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State of Minnesota

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

NINETY-THIRD SESSION

H. F. No. 2142

02/21/2023 Authored by Tabke; Burkel; Nelson, N.; Hansen, R.; Pursell and others
The bill was read for the first time and referred to the Committee on Agriculture Finance and Policy

1.1 A bill for an act
1.2 relating to agriculture; establishing a program to provide grants to prevent
1.3 wolf-livestock conflict; appropriating money.

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

1.5 Section 1. WOLF-LIVESTOCK CONFLICT PREVENTION PROGRAM.

1.6 (a) The commissioner of agriculture may award grants to livestock producers to prevent
1.7 wolf-livestock conflicts. Livestock producers located in Minnesota are eligible to apply for
1.8 reimbursement for the cost of practices to prevent wolf-livestock conflicts. The commissioner
1.9 may establish a cap on the amount of grant money that a recipient is eligible to receive
1.10 annually.

1.11 (b) To be eligible for a grant under this section, a livestock producer must raise livestock
1.12 within Minnesota's wolf range or on property determined by the commissioner to be affected
1.13 by wolf-livestock conflicts.

1.14 (c) A grant applicant must document a cost-share of 20 percent for activities covered
1.15 by a grant under this program. A grant applicant's cost-share amount may be reduced up to
1.16 \$2,000 to cover the time and labor costs of wolf-livestock conflict prevention activities.

1.17 (d) Eligible wolf-livestock conflict prevention activities include but are not limited to:

1.18 (1) the purchase of guard animals;

1.19 (2) payment of veterinary costs for guard animals;

1.20 (3) the installation of wolf barriers, which may include pens, fladry, and fencing necessary
1.21 to protect livestock;

- 2.1 (4) the installation of wolf-detering lights and alarms; and
- 2.2 (5) the installation of calving or lambing shelters.
- 2.3 (e) Eligible grant recipients must:
- 2.4 (1) make a good faith effort to avoid wolf-livestock conflicts;
- 2.5 (2) make a good faith effort to care for guard animals paid for under this section;
- 2.6 (3) retain proper documentation of expenses;
- 2.7 (4) report annually to the commissioner on the effectiveness of the nonlethal methods
- 2.8 employed; and
- 2.9 (5) allow follow-up evaluations and monitoring by the commissioner.
- 2.10 (f) Grant recipients shall continue to be eligible for depredation payments under
- 2.11 Minnesota Statutes, section 3.737.

2.12 Sec. 2. **APPROPRIATION.**

- 2.13 \$225,000 in fiscal year 2024 and \$225,000 in fiscal year 2025 are appropriated from the
- 2.14 general fund to the commissioner of agriculture for wolf-livestock conflict prevention grants
- 2.15 under section 1.