

Subject Agriculture

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Summary

This bill would appropriate \$2,000,000 annually from the general fund to the Minnesota Department of Agriculture for grants to the University of Minnesota to fund the University's Forever Green Initiative. Under current law, the base funding level for these grants in fiscal years 2024 and 2025 is \$630,000 per year.

H.F. 1492 would also appropriate \$10,000,000 from the general fund on a onetime basis to fund equipment and physical infrastructure that supports the Forever Green Initiative's breeding, agronomic research, and food science activities.

According to the University of Minnesota, the Forever Green Initiative is developing and improving winter-hardy annual and perennial crops and cropping systems that protect soil and water while providing new economic opportunities for growers, industry, and Minnesota communities across the state.