

Subject Agriculture

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Summary

This bill would appropriate \$4,400,000 in state fiscal year 2024 and \$4,400,000 in state fiscal year 2025 to the Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA) for grants to Second Harvest Heartland on behalf of Minnesota's six Feeding America food banks. The base, or current, level for this funding is \$1,700,000 per year.

Second Harvest Heartland would use these dollars to acquire the following commodities from Minnesota producers or processors for distribution to Minnesota food shelves and other charitable organizations (1) milk, (2) surplus fruits, vegetables, and other commodities that would otherwise go unharvested, be discarded, or be sold in a secondary market, and (3) protein products such as pork, poultry, beef, legumes, cheese, and eggs.

The bill also requires Second Harvest Heartland to provide quarterly progress reports to MDA.

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