

HOUSE RESEARCH

Bill Summary

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Overview

This bill would modify multiple areas of agricultural policy, including pesticide and food regulatory activities carried out by the Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA), bovine tuberculosis (TB) control and eradication efforts under the jurisdiction of the Board of Animal Health (BAH), and prohibitions against corporate farming and farmland ownership.

Section

- 1** **Application fee.** Changes the deadline for pesticide dealer license renewal from January 1 to before the expiration date. Increases the late fee to 50 percent of the application fee, or \$75.
- 2** **Application fee.** Changes the deadline for agricultural pesticide dealer license renewal from January 1 to before the expiration date.
- 3** **Requirement.** Prohibits anyone from purchasing a restricted use pesticide unless they present an MDA-issued authorization card or furnish the card number.
- 4** **Storage handling, incident response, and disposal plan.** Requires pesticide dealers, agricultural pesticide dealers, and commercial or noncommercial structural pest control applicators to develop and maintain a pesticide storage, handling, incident response, and disposal plan.
- 5** **Fees; application.** Allows MDA to waive the standard fee for reviewing a food handler facility floor plan if MDA determines that the facility's principal business purpose is not food sales and the facility will sell only prepackaged food.
- 6** **Designation of zones.** Provides more general authority for BAH to establish geographic TB zones in order to control and eradicate TB and restrict the movement of bovines within and between these zones.

- 7 **Requirements within a tuberculosis control zone.** Authorizes BAH to require certain actions by cattle owners in a tuberculosis control zone that are currently authorized for zones designated by BAH as “modified accredited.”
- 8 **Definitions.** Modifies corporate farming and farmland ownership restrictions to provide an exemption for nonprofit corporations that actively farm less than 40 acres and devote all profits from that farm to educational purposes if that nonprofit corporation meets certain requirements that apply to all exempt entities.
- 9 **Repealer.** Eliminates a law requiring MDA to prepare a plan for establishing a local-origin, native seed production loan program.