



House Agriculture Budget Bill

HF 2278

Everyone in Minnesota deserves access to healthy, nutritious food. The House DFL Agriculture budget delivers comprehensive, innovative ideas to ensure we have both a sustainable food supply and a strong agricultural economy throughout our state.

Top Impacts:

Increasing Food Access

- All Minnesotans deserve access to quality food, but food “deserts” are common in lower-income urban areas where large chain grocery stores are less likely to open, and in Greater Minnesota where the nearest grocery store might be over 50 miles away. This legislation provides funding for the Good Food Access Program, hunger relief grant funding for Second Harvest Heartland, increases funding for farm-to-school programs, and more.

Investing in Farmers

- This bill supports our farmers by increasing the capacity for the Rural Finance Authority to process low-interest loans quicker, increasing our international trade market capacity, increasing funds for Farm Business Management, and investing in cooperative development grants to help early-stage agricultural cooperatives advance production and marketing.

Economic Security for Grain Farmers

- The House DFL seeks to establish a new state program to compensate grain farmers when grain buyers or grain warehouse operators breach a contract or otherwise fail to pay for grain or redeliver stored grain. The new program would be administered by the Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA) and would largely replace the existing surety bond requirements for grain buyers and grain warehouse operators.

Other Key Provisions:

- Minnesota is showing the rest of the world that we are the place to develop, grow, and market new crops that use less water, energy, and chemicals than traditional row crops. Our investments in the University of Minnesota’s Forever Green program, the Agriculture Utilization Research Institute, our International Trade Office, and our state-of-the-art laboratory ensure that Minnesota remains at the forefront of innovation.
- The House DFL is ensuring our soil is healthy, establishing a permanent Soil Health Financial Assistance Program to provide grants to farmers and local units of government that implement or enable eligible soil management and livestock emissions-reduction practices on farmland.
- Broadband access is no longer a luxury; it’s a necessity. Beyond the basics, internet access is increasingly critical for a strong way of life, including access to telemedicine, telecommuting job opportunities, and for access to high-tech farming equipment. The DFL is investing \$100 million to expand internet service for all Minnesotans.