

Subject Agriculture

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Summary

This bill establishes and funds at \$10,000/year a dedicated Emerging Farmer Account in the Agricultural Fund. Money in the account would be appropriated to the Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA) to further the objectives of the Emerging Farmer Working Group. The bill also authorizes MDA to accept money, services, gifts, or other assistance donated to the state to support the objectives of the Emerging Farmer Working Group. MDA would deposit monetary donations in the new dedicated account.

Background: In 2020, the legislature established the Emerging Farmer Working Group to advise MDA and the legislature regarding the development and implementation of programs and initiatives to support emerging farmers in this state. To the extent possible, the Working Group must consist of farmers and aspiring farmers who are women, veterans, persons with disabilities, American Indian or Alaskan Natives, members of a community of color, young, or urban. MDA must report to the legislature each January 15th regarding the Working Group's activities and recommendations.