



Agricultural Emergency Account

2021 Annual Report



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The estimated cost of preparing this report (as required by Minn. Stat. § 3.197) is \$450.00.

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Background

In 2015, an outbreak of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza hit commercial turkey, broiler, and layer flocks in several states. Minnesota poultry growers were severely impacted, and federal and state resources were crucial to resolving the outbreak. A review of the government response highlighted the strengths and weaknesses of existing preparedness and response plans. The Agricultural Emergency Account was established by the Minnesota Legislature to encourage preparedness and response activities for all agricultural hazards. A one-time transfer of \$1 million was appropriated to the account in 2016. One of priorities was the establishment of the Office of Emergency Preparedness and Response (OEPR) at the Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA) in 2017. In 2020, statutory language was altered to exclude preparedness activities from fund expenditures.

Staff of the OEPR continuously engage with industry (food, crop, livestock, poultry) representatives, other federal and state agencies, county governments, academics, and allied industries to enhance preparedness and improve response operations for animal disease outbreaks, food safety emergencies, and invasive species eradication. Our production clientele includes over 67,500 farm operations and supports close to 400,000 jobs, all depending on a quick and efficient response to all ag emergency situations.

This report is submitted in accordance with Minnesota Statute (MINN. STAT. 17.041.3). No later than February 1 each year, the Commissioner must report activities and expenditures under this section to the legislative committees and divisions with jurisdiction over agriculture finance.

2021 Activities

The biggest issue facing Minnesota agriculture in 2021 was severe drought conditions across much of the state. The Minnesota Department of Agriculture response started in June with stakeholder calls facilitated by the Commissioner. Calls were an important mechanism to evaluate needs and solutions that could provide relief to impacted farmers.

As normal forage and water sources dried up, Governor Walz's Executive Orders were initiated by the MDA to reduce regulatory requirements for producers hauling water and feed to pastured livestock. Grant and loan opportunities were advertised amongst the ag network to assist individuals who were eligible for federal and state relief packages. In July 2021, the State Drought Task Force was convened and gave the MDA an opportunity to report on agricultural impacts and solutions.

The drought response relied on existing state resources, so no additional funds were required from the Ag Emergency Account in 2021.

Ag Emergency Account Budget (B049A93)

Account expenditures since account inception in 2016

	Calendar Year					
	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Revenues:						
Transfer in	1,000,000	-	-	-	-	-
Roll forward in		980,172	889,973	732,066	592,664	424,953
Interest					11,164	1,391
Subtotal	1,000,000	980,172	889,973	732,066	603,828	426,344
Expenditures:						
Payroll	12,607	13,357	140,351	117,862	1,346	
Space Rental				1,055	18,950	
Contract Services		28,607		234		
Equipment		11,841	2,491	1,362		
Palmer Amaranth Grants	6,570	6,855				
Employee Development		200	420	2,400		
Travel	508	5,012	7,946	5,365		
MNIT Services			3,519	3,762		
Other Operating Costs	143	24,326	3,180	7,362	158,579	
Subtotal	19,828	90,198	157,908	139,402	178,875	
Calendar Year Ending						
Balance	980,172	889,973	732,066	592,664	424,953	426,344