



Minnesota Senate

Committee on Agriculture, Veterans, Broadband and Rural Development

Monday, March 24th, 2025

10:30 am | Room 1150

Agenda

Chair

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

Vice Chair

Robert J. Kupec

Ranking Minority Member

Torrey N. Westrom

Members

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

Committee Administrator

Nick Roth – DFL
Nick.roth@mnsenate.gov

Legislative Assistant

Keely Spens
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Caucus Research

Amanda Pedersen (DFL)
Andrew Larson (R)

Legislative Analyst

Laura Paynter

Fiscal Analyst

Erik Olaphson

1. Call to Order by Chair Putnam
2. Women in Ag. Day Presentation
 - Susanne Hinrichs, University of Minnesota Extension Educator
 - Gail Donkers, Donkers' Dorsets & Babydolls, PJM Farms, Faribault
 - Jeanne Anderson, Simple Living Farm, Montevideo
 - Jessica Westbrook & Trista Gareri, Sunflower Farm, New London
3. SF 1121 (Frentz) Agriculture-related business assistance appropriation
 - Sam Ziegler, Green Seam
 - Robin Tidd, Agriculture Teacher, Mankato Area Public High School
4. SF 2611 (Putnam) Livestock market agency and dealer licensing provisions modification
 - Thom Petersen, Commissioner, Minnesota Department of Agriculture
 - Michelle Medina, Government Relations Director, Minnesota Department of Agriculture
5. SF 2610 (Putnam) Beginning farmer program provisions modification
 - Thom Petersen, Commissioner, Minnesota Department of Agriculture
 - Michelle Medina, Government Relations Director, Minnesota Department of Agriculture
6. SF 2458 (Putnam) Department of Agriculture, the Board of Animal Health, and the Agricultural Utilization Research Institute budget establishment
 - Dan Sparks, Director of Government & Industry Relations, AURI
 - Thom Petersen, Commissioner, Minnesota Department of Agriculture

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- Michelle Medina, Government Relations Director,
Minnesota Department of Agriculture
7. SF 2809 (Kunesh) Mental health outreach and support
and farm safety grant and outreach programs
appropriation
 - Hunter Pederson, Public Policy Specialist,
Minnesota Farm Bureau Federation
 - Gail Donkers, Minnesota Farmers Union
 8. SF 1935 (Mohamed) Elective declawing of cats
prohibition
 - Dr. Ronald Gaskin DVM, Owner, Main Street
Veterinary Service
 - Megan Hamilton, Owner, Basil's Cradle
 - Dr. Trevor Ames, Minnesota Veterinary Medical
Association
 9. SF 739 (Westrom) Importation of live Cervidae
permission to certain accredited facilities
 - Joan Hemker, Owner, Hemker Zoo
 10. SF 1299 (Lang) Appropriation amendment for a Litchfield
wastewater industrial pretreatment facility
 - Bob Huffman, CEO, First District Association
 11. Adjournment

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