

CHAPTER 17

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

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17.03 POWERS AND DUTIES OF COMMISSIONER.

[For text of subs 1 to 4, see M.S.1986]

Subd. 5. [Repealed, 1987 c 312 art 1 s 25; 1987 c 396 art 10 s 7]

Subd. 6. **Cooperation with minnesota trade division.** The commissioner of agriculture, the commissioner of trade and economic development, and the director of the Minnesota trade division shall cooperate with each other to promote the beneficial agricultural interests of the state. The commissioner of trade and economic development and the director of the Minnesota trade division have primary responsibility for promoting state agricultural interests to international markets. The commissioner of trade and economic development and the director of the Minnesota trade division are also responsible for the promotion of national trade programs related to international marketing. The commissioner of agriculture has primary responsibility for promoting the agriculture interests of producers, promoting state agricultural markets, and promoting agricultural interests of the state in cooperative production and marketing efforts with other states and the United States Department of Agriculture. The commissioner of agriculture is also responsible for promoting the national marketing of state agricultural products.

Subd. 7. **Agricultural diversification.** The commissioner shall establish a program of agricultural diversification. The commissioner must assist the horticultural industry, help producers diversify farming operations, and coordinate state agency efforts regarding agricultural diversification, after consulting with farm groups, the University of Minnesota, and applicable institutions of higher learning. The commissioner shall report to the governor and legislature annually on activities and actions that should be taken in these matters.

Subd. 8. **Cooperation with Minnesota trade office.** The commissioner of agriculture, the commissioner of trade and economic development, and the director of the Minnesota trade office shall cooperate with each other to promote the beneficial agricultural interests of the state. The commissioner of trade and economic development and the director of the Minnesota trade office have primary responsibility for promoting state agricultural interests to international markets. The commissioner of agriculture has primary responsibility for promoting the agricultural interests of producers, promoting state agricultural markets, and promoting agricultural interests of the state in cooperative production and marketing efforts with other states and the United States Department of Agriculture.

History: 1987 c 312 art 1 s 11; 1987 c 396 art 8 s 1; art 10 s 1

17.101 PROMOTIONAL ACTIVITIES.

Subdivision 1. **Departmental duties.** For the purposes of expanding, improving, and developing the markets for products of Minnesota agriculture, the commissioner shall encourage and promote the marketing of these products by means of:

- (a) advertising Minnesota agricultural products;
- (b) assisting state agricultural commodity organizations;

(c) developing methods to increase processing and marketing of agricultural commodities including commodities not being produced in Minnesota on a commercial scale, but which may have economic potential in national and international markets;

- (d) investigating and identifying new marketing technology and methods to enhance the competitive position of Minnesota agricultural products;
- (e) evaluating livestock marketing opportunities;
- (f) assessing and developing national and international markets for Minnesota agricultural products;
- (g) studying the conversion of raw agricultural products to manufactured products including ethanol;
- (h) hosting the visits of foreign trade teams to Minnesota and defraying the teams' expenses;
- (i) assisting Minnesota agricultural businesses desiring to sell their products; and
- (j) other activities the commissioner deems appropriate to promote Minnesota agricultural products, provided that the activities do not duplicate programs or services provided by the Minnesota trade division or the Minnesota world trade center corporation.

[For text of subs 2 to 4, see M.S.1986]

History: 1987 c 312 art 1 s 12; 1987 c 396 art 10 s 2

17.102 MINNESOTA GROWN LABEL.

Subdivision 1. **Establishment and use of label.** (a) The commissioner shall establish a "Minnesota grown" logo or labeling statement for use in identifying agricultural products that are grown, processed, or manufactured in this state. The Minnesota grown logo or labeling statement may be used on raw agricultural products that are not processed into a different physical form or frozen, only if 80 percent of the agricultural product is produced in this state.

(b) The Minnesota grown logo or labeling statement may not be used without a license from the commissioner except that wholesalers and retailers may use the Minnesota grown logo and labeling statement for displaying and advertising products that qualify for use of the Minnesota grown logo or labeling statement.

Subd. 2. **Label does not replace other requirements.** The logo or labeling statement does not supersede or replace any federal label or grade standard that is required by law.

Subd. 3. **License.** A person may not use the Minnesota grown logo or labeling without an annual license from the commissioner. The commissioner shall issue licenses for a fee of \$5. The commissioner shall charge a late fee of \$10 for renewal of a license that has expired.

Subd. 4. **Minnesota grown account.** The Minnesota grown account is established as an account in the state treasury. License fee receipts and penalties collected under this section must be deposited in the state treasury and credited to the Minnesota grown account. The money in the account is continuously appropriated to the commissioner to implement and enforce this section and to promote the Minnesota grown logo and labeling.

Subd. 5. **Penalty.** A person who is required to have a license and uses the Minnesota grown logo or labeling without a license after being notified by the commissioner that a license is required is subject to a civil penalty up to \$1,000.

Subd. 6. **Rules.** The commissioner shall promulgate rules authorizing and licensing the use of the logo or labeling statement.

History: 1987 c 396 art 6 s 1

17.103 TRADE AND EXPORT DEVELOPMENT.

The commissioner of agriculture shall encourage and develop commerce and devise ways and means of removing trade barriers hampering the free flow of commerce between this and other states.

History: 1987 c 396 art 10 s 3

FISH FARMS**17.49 PROGRAM ESTABLISHMENT.**

The commissioner shall establish and promote a program for the commercial raising of fish in fish farms in consultation with an advisory committee consisting of the University of Minnesota, the commissioner of natural resources, the commissioner of agriculture, the commissioner of energy and economic development, the director of the state planning agency, representatives of private fish raising industry, and the chairs of the environment and natural resources committees of the house of representatives and senate.

History: 1987 c 318 s 1

POLICY ON AGRICULTURAL COMMODITIES UTILIZATION**17.50 POLICY.**

The state must explore alternative uses for agricultural products to enable the state's agricultural economy to reach its full potential. The state must promote and encourage cooperative efforts between public and private interests in conducting basic research and disseminating the results on agricultural commodity utilization.

History: 1987 c 396 art 8 s 2

17.59 FEES TO DEFRAY EXPENSES.

[For text of subs 1 to 4, see M.S.1986]

Subd. 5. **Commodities research and promotion account.** All fees collected by the department under sections 17.51 to 17.69 and any other fees and income received by the department in the administration of these statutes shall be deposited in a separate account known as the commodity research and promotion account in the special revenue fund. These funds shall be appropriated to the department for the purpose of defraying the expenses of administering and enforcing the sections listed in this subdivision.

History: 1987 c 384 art 2 s 5