

Subject Agriculture; wild turkeys

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Overview

This bill would require the Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA) to compensate a farmer whose crop, livestock feed, or animal feedlot is damaged or destroyed by wild turkeys. The bill would appropriate an unspecified amount of money for this purpose.

The compensation process and parameters would be similar to the existing statutes and protocols for compensation MDA provides to farmers when elk damage agricultural crops or fencing (Minn. Stat. § 3.7371), or wolves kill or cripple livestock (Minn. Stat. § 3.737). One notable difference is that if MDA does not have access to funding sufficient to compensate a farmer under this new program, the farmer would be allowed to kill wild turkeys on their land. This is not allowed under the two existing compensation programs.

The bill authorizes MDA to adopt or amend rules as necessary to carry out this new program.