

Subject Agriculture  
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## Overview

This bill establishes and funds a permanent Soil Health Financial Assistance Program to replace the comparable pilot program established by the legislature in 2022. Like the pilot program, the permanent program would be administered by the Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA) and would provide grants to farmers and local units of government that implement or enable eligible soil management and livestock emissions-reduction practices on farmland.

## Summary

Section	Description
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| 1 | <b>Soil health financial assistance program.</b><br>Establishes a permanent program to award grants to farmers and local units of government for projects on agricultural land in Minnesota that will sequester carbon in the soil, integrate perennial vegetation, reduce nitrous oxide and methane emissions, utilize precision agricultural practices, develop site-specific plans, or enable the purchase of eligible equipment and other items. |
| 2 | <b>Health soil management plan.</b><br>Eliminates the existing pilot program law, except for the state healthy soil management plan component. Under current law and this bill, the final version of this plan is not due until December 31, 2024.   |
| 3 | <b>Appropriation.</b><br>Appropriates an unspecified amount of onetime general fund dollars to MDA for purposes of the permanent program and authorizes MDA to use up to five percent to administer the program. Prohibits MDA from awarding more than ten percent of the appropriation to a single recipient.   |



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