

Subject 4R Agricultural Grants

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Overview

This bill establishes a program that awards eligible agricultural retailers for receiving or working towards Minnesota Crop Production Retailers Association 4R nutrient stewardship certification and implementing certain nutrient management practices and appropriates money for that program.

Summary

Section	Description
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1	Minnesota 4R agricultural grants.
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Subd. 1. Program. Requires the commissioner of the Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA) to award grants to eligible agricultural retailers.

Subd. 2. Eligibility. Requires that eligible agricultural retailers be (1) licensed to sell or distribute fertilizer, and (2) certified or making demonstrable progress towards certification under the 4R stewardship certification program.

Subd. 3. Approved practices. Requires the MDA, in consultation with agricultural stakeholders, to develop a list of approved nutrient management practices. Includes a list of permissible, but not exclusive, eligible nutrient management practices.

Subd. 4. Payments. Requires the MDA to award \$5,000 grants when an eligible agricultural retailer becomes certified and audited by the Minnesota Crop Production Retailers Association. Requires the MDA to award grants of up to 50 cents per acre to certified agricultural retailers that work with farmers to implement approved practices. Requires the MDA to award grants of up to 25 cents per acre to certified agricultural retailers for nutrient planning developed by a certified crop advisor or professional agronomist.

Subd. 5. Data privacy. Categorizes the data collected for purposes of this program to be classified as nonpublic data. Allows the commissioner to prepare

Section	Description
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	records and reports with the nonpublic data as long as the identity of the grantee cannot be ascertained.
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2	Appropriation.
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	Appropriates an unspecified amount of money from the general fund to the MDA for 4R grant awards. MDA may use up to 10% of this appropriation for administrative costs.
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