

# HOUSE RESEARCH

## Bill Summary

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**Version:** As introduced

**Authors:** Peterson, A. and others

**Subject:** Sustainable agriculture demonstration grants

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### Overview

The bill appropriates \$500,000 to the Department of Agriculture over the next biennium for grants to farmers, educational institutions, or nonprofit organizations in Minnesota that perform sustainable agriculture demonstration projects.

These grants are awarded to projects demonstrating farm input reduction or management, enterprise diversification, farm energy efficiency or diversification, or technology transfer leading to the enhancement of the environment and farm profitability. Grants for individual projects may not exceed \$25,000 unless the state's funds above and beyond that cap are matched by the applicant's cash or in-kind land use contribution. A portion of each grant must be spent on the dissemination of project findings.

### Section

- 1 Sustainable agriculture demonstration grants.** Appropriates \$250,000 in fiscal years 2008 and 2009 from the general fund to the department for grants. Specifies that up to 1/4 of the appropriation for each year may be used to disseminate findings.