

Subject Agriculture

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Summary

This bill would appropriate a total of \$500,000 on a onetime basis to the Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA) to award crop insurance premium assistance grants to eligible farmers and to provide funding to specified organizations for associated technical assistance.

MDA would receive \$300,000 for grants to farmers participating in the federal Micro Farm risk management program administered by the United States Department of Agriculture's Risk Management Agency (USDA RMA). Grants would be equal to the lesser of two years of an eligible farmer's documented Micro Farm premium expenses, or \$3,000.

MDA would receive an additional \$200,000 to award grants of \$100,000 to Hmong American Farmers Association and \$100,000 to Latino Economic Development Center to provide technical assistance regarding the federal Micro Farm program and the associated state grant program established in this bill.

According to the USDA RMA, the new Micro Farm program offers a risk management safety net for all commodities produced on farms with up to \$100,000 in approved revenue, including farms producing specialty or organic commodities (both crops and livestock), and those selling their commodities in local, regional, farm-identity preserved, specialty, or direct markets.