

1.1 CONFERENCE COMMITTEE REPORT ON S.F. No. 3018

1.2 A bill for an act
1.3 relating to agriculture; making various policy and technical changes to
1.4 agricultural-related provisions; modifying certain agricultural-related
1.5 appropriations; amending Minnesota Statutes 2014, sections 17.53, subdivision
1.6 16; 18B.345; 28A.085, subdivision 1; 31.122; 31.94; Minnesota Statutes 2015
1.7 Supplement, sections 41A.14; 583.215; Laws 2015, First Special Session chapter
1.8 4, article 1, section 2, subdivision 4; proposing coding for new law in Minnesota
1.9 Statutes, chapter 216B; repealing Laws 2015, First Special Session chapter 4,
1.10 article 2, section 81.

1.11 May 22, 2016

1.12 The Honorable Sandra L. Pappas
1.13 President of the Senate

1.14 The Honorable Kurt L. Daudt
1.15 Speaker of the House of Representatives

1.16 We, the undersigned conferees for S.F. No. 3018 report that we have agreed upon
1.17 the items in dispute and recommend as follows:

1.18 That the House recede from its amendments and that S.F. No. 3018 be further
1.19 amended as follows:

1.20 Delete everything after the enacting clause and insert:

1.21 "Section 1. Minnesota Statutes 2014, section 3.7371, is amended by adding a
1.22 subdivision to read:

1.23 Subd. 8. **Report.** The commissioner must submit a report to the chairs of the house
1.24 of representatives and senate committees and divisions with jurisdiction over agriculture
1.25 and environment and natural resources by December 15 each year that details the total
1.26 amount of damages paid, by elk herd, in the previous two fiscal years.

1.27 Sec. 2. Minnesota Statutes 2014, section 17.53, subdivision 16, is amended to read:

1.28 Subd. 16. **Qualified voter.** "Qualified voter" means a producer who would be
1.29 subject to the payment of fees to finance the activities described in sections 17.51 to 17.69
1.30 and who shares directly in the profits and risk of loss from the agricultural operation

2.1 which produces or grows the commodity, regardless of the Internal Revenue Service
2.2 tax filing status of the producer.

2.3 Sec. 3. Minnesota Statutes 2014, section 18B.345, is amended to read:

2.4 **18B.345 PESTICIDE APPLICATION ON GOLF COURSES.**

2.5 (a) Application of a pesticide to the property of a golf course must be performed by:

2.6 (1) a structural pest control applicator; or

2.7 (2) a commercial or noncommercial pesticide applicator ~~with appropriate use~~
2.8 ~~certification.~~

2.9 (b) Pesticides determined by the commissioner to be sanitizers and disinfectants are
2.10 exempt from the requirements in paragraph (a).

2.11 Sec. 4. Minnesota Statutes 2014, section 28A.085, subdivision 1, is amended to read:

2.12 Subdivision 1. **Violations; prohibited acts.** The commissioner may charge a
2.13 reinspection fee for each reinspection of a food handler that:

2.14 (1) is found with a major violation of requirements in chapter 28, 29, 30, 31, 31A,
2.15 32, 33, or 34, or rules adopted under one of those chapters; or

2.16 ~~(2) is found with a violation of section 31.02, 31.161, or 31.165, and requires a~~
2.17 ~~follow-up inspection after an administrative meeting held pursuant to section 34A.06; or~~

2.18 ~~(3)~~ (2) fails to correct equipment and facility deficiencies as required in rules adopted
2.19 under chapter 28, 29, 30, 31, 31A, 32, or 34.

2.20 The first reinspection of a firm with gross food sales under \$1,000,000 must be
2.21 assessed at \$150. The fee for a firm with gross food sales over \$1,000,000 is \$200. The
2.22 fee for a subsequent reinspection of a firm for the same violation is 50 percent of their
2.23 current license fee or \$300, whichever is greater. The establishment must be issued written
2.24 notice of violations with a reasonable date for compliance listed on the notice. An initial
2.25 inspection relating to a complaint is not a reinspection.

2.26 Sec. 5. Minnesota Statutes 2014, section 31.122, is amended to read:

2.27 **31.122 FOOD; TOLERANCES FOR ADDED POISONOUS INGREDIENTS.**

2.28 Any added poisonous or deleterious substance, any food additive, any pesticide
2.29 chemical in or on a raw agricultural commodity or any color additive, shall with respect
2.30 to any particular use or intended use be deemed unsafe for the purpose of application of
2.31 section ~~31.121, clause (b)~~ 34A.02, clause (2), with respect to any food, unless there is in
2.32 effect a rule pursuant to section 31.101 limiting the quantity of such substance, and the use
2.33 or intended use of such substance conforms to the terms prescribed by such rule. While

3.1 such rules relating to such substance are in effect, a food shall not, by reason of bearing or
3.2 containing such substance in accordance with the rules, be considered adulterated within
3.3 the meaning of section ~~31.121, clause (a)~~ 34A.02, clause (1).

3.4 Sec. 6. Minnesota Statutes 2014, section 31.94, is amended to read:

3.5 **31.94 ORGANIC AGRICULTURE; COMMISSIONER DUTIES.**

3.6 (a) In order to promote opportunities for organic agriculture in Minnesota, the
3.7 commissioner shall:

3.8 (1) survey producers and support services and organizations to determine
3.9 information and research needs in the area of organic agriculture practices;

3.10 (2) work with the University of Minnesota and other research and education
3.11 institutions to demonstrate the on-farm applicability of organic agriculture practices to
3.12 conditions in this state;

3.13 (3) direct the programs of the department so as to work toward the promotion of
3.14 organic agriculture in this state;

3.15 (4) inform agencies ~~of how~~ about state or federal programs ~~could utilize and that~~
3.16 support organic agriculture practices; and

3.17 (5) work closely with producers, producer organizations, the University of
3.18 Minnesota, ~~the Minnesota Trade Office~~, and other appropriate agencies and organizations
3.19 to identify opportunities and needs as well as ensure coordination and avoid duplication of
3.20 state agency efforts regarding research, teaching, marketing, and extension work relating
3.21 to organic agriculture.

3.22 (b) By November 15 of each year that ends in a zero or a five, the commissioner,
3.23 in conjunction with the task force created in paragraph (c), shall report on the status of
3.24 organic agriculture in Minnesota to the legislative policy and finance committees and
3.25 divisions with jurisdiction over agriculture. The report must include available data on
3.26 organic acreage and production, available data on the sales or market performance of
3.27 organic products, and recommendations regarding programs, policies, and research efforts
3.28 that will benefit Minnesota's organic agriculture sector.

3.29 (c) A Minnesota Organic Advisory Task Force shall advise the commissioner and the
3.30 University of Minnesota on policies and programs that will improve organic agriculture in
3.31 Minnesota, including how available resources can most effectively be used for outreach,
3.32 education, research, and technical assistance that meet the needs of the organic agriculture
3.33 community sector. The task force must consist of the following residents of the state:

3.34 (1) three organic farmers;

3.35 (2) one wholesaler or distributor of organic products;

- 4.1 (3) one representative of organic certification agencies;
- 4.2 (4) two organic processors;
- 4.3 (5) one representative from University of Minnesota Extension;
- 4.4 (6) one University of Minnesota faculty member;
- 4.5 (7) one representative from a nonprofit organization representing producers;
- 4.6 (8) two public members;
- 4.7 (9) one representative from the United States Department of Agriculture;
- 4.8 (10) one retailer of organic products; and
- 4.9 (11) one organic consumer representative.

4.10 The commissioner, in consultation with the director of the Minnesota Agricultural
4.11 Experiment Station; the dean and director of University of Minnesota Extension and the
4.12 dean of the College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences, shall appoint
4.13 members to serve three-year terms.

4.14 Compensation and removal of members are governed by section 15.059, subdivision
4.15 6. The task force must meet at least twice each year and expires on June 30, ~~2016~~ 2019.

4.16 (d) For the purposes of expanding, improving, and developing production and
4.17 marketing of the organic products of Minnesota agriculture, the commissioner may
4.18 receive funds from state and federal sources and spend them, including through grants or
4.19 contracts, to assist producers and processors to achieve certification, to conduct education
4.20 or marketing activities, to enter into research and development partnerships, or to address
4.21 production or marketing obstacles to the growth and well-being of the industry.

4.22 (e) The commissioner may facilitate the registration of state organic production
4.23 and handling operations including those exempt from organic certification according to
4.24 Code of Federal Regulations, title 7, section 205.101, and accredited certification agents
4.25 agencies operating within the state.

4.26 Sec. 7. Minnesota Statutes 2015 Supplement, section 41A.14, is amended to read:

4.27 **41A.14 AGRICULTURE RESEARCH, EDUCATION, EXTENSION, AND**
4.28 **TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER GRANT PROGRAM.**

4.29 Subdivision 1. **Duties; grants.** The agriculture research, education, extension, and
4.30 technology transfer grant program is created. The purpose of the grant program is to
4.31 provide investments that will most efficiently achieve long-term agricultural productivity
4.32 increases through improved infrastructure, vision, and accountability. The scope and
4.33 intent of the grants, to the extent possible, shall provide for a long-term base funding
4.34 that allows the ~~research~~ grantee to continue the functions of the research, education, and

5.1 extension, and technology transfer efforts to a practical conclusion. Priority for grants
5.2 shall be given to human infrastructure. The commissioner shall provide grants for:

5.3 (1) agricultural research, extension, and technology transfer needs and recipients
5.4 ~~including agricultural research and extension at the University of Minnesota, research and~~
5.5 ~~outreach centers, the College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences, the~~
5.6 ~~Minnesota Agricultural Experiment Station, University of Minnesota Extension Service,~~
5.7 ~~the University of Minnesota Veterinary School, the Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory,~~
5.8 ~~the Stakman-Borlaug Center, and the Minnesota Agriculture Fertilizer Research and~~
5.9 ~~Education Council;~~ for use by any of the following:

5.10 (i) the College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences;

5.11 (ii) the Minnesota Agricultural Experiment Station;

5.12 (iii) the University of Minnesota Extension Service;

5.13 (iv) the University of Minnesota Veterinary School;

5.14 (v) the Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory; or

5.15 (vi) the Stakman-Borlaug Center;

5.16 (2) agriculture rapid response for plant and animal diseases and pests; and

5.17 (3) agriculture education including but not limited to the Minnesota Agriculture
5.18 Education Leadership Council, farm business management, mentoring programs, graduate
5.19 debt forgiveness, and high school programs.

5.20 Subd. 2. **Advisory panel.** (a) In awarding grants under this section, the
5.21 commissioner and a representative of the College of Food, Agricultural and Natural
5.22 Resource Sciences at the University of Minnesota must consult with an advisory panel
5.23 consisting of the following stakeholders:

5.24 (1) ~~a representative of the College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource~~
5.25 ~~Sciences at the University of Minnesota;~~

5.26 (2) (1) a representative of the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities system;

5.27 (3) (2) a representative of the Minnesota Farm Bureau;

5.28 (4) (3) a representative of the Minnesota Farmers Union;

5.29 (5) (4) a person representing agriculture industry statewide;

5.30 (6) (5) a representative of each of the state commodity councils organized under
5.31 section 17.54 and the Minnesota Pork Board;

5.32 (7) (6) a person representing an association of primary manufacturers of forest
5.33 products;

5.34 (8) (7) a person representing organic or sustainable agriculture; and

5.35 (9) (8) a person representing statewide environment and natural resource
5.36 conservation organizations.

6.1 (b) Members under paragraph (a), clauses (1) to (3) and (5), shall be chosen by their
6.2 respective organizations.

6.3 Subd. 3. **Account.** An agriculture research, education, extension, and technology
6.4 transfer account is created in the agricultural fund in the state treasury. The account
6.5 consists of money received in the form of gifts, grants, reimbursement, or appropriations
6.6 from any source for any of the purposes provided in subdivision 1, and any interest or
6.7 earnings of the account. Money in the account is appropriated to the commissioner of
6.8 agriculture for the purposes under subdivision 1.

6.9 **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective the day following final enactment.

6.10 Sec. 8. Minnesota Statutes 2014, section 97B.516, is amended to read:

6.11 **97B.516 ELK MANAGEMENT PLAN.**

6.12 (a) The commissioner of natural resources must adopt an elk management plan that:

6.13 (1) recognizes the value and uniqueness of elk;

6.14 (2) provides for integrated management of an elk population in harmony with the
6.15 environment; and

6.16 (3) affords optimum recreational opportunities.

6.17 (b) Notwithstanding paragraph (a), the commissioner must not manage an elk herd
6.18 in a manner that would increase the size of the herd, including adoption or implementation
6.19 of an elk management plan designed to increase an elk herd, unless the commissioner of
6.20 agriculture verifies that crop and fence damages paid under section 3.7371 and attributed
6.21 to the herd have not increased for at least two years.

6.22 (c) At least 60 days prior to implementing a plan to increase an elk herd, the
6.23 commissioners of natural resources and agriculture must hold a joint public meeting in the
6.24 county where the elk herd to be increased is located. At the meeting, the commissioners
6.25 must present evidence that crop and fence damages have not increased in the prior two years
6.26 and must detail the practices that will be used to reduce elk conflicts with area landowners.

6.27 **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective the day following final enactment.

6.28 Sec. 9. **[216B.1642] SOLAR SITE MANAGEMENT.**

6.29 Subdivision 1. **Site management practices.** An owner of a ground-mounted solar
6.30 site with a generating capacity of more than 40 kilowatts may follow site management
6.31 practices that (1) provide native perennial vegetation and foraging habitat beneficial to
6.32 gamebirds, songbirds, and pollinators, and (2) reduce storm water runoff and erosion at
6.33 the solar generation site. To the extent practicable, when establishing perennial vegetation

7.1 and beneficial foraging habitat, a solar site owner shall use native plant species and seed
7.2 mixes under Department of Natural Resources "Prairie Establishment & Maintenance
7.3 Technical Guidance for Solar Projects."

7.4 Subd. 2. **Recognition of beneficial habitat.** An owner of a solar site implementing
7.5 solar site management practices under this section may claim that the site provides
7.6 benefits to gamebirds, songbirds, and pollinators only if the site adheres to guidance set
7.7 forth by the pollinator plan provided by the Board of Water and Soil Resources or any
7.8 other gamebird, songbird, or pollinator foraging-friendly vegetation standard established
7.9 by the Board of Water and Soil Resources. An owner making a beneficial habitat claim
7.10 must make the site's vegetation management plan available to the public and provide a
7.11 copy of the plan to a Minnesota nonprofit solar industry trade association.

7.12 Sec. 10. Minnesota Statutes 2015 Supplement, section 583.215, is amended to read:

7.13 **583.215 EXPIRATION.**

7.14 Sections 336.9-601, subsections (h) and (i); 550.365; 559.209; 582.039; and 583.20
7.15 to 583.32, expire June 30, ~~2016~~ 2018.

7.16 **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective the day following final enactment.

7.17 Sec. 11. Laws 2015, First Special Session chapter 4, article 1, section 2, subdivision 4,
7.18 is amended to read:

7.19 Subd. 4. **Agriculture, Bioenergy, and**
7.20 **Bioproduct Advancement**

14,993,000 19,010,000

7.21 \$4,483,000 the first year and \$8,500,000 the
7.22 second year are for transfer to the agriculture
7.23 research, education, extension, and
7.24 technology transfer account under Minnesota
7.25 Statutes, section 41A.14, subdivision 3.

7.26 The transfer in this paragraph includes
7.27 money for plant breeders at the University
7.28 of Minnesota for wild rice, potatoes, and
7.29 grapes. Of these amounts, at least \$600,000
7.30 each year is for ~~agriculture rapid response~~
7.31 the Minnesota Agricultural Experiment
7.32 Station's Agriculture Rapid Response Fund
7.33 under Minnesota Statutes, section 41A.14,

8.1 subdivision 1, clause (2). Of the amount
8.2 appropriated in this paragraph, \$1,000,000
8.3 each year is for transfer to the Board of
8.4 Regents of the University of Minnesota for
8.5 research to determine (1) what is causing
8.6 avian influenza, (2) why some fowl are more
8.7 susceptible, and (3) prevention measures that
8.8 can be taken. Of the amount appropriated
8.9 in this paragraph, \$2,000,000 each year
8.10 is for grants to the Minnesota Agriculture
8.11 Education Leadership Council to enhance
8.12 agricultural education with priority given
8.13 to Farm Business Management challenge
8.14 grants. The commissioner shall transfer the
8.15 remaining grant funds in this appropriation
8.16 each year to the Board of Regents of the
8.17 University of Minnesota for purposes of
8.18 Minnesota Statutes, section 41A.14.

8.19 To the extent practicable, funds expended
8.20 under Minnesota Statutes, section 41A.14,
8.21 subdivision 1, clauses (1) and (2), must
8.22 supplement and not supplant existing sources
8.23 and levels of funding. The commissioner may
8.24 use up to 4.5 percent of this appropriation
8.25 for costs incurred to administer the program.
8.26 Any unencumbered balance does not cancel
8.27 at the end of the first year and is available for
8.28 the second year.

8.29 \$10,235,000 the first year and \$10,235,000
8.30 the second year are for the agricultural
8.31 growth, research, and innovation program
8.32 in Minnesota Statutes, section 41A.12. No
8.33 later than February 1, 2016, and February
8.34 1, 2017, the commissioner must report to
8.35 the legislative committees with jurisdiction
8.36 over agriculture policy and finance regarding

9.1 the commissioner's accomplishments
9.2 and anticipated accomplishments in
9.3 the following areas: facilitating the
9.4 start-up, modernization, or expansion of
9.5 livestock operations including beginning
9.6 and transitioning livestock operations;
9.7 developing new markets for Minnesota
9.8 farmers by providing more fruits, vegetables,
9.9 meat, grain, and dairy for Minnesota school
9.10 children; assisting value-added agricultural
9.11 businesses to begin or expand, access new
9.12 markets, or diversify products; developing
9.13 urban agriculture; facilitating the start-up,
9.14 modernization, or expansion of other
9.15 beginning and transitioning farms including
9.16 loans under Minnesota Statutes, section
9.17 41B.056; sustainable agriculture on farm
9.18 research and demonstration; development or
9.19 expansion of food hubs and other alternative
9.20 community-based food distribution systems;
9.21 and research on bioenergy, biobased content,
9.22 or biobased formulated products and other
9.23 renewable energy development. The
9.24 commissioner may use up to 4.5 percent
9.25 of this appropriation for costs incurred to
9.26 administer the program. Any unencumbered
9.27 balance does not cancel at the end of the first
9.28 year and is available for the second year.
9.29 Notwithstanding Minnesota Statutes, section
9.30 16A.28, the appropriations encumbered
9.31 under contract on or before June 30, 2017, for
9.32 agricultural growth, research, and innovation
9.33 grants are available until June 30, 2019.

9.34 The commissioner may use funds
9.35 appropriated for the agricultural growth,
9.36 research, and innovation program as provided

10.1 in this paragraph. The commissioner may
10.2 award grants to owners of Minnesota
10.3 facilities producing bioenergy, biobased
10.4 content, or a biobased formulated product;
10.5 to organizations that provide for on-station,
10.6 on-farm field scale research and outreach to
10.7 develop and test the agronomic and economic
10.8 requirements of diverse strands of prairie
10.9 plants and other perennials for bioenergy
10.10 systems; or to certain nongovernmental
10.11 entities. For the purposes of this paragraph,
10.12 "bioenergy" includes transportation fuels
10.13 derived from cellulosic material, as well as
10.14 the generation of energy for commercial heat,
10.15 industrial process heat, or electrical power
10.16 from cellulosic materials via gasification or
10.17 other processes. Grants are limited to 50
10.18 percent of the cost of research, technical
10.19 assistance, or equipment related to bioenergy,
10.20 biobased content, or biobased formulated
10.21 product production or \$500,000, whichever
10.22 is less. Grants to nongovernmental entities
10.23 for the development of business plans and
10.24 structures related to community ownership
10.25 of eligible bioenergy facilities together may
10.26 not exceed \$150,000. The commissioner
10.27 shall make a good-faith effort to select
10.28 projects that have merit and, when taken
10.29 together, represent a variety of bioenergy
10.30 technologies, biomass feedstocks, and
10.31 geographic regions of the state. Projects
10.32 must have a qualified engineer provide
10.33 certification on the technology and fuel
10.34 source. Grantees must provide reports at the
10.35 request of the commissioner.

11.1 Of the amount appropriated for the
11.2 agricultural growth, research, and innovation
11.3 program in this subdivision, \$1,000,000 the
11.4 first year and \$1,000,000 the second year
11.5 are for distribution in equal amounts to each
11.6 of the state's county fairs to preserve and
11.7 promote Minnesota agriculture.

11.8 Of the amount appropriated for the
11.9 agricultural growth, research, and innovation
11.10 program in this subdivision, \$500,000 in
11.11 fiscal year 2016 and \$1,500,000 in fiscal
11.12 year 2017 are for incentive payments
11.13 under Minnesota Statutes, sections 41A.16,
11.14 41A.17, and 41A.18. If the appropriation
11.15 exceeds the total amount for which all
11.16 producers are eligible in a fiscal year, the
11.17 balance of the appropriation is available
11.18 to the commissioner for the agricultural
11.19 growth, research, and innovation program.

11.20 Notwithstanding Minnesota Statutes,
11.21 section 16A.28, the first year appropriation
11.22 is available until June 30, 2017, and the
11.23 second year appropriation is available until
11.24 June 30, 2018. The commissioner may use
11.25 up to 4.5 percent of the appropriation for
11.26 administration of the incentive payment
11.27 programs.

11.28 Of the amount appropriated for the
11.29 agricultural growth, research, and innovation
11.30 program in this subdivision, \$250,000
11.31 the first year is for grants to communities
11.32 to develop or expand food hubs and
11.33 other alternative community-based food
11.34 distribution systems. Of this amount,
11.35 \$50,000 is for the commissioner to consult
11.36 with existing food hubs, alternative

12.1 community-based food distribution systems,
12.2 and University of Minnesota Extension
12.3 to identify best practices for use by other
12.4 Minnesota communities. No later than
12.5 December 15, 2015, the commissioner must
12.6 report to the legislative committees with
12.7 jurisdiction over agriculture and health
12.8 regarding the status of emerging alternative
12.9 community-based food distribution systems
12.10 in the state along with recommendations
12.11 to eliminate any barriers to success. Any
12.12 unencumbered balance does not cancel at the
12.13 end of the first year and is available for the
12.14 second year. This is a onetime appropriation.

12.15 \$250,000 the first year and \$250,000 the
12.16 second year are for grants that enable
12.17 retail petroleum dispensers to dispense
12.18 biofuels to the public in accordance with the
12.19 biofuel replacement goals established under
12.20 Minnesota Statutes, section 239.7911. A
12.21 retail petroleum dispenser selling petroleum
12.22 for use in spark ignition engines for vehicle
12.23 model years after 2000 is eligible for grant
12.24 money under this paragraph if the retail
12.25 petroleum dispenser has no more than 15
12.26 retail petroleum dispensing sites and each
12.27 site is located in Minnesota. The grant
12.28 money received under this paragraph must
12.29 be used for the installation of appropriate
12.30 technology that uses fuel dispensing
12.31 equipment appropriate for at least one fuel
12.32 dispensing site to dispense gasoline that is
12.33 blended with 15 percent of agriculturally
12.34 derived, denatured ethanol, by volume, and
12.35 appropriate technical assistance related to
12.36 the installation. A grant award must not

13.1 exceed 85 percent of the cost of the technical
13.2 assistance and appropriate technology,
13.3 including remetering of and retrofits for
13.4 retail petroleum dispensers and replacement
13.5 of petroleum dispenser projects. The
13.6 commissioner may use up to \$35,000 of this
13.7 appropriation for administrative expenses.
13.8 The commissioner shall cooperate with
13.9 biofuel stakeholders in the implementation
13.10 of the grant program. The commissioner
13.11 must report to the legislative committees
13.12 with jurisdiction over agriculture policy and
13.13 finance by February 1 each year, detailing
13.14 the number of grants awarded under this
13.15 paragraph and the projected effect of the grant
13.16 program on meeting the biofuel replacement
13.17 goals under Minnesota Statutes, section
13.18 239.7911. These are onetime appropriations.
13.19 \$25,000 the first year and \$25,000 the second
13.20 year are for grants to the Southern Minnesota
13.21 Initiative Foundation to promote local foods
13.22 through an annual event that raises public
13.23 awareness of local foods and connects local
13.24 food producers and processors with potential
13.25 buyers.

13.26 **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective the day following final enactment.

13.27 **Sec. 12. FARMER-LENDER MEDIATION TASK FORCE.**

13.28 The commissioner of agriculture must convene an advisory task force to provide
13.29 recommendations to the legislature regarding the state's Farmer-Lender Mediation Act.
13.30 The task force must be comprised of 14 members, including the commissioner or the
13.31 commissioner's designee, one farm advocate appointed by the commissioner who is
13.32 responsible for mediating debt between farmers and lenders, one adult farm business
13.33 management instructor appointed by the commissioner and three farmers appointed by
13.34 the commissioner, at least one of whom is a beginning or nontraditional farmer and at

14.1 least one of whom has personal experience with the farmer-lender mediation program.
14.2 The remaining membership of the task force consists of one member appointed by each
14.3 of the following entities:

- 14.4 (1) Minnesota Farm Bureau;
- 14.5 (2) Minnesota Farmers Union;
- 14.6 (3) Minnesota Bankers Association;
- 14.7 (4) Independent Community Bankers of Minnesota;
- 14.8 (5) Farm Credit Services - Minnesota State Federation;
- 14.9 (6) Minnesota Credit Union Network;
- 14.10 (7) Minnesota-South Dakota Equipment Dealers Association; and
- 14.11 (8) University of Minnesota Extension.

14.12 No later than February 1, 2017, the commissioner must report the task force's
14.13 recommendations to the legislative committees with jurisdiction over agriculture policy
14.14 and finance.

14.15 **Sec. 13. FARM SAFETY INITIATIVE.**

14.16 (a) The commissioner of agriculture shall analyze the range of safety challenges
14.17 presented in the operation of a farm. The commissioner's analysis shall include
14.18 consultation with organizations in Minnesota that address issues of farm safety. The
14.19 commissioner shall report the findings to the legislative committees with jurisdiction over
14.20 agricultural policy by February 1, 2017. The report must, at a minimum:

- 14.21 (1) provide information on how other states in the Midwest, including but not limited
14.22 to Wisconsin, Iowa, and Nebraska, address farm safety issues;
- 14.23 (2) identify common safety issues faced by Minnesota farmers that need attention,
14.24 including common causes of farm-related accidents;
- 14.25 (3) identify how farm safety programs can better serve the growing farm labor
14.26 population; and
- 14.27 (4) make recommendations to the legislature on how to improve farm safety efforts
14.28 in Minnesota.

14.29 (b) By October 1, 2016, the commissioner of agriculture shall compile an inventory
14.30 of farm safety programs and resources that are currently available in Minnesota. After
14.31 compiling the inventory, the commissioner shall make available the inventory and promote
14.32 to farm operators in Minnesota the farm safety programs and resources contained in
14.33 the inventory.

14.34 **Sec. 14. REPEALER.**

- 15.1 Laws 2015, First Special Session chapter 4, article 2, section 81, is repealed.
- 15.2 **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective the day following final enactment."
- 15.3 Delete the title and insert:
- 15.4 "A bill for an act
- 15.5 relating to agriculture; making various policy and technical changes to
- 15.6 agriculture-related provisions and programs; providing for solar site management;
- 15.7 modifying elk management plan; modifying a previous appropriation;
- 15.8 establishing a Farmer-Lender Mediation Task Force and a Farm Safety Initiative;
- 15.9 requiring reports; amending Minnesota Statutes 2014, sections 3.7371, by adding
- 15.10 a subdivision; 17.53, subdivision 16; 18B.345; 28A.085, subdivision 1; 31.122;
- 15.11 31.94; 97B.516; Minnesota Statutes 2015 Supplement, sections 41A.14; 583.215;
- 15.12 Laws 2015, First Special Session chapter 4, article 1, section 2, subdivision 4;
- 15.13 proposing coding for new law in Minnesota Statutes, chapter 216B; repealing
- 15.14 Laws 2015, First Special Session chapter 4, article 2, section 81."

16.1 We request the adoption of this report and repassage of the bill.

16.2 Senate Conferees:

16.3
16.4 Dan Sparks Gary H. Dahms

16.5
16.6 Kent Eken

16.7 House Conferees:

16.8
16.9 Paul Anderson Rod Hamilton

16.10
16.11 Jeanne Poppe