



Elk Damage Payments

Elk Damage Payments made by the Minnesota Department of Agriculture FY 2024-2025

12/15/2025

Peder Kjeseth

Minnesota Department of Agriculture
Plant Protection Division
625 Robert Street North
Saint Paul, MN 55155
Phone: 651-201-6607
peder.kjeseth@state.mn.us
www.mda.state.mn.us

As requested by Minnesota Statute 3.197: This report cost approximately \$500 to prepare, including staff time, printing, and mailing expenses.

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Background

Wild elk are found in northwest Minnesota and can cause considerable damage to crops, fencing, and stored forage in this area. To help reduce the impact on area farmers, the Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA) manages the Animal Damage Compensation Program which provides up to 100% compensation with a minimum claim amount of \$100 and a maximum claim amount of \$20,000 per producer, and a maximum claim amount of \$1,800 for fence damage.

This report is submitted in accordance with Minnesota Statute 3.7371 Subd. 8:

The commissioner must submit a report to the chairs of the house of representatives and senate committees and divisions with jurisdiction over agriculture and environment and natural resources by December 15 each year that details the total amount of damages paid, by elk herd in the previous two fiscal years.

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Payments made by the MDA to producers with documented damage from elk for fiscal years (FY) 2024 and 2025 are summarized in the table below. The herd determinations are estimates made by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources and are based upon location of the claims that were made.

Herd	FY24 - # Claims	FY25 - # Claims	FY24 - \$ Claims	FY25 - \$ Claims
Caribou-Vita	7	5	\$72,212.80	\$55,153.71
Grygla	0	0	\$0	\$0
Kittson Central	11	6	\$92,110.70	\$76,265.51
Outside known herd areas	1	0	\$20,000.00	\$0
Total	19	11	\$184,323.50	\$131,419.22