

Subject Agriculture policy
Authors Hansen, R. and others
Analyst Megan Mullenbach
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Overview

This bill is the Minnesota Department of Agriculture's (MDA) policy bill. This bill makes various changes across the agriculture chapters, including changes related to noxious weeds, fertilizer, plant and soil amendments, and food handlers.

Summary

Section	Description
1	Agrivoltaic system. Adds a definition of "agrivoltaic system" to the agricultural land preservation and conservation sections.
2	Cultivated variety or cultivar. Adds a definition of "cultivated variety" and "cultivar" to the Noxious Weed chapter, chapter 18.
3	Plant variety. Adds a definition of "plant variety" to the Noxious Weed chapter, chapter 18.
4	Propagate. Adds a definition of "propagate" to the Noxious Weed chapter, chapter 18.
5	Propagating parts. Amends the definition of "propagating parts" in the Noxious Weed chapter, chapter 18, to remove "including seeds."
6	Reasonable grounds. Adds a definition of "reasonable grounds" to the Noxious Weed chapter, chapter 18.
7	Noxious weed categories. Redefines the "specially regulated plants" noxious weed category as noxious weeds with clearly defined benefits. Allows MDA to exempt a plant variety from its noxious

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	weed category under certain circumstances. Allows MDA to set a nursery phase-out period for restricted noxious weeds. Makes technical and conforming changes.
8	Authorized agents. Redefines authority of county agricultural inspectors, county-designated employees, local weed inspectors, and assistant weed inspectors for noxious weed control. Incorporates local weed inspector and local weed inspector assistant delegations from section 18.81.
9	Entry upon land. Limits and clarifies the grounds an inspector needs to enter private land without landowner permission to the reasonable grounds defined in section 6. Makes technical changes.
10	Nonperformance by inspectors; reimbursement for expenses. Removes MDA consultation requirement for county agricultural inspectors to issue a notice to a local weed inspector that fails to do their duty. If notice goes unanswered, allows county agricultural inspectors to consult with county boards instead of MDA to perform local weed inspector duties.
11	Transportation or possession of noxious weed propagating parts. Prohibits the possession of noxious weed propagating parts without a permit. Updates the information permittees must submit to obtain a permit. Establishes a process for a person to contest a revocation of a permit.
12	Appeal of individual notice or permit revocation; appeal committee. Updates the appeal committee procedures for permit revocation appeals. Makes technical changes.
13	Unlawful acts. Removes reference to “other rules” relating to transportation of noxious weed propagating parts.
14	Membership. Modifies Noxious Weed Advisory Committee member appointment process so that the MDA Commissioner appoints and approves members, but the members go through the secretary of state’s application process.
15	Compost. Modifies the “compost” definition in the Fertilizer, Soil Amendment, and Plant Amendment chapter, chapter 18C, to reference definition in section 20.

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16	Composting. Modifies the “composting” definition in the Fertilizer, Soil Amendment, and Plant Amendment chapter, chapter 18C, to reference definition in section 20.
17	Plant amendment. Modifies definition of “plant amendment” in the Fertilizer, Soil Amendment, and Plant Amendment chapter, chapter 18C, to include beneficial substances and plant biostimulants.
18	Plant biostimulant. Adds new definition of “plant biostimulant” in the Fertilizer, Soil Amendment, and Plant Amendment chapter, chapter 18C.
19	Soil amendment. Modifies definition of “soil amendment” in the Fertilizer, Soil Amendment, and Plant Amendment chapter, chapter 18C, to include beneficial substances.
20	Compost and composting. Creates new section to define compost and composting.
21	Application; date of issuance. Exempts special event food stands from prorated fees. Makes technical changes. Corrects a reference.
22	Delegation of powers and duties. Modifies delegations to community health boards. Makes technical changes. Clarifies nondelegable duties. Clarifies the delegating authority is the MDA. Allows designated agents to charge fees related to their delegated authority.
23	License fees; penalties. Removes the late renewal penalty fee for special event food stands.
24	Revisor instruction. Directs the revisor of statutes to renumber the definition subdivisions in the Noxious Weed chapter definition section, section 18.77.
25	Repealer. Repeals the definition of "cooperative weed management areas or CWMAs" from the Noxious Weed chapter, section 18.77, subdivision 14, and the local community health board delegation section in the Food Handlers chapter, section 28A.075.



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