

Subject Agriculture  
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**Overview**

This is the 2020 omnibus supplemental agriculture finance bill. It provides supplemental funding in fiscal years 2020 and 2021 to the Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA) for specified purposes, establishes a farm safety grant and outreach program, and gives MDA discretion to issue a food handler license to a person or company with a water supply or disposal system that does not satisfy relevant state standards.

**Article 1: Agriculture Appropriations**

This article authorizes additional funding for MDA in fiscal years 2020 and 2021 for specified purposes, including grants to the University of Minnesota, retail food handlers, and certain producers in farmer-lender mediation.

**Section Description – Article 1: Agriculture Appropriations**

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- 1 Agricultural marketing and development.**  
Provides additional funding to MDA in fiscal year 2021 for farm and rural mental health services and expands eligible uses to include suicide prevention training, and mental health awareness and training for farm and rural adolescents.
- 2 Agriculture, bioenergy, and bioproduct advancement.**  
Reduces funding for the Agriculture Research, Education, Extension, and Technology Transfer (AGREETT) Program in fiscal year 2021 and specifies that this reduction is to the allocation for avian influenza research. Provides additional funding to MDA in fiscal year 2020 to assist farmers and value-added agricultural businesses negatively impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. MDA would provide this assistance through the Agricultural Growth, Research, and Innovation (AGRI) program. Requires MDA to give additional preference to meat and poultry processors when awarding AGRI Value-Added grants in fiscal year 2021.

**Section Description – Article 1: Agriculture Appropriations**

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- 3     **Administration and financial assistance.**  
Provides additional funding to MDA in fiscal year 2021 for farm advocate services.
- 4     **Farm safety grant and outreach; appropriation.**  
Appropriates money to MDA in fiscal year 2021 for the farm safety grant and outreach program established in article 2 and specifies how this money is to be allocated among eligible uses.
- 5     **Veterinary diagnostic equipment; appropriation.**  
Appropriates money to MDA in fiscal year 2021 for a grant to the University of Minnesota’s Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory to purchase testing equipment and supplies.
- 6     **Appropriation; farm crisis loan origination fee grant program.**  
Appropriates money to MDA in fiscal year 2020 for grants to farmers who have a net worth of less than \$800,000, are participating in farmer-lender mediation or have received a mediation notice pursuant to the Farmer-Lender Mediation Act, and have been approved for a debt restructuring loan guaranteed by the United States Department of Agriculture or a loan through the Rural Finance Authority. Authorizes MDA to use up to ten percent of the appropriation to administer the grants.
- 7     **Retail food handler safety; appropriation.**  
Appropriates money to MDA in fiscal year 2020 for grants to grocery stores and other MDA-licensed retail food handlers to execute Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and Minnesota Department of Health COVID-19 requirements, guidance, and recommendations, and to develop safety procedures, update and retrofit retail locations, purchase personal protective equipment for employees, and educate the public on the need to follow safety procedures. Limits grants to \$500 per store and a total of \$2,000 for businesses with multiple locations. Requires Minnesota Management and Budget to determine if these grants are an eligible use of federal COVID-19 aid received by the state. If so, the grants would come from the federal aid instead of the state general fund.

## **Article 2: Statutory Provisions**

This article establishes a farm safety grant and outreach program at MDA and authorizes MDA to issue food handler licenses in certain circumstances. Under current law and this article, a state food handler license issued by MDA is generally required for permanent and mobile retail food establishments, food wholesalers, food processors, food manufacturers, and food brokers.

**Section Description – Article 2: Statutory Provisions**

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**1 Farm safety grant and outreach programs.**

Reestablishes a tractor rollover prevention grant program that expired in 2019. Establishes a new grain storage facility safety grant program. Authorizes MDA to create a farm safety outreach campaign. Authorizes MDA to spend up to six percent of program dollars for promotion and administration costs.

**2 Water, plumbing, and sewage.**

Grants MDA discretion to issue a food handler license to a person or company with a water supply or disposal system that does not satisfy relevant state standards. Requires MDA to perform an investigation before making this determination.



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