SENATE
STATE OF MINNESOTA
NINETY-FIRST SESSION

S.F. No. 4396

1.1   A bill for an act

1.2   relating to agriculture; establishing a grain storage facility safety grant program;
1.3   appropriating money for grain storage facility safety grants and curriculum
1.4   development; proposing coding for new law in Minnesota Statutes, chapter 17.

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

1.6   Section 1. **[17.121] GRAIN STORAGE FACILITY SAFETY GRANT PROGRAM.**

1.7   Subdivision 1. **Protection equipment grants; eligibility.** (a) The commissioner must

1.8   award cost-share grants to Minnesota farmers who purchase grain storage facility safety

1.9   protection equipment. Grants are limited to $500 or 75 percent of the farmer's documented

1.10   cost to purchase, ship, and install grain storage facility safety protection equipment,

1.11   whichever is less.

1.12   (b) Eligible grain storage facility safety protection equipment includes:

1.13   (1) fall protection systems;

1.14   (2) personal protective equipment to increase survivability in the event of an emergency

1.15   related to a grain bin;

1.16   (3) engineering controls to prevent contact with an auger or other moving parts; and

1.17   (4) other grain storage facility safety protection equipment approved by the commissioner.

1.18   Subd. 2. **Grain silo air quality monitoring equipment.** The commissioner must award

1.19   cost-share grants to Minnesota farmers who purchase grain silo air quality monitoring

1.20   equipment. Grants are limited to $500 or 75 percent of the farmer's documented cost to

1.21   purchase, ship, and install grain silo air quality monitoring equipment, whichever is less.

2.1   Subd. 3. **Promotion; administration.** The commissioner may spend up to five percent

2.2   of total program dollars each fiscal year to promote and administer the program to Minnesota

2.3   farmers.

2.4   Subd. 4. **Nonstate sources; appropriation.** The commissioner must accept contributions

2.5   from nonstate sources, including but not limited to nonprofits, foundations, and corporations

2.6   to supplement state appropriations for the program. Contributions received under this

2.7   subdivision are appropriated to the commissioner for purposes of this section.

2.8   Sec. 2. **APPROPRIATION.**

2.9   (a) $....... in fiscal year 2021 is appropriated from the general fund to the commissioner

2.10   of agriculture for the grain storage facility safety grant program under Minnesota Statutes,

2.11   section 17.121.

2.12   (b) $25,000 in fiscal year 2021 is appropriated from the general fund to the commissioner

2.13   of agriculture for a grant to the Board of Regents of the University of Minnesota for the

2.14   University of Minnesota Extension to create and present curriculum regarding grain storage

2.15   facility safety. The University of Minnesota Extension is encouraged to collaborate with

2.16   stakeholders, including 4-H, Future Farmers of America, and agriculture education programs

2.17   through the schools to ensure these resources are available to current and future farmers.

2.18   By January 10, 2022, the University of Minnesota Extension shall report on the results of

2.19   the grant to the legislative committees with jurisdiction over agriculture finance.

2.20   (c) $25,000 in fiscal year 2021 is appropriated to the commissioner of agriculture for

2.21   grants to the Board of Regents of the University of Minnesota or the Board of Trustees of

2.22   the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities to design digital applications that allow a

2.23   user to remotely power off a grain storage facility via cell phone or electronic device. By

2.24   January 15, 2021, the commissioner shall report on the grants issued under this appropriation

2.25   to the members of the legislative committees with jurisdiction over agriculture finance and

2.26   higher education finance.