

HOUSE RESEARCH

Bill Summary

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Overview

State law directs the Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA) to make payments to agricultural producers whose livestock were killed by a gray wolf or so crippled by a gray wolf that the animal had to be destroyed.

This bill would modify the roles and responsibilities of the public entities charged with inspecting the farm site and making recommendations to the MDA.

Section

- 1 Compensation required.** Eliminates Department of Natural Resources (DNR) conservation officers from the list of officials authorized to estimate livestock fair market value or recommend that MDA pay a livestock owner. Eliminates University of Minnesota Extension agents from the list of officials authorized to inspect a farm site or advise the MDA whether the animal was destroyed by a gray wolf or if there were any deficiencies in the livestock producer's implementation of wolf depredation prevention best management practices (BMPs) provided by the MDA. Adds United States Department of Agriculture officials and county law enforcement officers to the list of officials authorized to perform these duties. A farm site inspector would have to submit a report to the MDA but would no longer be required to take into account factors beyond a visual inspection of the livestock carcass.
- 2 Payment; denial of compensation.** DNR conservation officers could no longer issue a report that MDA staff use to evaluate the livestock producer's compliance with BMPs.