**  
Combines the Food Retail Improvement and Development Program report with the annual Agricultural Growth, Research, and Innovation (AGRI) report.
- 2 Definition.**  
Modifies the agroforestry definition.
- 3 Definitions.**  
Updates scope of definitions and rules that apply to chapter 18J, Inspection and Enforcement.
- 4 Duties of commissioner.**  
Updates MDA’s administration and enforcement authority under the Inspection and Enforcement chapter to include the revised seed potato provisions.
- 5 Civil liability.**  
Updates the list of chapters and sections that which regulated parties are civilly liable to include the revised seed potato provisions.
- 6 Access and entry.**  
Updates the list of chapters and sections the MDA can cite as authority to enter sites for inspection to include the revised seed potato provisions.
- 7 Purpose of entry.**  
Updates lists of chapters and sections the MDA can use for their inspection, sampling, and investigating authority to include the revised seed potato provisions.
- 8 Notice of inspection samples and analyses.**  
Updates the list of chapters and sections that provide the methods that MDA must follow for sampling and analysis to include the revised seed potato provisions.
- 9 Inspection requests by others.**  
Updates the list of chapters and sections that individuals may cite to request MDA’s inspection to include the revised seed potato provisions.
- 10 Enforcement required.**  
Updates the enforcement authority for MDA to include the revised seed potato provisions.

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- 11      **Commissioner’s discretion.**  
Updates MDA’s discretionary authority to not enforce or fully enforce violations to include the revised seed potato provisions.
- 12      **Agent for service of process.**  
Updates the list of chapters and sections that which persons licensed, permitted, registered, or certified under must appoint the commissioner of agriculture as an agent that can be served legal process on behalf of the licensee, permittee, registrant, or certified person to include the revised seed potato provisions.
- 13      **False statement or record.**  
Updates the list of chapters and sections that persons are required to not make false statements in their applications, records, reports, or investigations to include the revised seed potato provisions.
- 14      **Cancellation of registration, permit, license, certification.**  
Updates the chapters and sections with registrations, permits, licenses, or certifications that the MDA can cancel or revoke under to include the revised seed potato provisions.
- 15      **Service of order or notice.**  
Updates the provision that details the manner in which the MDA can serve regulated parties and the actions regulated parties must take after being served to include the revised seed potato provisions.
- 16      **Unsatisfied judgments.**  
Updates the list of chapters and sections that relate to unsatisfied judgments for violations to include the revised seed potato provisions.
- 17      **Crediting of penalties, fees, and costs.**  
Adds the already listed accounts’ statute citations, the seed potato inspection account, and the grain buyers and storage account to the list of accounts that must be credited when penalties, cost reimbursements, fees, and other money are collected in the course of MDA’s inspection and enforcement.
- 18      **Processing.**  
Amends the “processing” definition in chapter 18K, Industrial Hemp Development, to clarify processing does not include “packaging” or the extraction of cannabinoids and includes “pressing.”

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- 19     **Processing location.**  
Clarifies that the reference to hemp only refers to industrial hemp.
- 20     **Requirement; issuance; presumption.**  
Combines the licenses to grow and process industrial hemp.
- 21     **Definitions.**  
Adds new definitions to the Seeds chapter, most of which are copies of the definitions under the seed potato certification regulations in Minnesota Rules, part 1510.2305. Modifies existing definition of “certified.” Strikes “interstate cooperation” to move it outside of the definition section.
- 22     **Interstate cooperation.**  
Moves a provision that allows the MDA to enter into agreements with other seed potato certification entities from the definition section to the MDA’s duties section.
- 23     **Shipping point certificates; certificates of origin; and bulk certificates.**  
Incorporates certificates issued by MDA under the seed potato certification regulations in Minnesota Rules, part 1510.2315, subpart 2.
- 24     **Fees; seed potato inspection account.**  
Makes conforming changes.
- 25     **Applications for inspections; withdrawals; amendments.**  
Modifies application withdrawals for inspection of seed potatoes by requiring a withdrawal request submitted in writing and subsequent removal of withdrawn acres from production before first field inspection. Allows growers to amend applications.
- 26     **Use of certain terms forbidden; exceptions.**  
Makes conforming changes.
- 27     **Minimum standards for planting.**  
Requires growers to register fields with MDA. Modifies required records maintained. Makes conforming changes.
- 28     **Seed potato certification.**  
Codifies regulations into statute regarding seed potato certification inspection, eligibility, and production in Minnesota Rules, parts 1510.2315–1510.2325.

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- 29      **Requirements for production of different classes of certified seed potatoes.**  
Codifies regulations into statute regarding requirements for production of different classes of certified seed potatoes in Minnesota Rules, part 1510.2330.
- 30      **Minnesota certified seed potato grades and tolerances.**  
Codifies regulations into statute regarding certified seed potato grades and tolerances in Minnesota Rules, part 1510.2355.
- 31      **Seed fee permits.**  
Allows the MDA to determine reporting periods for seed fee permit holders' semiannual reports.
- 32      **Application; date of issuance.**  
Exempts special event food stands from the prorated fee, requiring the applicant to pay the entire fee at once.
- 33      **Delegation of powers and duties.**  
Clarifies duties that MDA is not authorized to delegate. Allows designated agents to charge fees to recover costs of performing delegated duties. Makes conforming changes for last year's updates to chapter 28A, Licensing Food Handlers.
- 34      **Fees effective August 1, 2025.**  
Removes obsolete late renewal fee for special event food stands.
- 35      **Reporting.**  
Changes the dairy development and profitability enhancement report from an annual report to a biannual report.
- 36      **Report; incentive programs.**  
Combines the report on the incentive programs (advanced biofuel production incentive, renewable chemical production incentive, biomass thermal production incentive, and siding production incentive) with the AGRI report.
- 37      **Establishment.**  
Expands intended scope of the agroforestry loan program to include agroforestry crops, agroforestry systems, such as silvopasture and alley systems, and other systems.
- 38      **Definitions.**  
Adds definitions of "agroforestry" (referencing the new definition in section 2) and "agroforestry system."

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- 39     **Eligibility for growers of short rotation woody crops.**  
Clarifies that existing eligibility requirements apply to growers of short rotation woody crops for the agroforestry loan program.
- 40     **Eligibility for agroforestry systems and practices.**  
Establishes eligibility for agroforestry systems and practices for the agroforestry loan program that are similar to the eligibility for short rotation woody crops.
- 41     **Loans for agroforestry systems and practices.**  
Establishes agroforestry loans for agroforestry systems and practices that are similar to the eligibility for short rotation woody crops.
- 42     **Repealer.**  
Repeals the “processor” definition in chapter 18K, Industrial Hemp Development, the subdivision allowing for the sale to medical cannabis manufacturers subdivision, and the section on the delegation to local community health boards.



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