

Subject Agriculture

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Summary

This bill would appropriate an unspecified amount of money to compensate farmers for crop or fence damage caused by elk, and livestock killed or crippled by wolves.

Under the elk depredation program, a landowner is entitled to the higher of the target or market price of the damaged or destroyed crop plus adjustments for yield loss, as determined by the Minnesota Department of Agriculture in consultation with the department's approved local agent. In a fiscal year, a landowner may receive total compensation of up to \$20,000, minus any insurance proceeds or federal depredation payments received.

Under the wolf depredation program, the livestock owner is entitled to compensation equal to the fair market value of the livestock either destroyed by a wolf or so crippled by a wolf that it must be destroyed. Fair market value is determined by the Minnesota Department of Agriculture in consultation with a University of Minnesota Extension educator. A livestock owner is subject to the same annual compensation limit in effect for the elk depredation program.