



Minnesota Senate

Committee on Agriculture, Veterans, Broadband and Rural Development

Wednesday, February 12th, 2025

3:00 pm | Room 1150

Agenda

Chair

Aric Putnam
3215 Minnesota Senate Building
St. Paul, MN 55155
(651) 296-6455

Vice Chairs

Robert J. Kupec

Ranking Minority Member

Torrey N. Westrom

Members

Gene Dornink
Bruce D. Anderson
Gary H. Dahms
Heather Gustafson
Mary K. Kunesch
Judy Seeberger

Committee Administrator

Nick Roth – DFL
Nick.roth@mnsenate.gov

Legislative Assistant

Keely Spens
Keely.spens@mnsenate.gov

Caucus Research

Amanda Pedersen (DFL)
Andrew Larson (R)

Legislative Analyst

Laura Paynter

Fiscal Analyst

Erik Olaphson

1. Call to Order by Chair Putnam
2. SF 1220 (Seeberger) University of Minnesota Forever Green Initiative money transfer provision

Testifiers: Forever Green initiative Transfer

- Dr. Mitch Hunter, Co-Director, Forever Green Initiative, Adjunct Assistant Professor, Dept. of Agronomy and Plant Genetics, University of Minnesota
- Anne Schwagerl, Vice President, Minnesota Farmers Union
- Ben Bowditch, Category Manager, Natural/Organic Grains & Oils, General Mills
- Dominic Jones, Manager, Red Rock Rural Water System
- Jeff Davidman, Vice President – State and Local Government Affairs, Delta Air Lines

Testifiers: CLC Value Chain Grants

- Katherine Chute, Product and Market Development Specialist, UMN Forever Green Initiative
- Diane Christofore, Executive Director, Regenerative Agriculture Alliance
- Ben Penner, Founder, Ben Penner Farms, Member, Perennial Promise Growers Cooperative
- Paul Novotny, Farmer, Member, Chatfield City Council
- David Stennes, CEO/Founder, Arcola Farms

Minnesota Senate Agriculture, Veterans, Broadband and Rural Development Committee

Monday & Wednesday
MSB 1150
3:00pm – 5:00pm

3. SF 934 (Kupcc) Agricultural Utilization Research Institute appropriation

- Shannon Schlecht, Executive Director, Agricultural Utilization Research Institute
- Frederico Tripodi, Board Chair, Agricultural Utilization Research Institute

4. SF 1178 (Kupcc) Money transferal into the agriculture research, education, extension, and technology transfer (AGRETT) account

- Keith Olander, Northern Ag Center Director
- Tina LeBrun, Southern Ag Center Director
- Zach Rada, FBM Instructor, Minnesota West College
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- Hunter Pederson, Public Policy Specialist, Minnesota Farm Bureau

5. Adjournment



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Testifiers: CLC Value Chain Grants

- Katherine Chute, Product and Market Development Specialist, UMN Forever Green Initiative
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- Ben Penner, Founder, Ben Penner Farms, Member, Perennial Promise Growers Cooperative
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Minnesota Senate Agriculture, Veterans, Broadband and Rural Development Committee

Monday & Wednesday
MSB 1150
3:00pm – 5:00pm

3. SF 934 (Kupcc) Agricultural Utilization Research Institute appropriation

- Shannon Schlecht, Executive Director, Agricultural Utilization Research Institute
- Frederico Tripodi, Board Chair, Agricultural Utilization Research Institute

4. SF 1178 (Kupcc) Money transferal into the agriculture research, education, extension, and technology transfer (AGRETT) account

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5. Adjournment



Minnesota Senate

Committee on Agriculture, Veterans, Broadband and Rural Development

Wednesday, February 12th, 2025

3:00 pm | Room 1150

Agenda

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Aric Putnam
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(651) 296-6455

Vice Chairs

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Laura Paynter

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Erik Olaphson

1. Call to Order by Chair Putnam
2. SF 1220 (Seeberger) University of Minnesota Forever Green Initiative money transfer provision

Testifiers: Forever Green initiative Transfer

- Dr. Mitch Hunter, Co-Director, Forever Green Initiative, Adjunct Assistant Professor, Dept. of Agronomy and Plant Genetics, University of Minnesota
- Anne Schwagerl, Vice President, Minnesota Farmers Union
- Ben Bowditch, Category Manager, Natural/Organic Grains & Oils, General Mills
- Dominic Jones, Manager, Red Rock Rural Water System
- Jeff Davidman, Vice President – State and Local Government Affairs, Delta Air Lines

Testifiers: CLC Value Chain Grants

- Katherine Chute, Product and Market Development Specialist, UMN Forever Green Initiative
- Diane Christofore, Executive Director, Regenerative Agriculture Alliance
- Ben Penner, Founder, Ben Penner Farms, Member, Perennial Promise Growers Cooperative
- Paul Novotny, Farmer, Member, Chatfield City Council
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Minnesota Senate Agriculture, Veterans, Broadband and Rural Development Committee

Monday & Wednesday
MSB 1150
3:00pm – 5:00pm

3. SF 934 (Kupiec) Agricultural Utilization Research Institute appropriation

- Shannon Schlecht, Executive Director, Agricultural Utilization Research Institute
- Frederico Tripodi, Board Chair, Agricultural Utilization Research Institute

4. SF 1178 (Kupiec) Money transferal into the agriculture research, education, extension, and technology transfer (AGRETT) account

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- Tina LeBrun, Southern Ag Center Director
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5. Adjournment



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- Katherine Chute, Product and Market Development Specialist, UMN Forever Green Initiative
- Diane Christofore, Executive Director, Regenerative Agriculture Alliance
- Ben Penner, Founder, Ben Penner Farms, Member, Perennial Promise Growers Cooperative
- Paul Novotny, Farmer, Member, Chatfield City Council
- David Stennes, CEO/Founder, Arcola Farms

Minnesota Senate Agriculture, Veterans, Broadband and Rural Development Committee

Monday & Wednesday
MSB 1150
3:00pm – 5:00pm

3. SF 934 (Kupec) Agricultural Utilization Research Institute appropriation

- Shannon Schlecht, Executive Director, Agricultural Utilization Research Institute
- Frederico Tripodi, Board Chair, Agricultural Utilization Research Institute

4. SF 1178 (Kupec) Money transferal into the agriculture research, education, extension, and technology transfer (AGRETT) account

- Keith Olander, Northern Ag Center Director
- Tina LeBrun, Southern Ag Center Director
- Zach Rada, FBM Instructor, Minnesota West College
- Anne Schwager, Vice President, Minnesota Farmers Union
- Hunter Pederson, Public Policy Specialist, Minnesota Farm Bureau

5. Adjournment