



COUNTY AGRICULTURAL INSPECTOR FUNDING

The County Agricultural Inspector (CAI) position was established to provide leadership and supervision in the enforcement of the noxious weed law in each county. CAIs serve as the primary technical support to local weed inspectors in the areas of enforcement and public relations.

Ag and Local Weed Inspectors make over 10,000 landowner/land manager contacts each year.

CAIs may also participate in control programs for seeds, feeds, fertilizers, pesticides, and insect pests when requested to do so by the Commissioner of Agriculture.

This legislation establishes base level funding to support state mandate and state support services performed by qualified CAI's. An appropriation of \$1 million annually would support MDA program assistance and provides approximately 20% of the average annual costs of CAI work.

HF80/SFXXX (Rep. Anderson, P.H./Sen. XXX): Base Funding for County Agricultural Inspector Responsibilities.

Noxious weeds present a variety of adverse effects: illness in both humans and livestock; loss of crops; environmental degradation because the species present are either non-native or out of balance; and aesthetics.

Funding will strengthen local efforts and provide increased environmental benefits.

Statistics indicate about 80% of landowners with a noxious weed problem comply after being contacted by local officials. ■

Questions?

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ROLES OF COUNTY AGRICULTURAL INSPECTORS

- Enforce the Minnesota Noxious Weed Law within our respective counties.
- Educate citizens on Noxious weeds, their harmful effects and recommend management options.
- Manage biological control programs for noxious weeds.
- Train township and city officials to be local weed inspectors.
- Assist with local weed tours.
- Preside over problematic cases.
- Assist the Minnesota Department of Agriculture:
 - ▶ Collecting seed samples to ensure truth in labeling.
 - ▶ Providing Pesticide Applicator license testing.
 - ▶ Invasive insect programs and diagnosis of tree diseases.

The work of the County Agricultural Inspectors has been an unfunded state mandate since the position was established in 1929.