

Chapter 3

2021 First Special Session

Subject Agriculture
Bill H.F. 8
Analyst Colbey Sullivan
Date June 28, 2021

Overview

This is the 2021 omnibus agriculture finance act. Governor Tim Walz signed this act into law on June 26, 2021. Unless specified otherwise, the provisions in this act take effect on July 1, 2021.

The act authorizes funding in state fiscal years 2022 and 2023 for the Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA), the Board of Animal Health (BAH), and the Agricultural Utilization Research Institute. It also provides administrative funding to the Department of Employment and Economic Development to operate the agency's Office of Broadband Development.

The act also creates and funds a dedicated account in the Agricultural Fund to support the existing Emerging Farmer Working Group at MDA and codifies statutory language governing MDA's existing Dairy Development and Profitability Enhancement Program.

For more information on the amount of money appropriated for specific programs and activities in this act, see the House Fiscal Analysis Department's tracking sheet available at:

<https://www.house.leg.state.mn.us/Fiscal/Home/TrackingSheets>

For a summary of the 2021 omnibus agriculture policy act passed by the House of Representatives and Senate during the 2021 Regular Session, see the House Research Department's act summary available at:

<https://www.house.leg.state.mn.us/hrd/as/92/as028.pdf>

Article 1: Agriculture Appropriations

This article appropriates money to MDA, BAH, and the Agricultural Utilization Research Institute in state fiscal years 2022 and 2023. It also cancels a portion of MDA's previously-enacted fiscal year 2021 appropriations, establishes a dedicated account, and codifies program language.

Section Description – Article 1: Agriculture Appropriations

- 1 Agriculture appropriations.**
Provides boilerplate language regarding interpretation of the appropriation format used in this article.
- 2 Department of Agriculture.**
Appropriates general fund and remediation fund dollars to MDA for specified purposes.

 - Subd. 1. Total appropriation.** Denotes the total amount of money, by fund, appropriated to MDA in this act.
 - Subd. 2. Protection services.** Appropriates general fund and remediation fund dollars for MDA’s regulatory programs. Specifically, this subdivision provides funding for the following MDA divisions: Pesticide and Fertilizer Management, Laboratory Services, Plant Protection, Dairy and Meat Inspection, and Food and Feed Safety.
 - Subd. 3. Agricultural marketing and development.** Appropriates general fund dollars for MDA’s Agricultural Marketing and Development Division.
 - Subd. 4. Agriculture, bioenergy, and bioproduct advancement.** Appropriates general fund dollars for specific programs and purposes within this budget category.
 - Subd. 5. Administration and financial assistance.** Appropriates general fund dollars for specified pass-through grants and agency administration.
- 3 Board of Animal Health.**
Appropriates general fund dollars to BAH.
- 4 Agricultural Utilization Research Institute.**
Appropriates general fund dollars to the Agricultural Utilization Research Institute.
- 5 Emerging farmer account.**
Establishes a dedicated Emerging Farmer Account in the Agricultural Fund. Appropriates money in the account to MDA to further the objectives of the agency’s Emerging Farmer Working Group.
- 6 Dairy development and profitability enhancement.**
Codifies in statute an existing MDA program and defines two distinct program elements that assist the state’s dairy farmers – dairy profitability enhancement

Section Description – Article 1: Agriculture Appropriations

teams and dairy business planning grants. Funding for the program is provided to MDA in section 2, subdivision 3.

7 Cancellations.

Cancels a portion of previously-enacted fiscal year 2021 general fund appropriations to each of MDA's four budgetary program areas.

Effective date: This section took effect on June 27, 2021, the day after Governor Walz signed the act into law.

Article 2: Broadband

This article provides funding to the Department of Employment and Economic Development (DEED) to administer the Border-to-Border Broadband Development Grant Program. Funding necessary for DEED to award grants to eligible entities for broadband development projects is not included in this act.



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