

**SENATE  
STATE OF MINNESOTA  
NINETY-FOURTH SESSION**

**S.F. No. 3686**

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DATE	D-PG	OFFICIAL STATUS
02/19/2026	6338	Introduction and first reading Referred to Agriculture, Veterans, Broadband, and Rural Development
02/26/2026	6420	Authors added Putnam; Dornink
03/02/2026	6427a	Comm report: Amended, No recommendation, re-referred to Environment, Climate, and Legacy

1.1 A bill for an act

1.2 relating to agriculture; establishing a rotational grazing pilot program; requiring

1.3 a report; appropriating money.

1.4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MINNESOTA:

1.5 Section 1. **ROTATIONAL GRAZING PILOT PROGRAM.**

1.6 Subdivision 1. Administration. The commissioner of agriculture must establish and

1.7 administer a rotational grazing pilot program that awards grants to Minnesota farmers for

1.8 rotational grazing projects to enhance the use of prairies and woodlands and help protect

1.9 surface or drinking water sources. For purposes of this program, "rotational grazing" means

1.10 a livestock grazing system in which fields are subdivided into smaller paddocks, livestock

1.11 density is controlled, and livestock is rotated through paddocks at a frequency that maintains

1.12 vegetative cover, ensures regular access to fresh forage, and reduces soil compaction and

1.13 erosion.

1.14 Subd. 2. Grant purposes. The commissioner must award grants to Minnesota farmers

1.15 for either of the following purposes:

1.16 (1) to establish perennial forages for rotational grazing of livestock; or

1.17 (2) to purchase rotational grazing system infrastructure, including fencing, watering,

1.18 and other livestock management infrastructure to support rotational grazing of livestock.

1.19 Rotational grazing of perennial forage or cover crops that help protect surface or drinking

1.20 water sources are permitted purposes under this clause. Rotational grazing on any private

1.21 or public land on which the farmer is authorized to graze is permitted under this clause.

2.1 Subd. 3. **Awarding grants.** (a) Grants under subdivision 2 must only be awarded to a  
2.2 Minnesota farmer implementing a new rotational grazing system in Minnesota or a new  
2.3 rotational grazing practice that improves the conservation and water protection of existing  
2.4 grazing systems in Minnesota.

2.5 (b) The department must not award more than \$25,000 in grants to any one grantee.

2.6 (c) All grant money must be disbursed on a reimbursement basis. The commissioner  
2.7 must reimburse a grantee under this section within six months after confirming that the  
2.8 grantee has completed necessary grazing systems updates. A grantee must provide evidence  
2.9 of successful implementation of rotational grazing practices to receive reimbursement.

2.10 (d) A grant agreement must include a 50 percent match from the farmer. A match includes  
2.11 services, materials, or cash that the grantee contributed to accomplish grant objectives.

2.12 Subd. 4. **Report.** By January 15, 2028, the commissioner must report to the chairs and  
2.13 ranking minority members of the legislative committees having jurisdiction over agriculture  
2.14 and the environment and natural resources trust fund on the results of the grant awards under  
2.15 this section, including the number, amount, and distribution by county of grant awards.

2.16 Sec. 2. **APPROPRIATION.**

2.17 \$2,000,000 in fiscal year 2027 is appropriated from the environment and natural resources  
2.18 trust fund to the commissioner of agriculture for the rotational grazing pilot program.