

Subject Wolf and elk depredation compensation grants

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Summary

This bill appropriates \$125,000 in fiscal year 2026 for wolf depredation compensation grants and \$125,000 in fiscal year 2026 for elk depredation compensation grants to the Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA). The appropriation sets aside designated amounts for specific purposes.

Under the wolf depredation program, MDA compensates livestock owners whose livestock were killed or crippled by a wolf. Compensation payments are calculated as fair market value as determined by MDA in consultation with a university extension agent. Livestock owners' ability to receive compensation under this section is capped at \$20,000.

Under the elk depredation program, MDA compensates landowners whose crops or fences are damaged by elk. An approved agent authorized by MDA investigates and estimates the value of damage. Landowners' ability to receive compensation under this section is capped at \$20,000.

This bill would be effective the day following final enactment.