

Subject Farm down payment assistance

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Summary

This bill would appropriate \$3,000,000 to the Minnesota Department of Agriculture for down payment assistance grants of up to \$15,000 per eligible farmer. The bill defines eligible farmers as Minnesota residents who are purchasing a farm, will provide the majority of the day-to-day farm management and physical labor, earn no more than \$250,000 per year in gross sales of farm products, and have not—nor has their spouse—previously had a direct or indirect ownership interest in farmland.

An eligible farmer would be required to match the down payment assistance grant with at least an equivalent amount of other funding. The bill requires grant recipients to repay a prorated share of the grant if the recipient does not own and farm the land for at least five years.