

Notable Minnesota State Documents: 2005



These notable state documents were produced in 2004-2005. They are a small selection of the quality work done each year by Minnesota state agencies, great resources for libraries and citizens.

Agriculture

Greenbook 2005: the Next Generation of Sustainable Agriculture Farmers. Minnesota Department of Agriculture, Energy and Sustainable Agriculture Program, 2005.

<http://www.mda.state.mn.us/esap/greenbook2005/greenbook2005.pdf>

This annual publication supports the Program's stated goal of "designing and implementing programs that meet the identified needs and support the creativity of Minnesota farmers" by highlighting the results of grant projects funded by the Sustainable Agriculture Grant Program. This year's edition includes sections on the agricultural skills of Minnesota's newest immigrants, issues surrounding farm succession, research on black walnut production, marketing "grass-fed" meat, restoring traditional Anishinaabeg agricultural practices as a way of reducing obesity and diabetes, and more.

Governor Tim Pawlenty's Advisory Task Force: Minnesota's Animal Agriculture Industry Report. Minnesota Dept. of Agriculture, 2004.

<http://www.governor.state.mn.us/documents/MNAgricultureReport.pdf>

This report of the Livestock Advisory Task Force, created in November 2003, makes recommendations for improving the viability and long-term sustainability of animal agriculture in Minnesota, as well as providing background information about Minnesota's animal agriculture industry and the economic and social trends driving its continuing evolution. The recommendations were controversial, even prompting an editorial critical of the findings in the *New York Times*.

Consumer Information

Consumer Alert. Minnesota Attorney General.

<http://www.ag.state.mn.us/consumer/Alert/Default.htm>

The popular and timely Consumer Alert series is intended to protect citizens against scam artists and unscrupulous business practices. Recent alerts include:

- ***Beware of Fraudulent Charitable Scams in the Wake of Hurricane Katrina.*** September 2005.
http://www.ag.state.mn.us/consumer/Alert/ca_050902HurricaneKatrinaScams.htm
- ***Be on Guard against Phony Solicitations for Government Grant Assistance.*** April 2004. Minnesota residents are now being targeted by a telemarketing program offering to assist them in obtaining large amounts of government money.
<http://www.ag.state.mn.us/consumer/PDF/PhonySolicitationsforGovernmentGrants.pdf>
- ***Beware of Check Payment Scams.*** July 2004. A scam artist may claim that he/she wants to purchase something from a potential victim. Once a price is agreed on, the scam artist sends a personal or cashier's check to the seller in excess of the purchase amount, requesting that the excess payment be returned or sent to a supposed "third party." Sellers then typically cash the check and make the payment to the scam artist before discovering that the check was fraudulent.
<http://www.ag.state.mn.us/consumer/PDF/CheckPaymentScams.pdf>.
- ***Beware of "Phishing".*** October 2004. Phishing occurs when fraudulent operators send e-mail impersonating financial institutions, government entities, internet service providers, national chain retailers, internet auction companies, or other companies, requesting that consumers "verify" their personal information.
<http://www.ag.state.mn.us/consumer/PDF/Brochures/Phishing.pdf>.
- ***Online Shopping.*** December 2004. To avoid potentially fraudulent practices when using the web for online shopping, the guide provides tips on protecting your personal information. <http://www.ag.state.mn.us/consumer/PDF/OnlineShopping.pdf>.

Long-Term Care Insurance in Minnesota. Minnesota Department of Commerce, 2005.

<http://archive.leg.state.mn.us/docs/2005/other/050274.pdf>

The issue of who will pay for long-term care is a growing concern. This publication provides an analysis of the current long-term care insurance market in Minnesota. It provides a general overview of the topic with an emphasis on the impact of rate increases on consumers and the market.

Education

Early Childhood Indicators of Progress: Minnesota's Early Learning Standards.

Minnesota Department of Education, Minnesota Department of Human Services, 2005.

<http://www.education.state.mn.us/content/086302.pdf>

This report is meant as a resource for families, teachers, caregivers and policymakers for developing appropriate expectations for early childhood learning and accountability for helping children meet these expectations.

No Questions Left Behind: A Comprehensive Guide to the No Child Left Behind Act. (revised October 2004) Minnesota Department of Education, 2004.
<http://education.state.mn.us/mde/static/003326.pdf>

This report helps explain the complicated system of accountability required by the Federal No Child Left Behind Act. Sample district examples are used to help with the explanation.

Focus on Financial Aid: Your Guide to Paying for College. Minnesota Office of Higher Education. <http://www.getreadyforcollege.org/sPagesGR/pubsGR.cfm#focus>

Part of the *Get Ready for College* Web site (<http://www.getreadyforcollege.org>), the report describes federal and state financial aid programs, how to qualify and apply for aid, and whom to contact about financial aid at most of Minnesota's post-secondary institutions. Condensed brochure versions are available in English, Spanish, Somali, and Hmong.

Environment and Natural Resources

Invasive Species of Aquatic Plants and Wild Animals in Minnesota. Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, 2004.
http://files.dnr.state.mn.us/ecological_services/invasives/annualreport.pdf

A section on each major invasive plant or animal summarizes the nature of the invasion, efforts and progress to control it, future needs, and statistics and maps on its spread and locations. The report also provides literature references and contacts for more information.

Shallow Lakes: Hope for Minnesota's Troubled Waters. Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, 2005. <http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/wildlife/shallowlakes/index.html>

This guidebook informs landowners, local governments and others about the values and problems of shallow lakes and includes steps that can be taken to protect or restore these waters that are so important to numerous wildlife species in our state. The booklet was a collaborative partnership with other conservation agencies and organizations.

A Strategic Conservation Agenda 2003-2007: Measuring Progress Toward Mission. Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, 2005.
<http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/conservationagenda/index.html>

The Conservation Agenda describes the Dept. of Natural Resources' progress, since 2003, toward achieving conservation results. It uses approximately 85 measurable indicators and targets to paint a picture of natural resource conditions, DNR management activities, and the desired results of those activities. The report presents results in a succinct format with high-quality graphics, maps, and pictures so that citizens can understand and become engaged in conservation efforts.

Trout Angling Opportunities in Southern Minnesota. Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, 2005.

http://files.dnr.state.mn.us/outdoor_activities/fishing/trout_streams/troutangling_southernmn.pdf

This report includes descriptive information on trout species and features 21 maps showing designated trout streams, locations of fishing access easements, and which species of trout are managed. Highways and county roads are shown to simplify driving to each site, and handicapped accessible fishing sites and special fishing regulations are noted.

Gambling

Gambling in Minnesota: A Short History, by John Williams. Minnesota House of Representatives Research Office, March 2005.

<http://www.house.leg.state.mn.us/hrd/pubs/gambhist.pdf>.

This 95-page report describes the evolution of gambling in Minnesota since 1945. It covers charitable gambling, pari-mutuel racing, the state lottery, Indian gaming, and other forms of gambling. Two short gambling reports augment this detailed history.

- ***Texas Hold'em*** (June 2005) by Elizabeth Long from House Research gives a brief description of the 2005 law that authorized the type of poker tournament.

<http://www.house.leg.state.mn.us/hrd/issinfo/sstexhold.pdf>

- ***Charitable Gambling in Minnesota*** (Updated September 2005) by John Williams describes the legislative history, rules and regulations, and the outlook for charitable gambling. <http://www.house.leg.state.mn.us/hrd/pubs/chargambib.pdf>

New Minnesotans

Immigrant Health: A Call to Action. Recommendations from the Minnesota Immigrant Health Task Force. Minnesota Department of Health and Minnesota Department of Human Services, Minnesota Commissioners' Task Force on Immigrant Health, 2005.

<http://www.health.state.mn.us/divs/idepc/refugee/immigrant/immhealthrpt.pdf>

Two years of research and discussion by a diverse panel of over 80 experts culminated in this report, and eight recommendations to improve immigrant health. This report is part of the more extensive Department of Health ***Refugee Health*** page, at:

<http://www.health.state.mn.us/divs/idepc/refugee/index.html>

International Immigration and Foreign-Born Population. Minnesota Department of Administration, State Demographic Center. Web resource at:

<http://www.demography.state.mn.us/immigration.htm#about>

Links to immigration statistical data sets and reports from a variety of sources are brought together.

Noncitizens and Minnesota Law: A Guide for Legislators. Minnesota House of Representatives Research Office, 2004.

<http://www.house.leg.state.mn.us/hrd/pubs/noncitizen.pdf>

This 94-page report addresses how various state laws apply to noncitizens, including information about noncitizens and explanations of laws on farm ownership, crime, K-12 and higher education, employment, eligibility for health care and social services programs, driver's licenses, taxation, and other issues.

Transportation

Minnesota Statewide Freight Plan. Minnesota Department of Transportation Office of Freight and Commercial Vehicle Operations, 2005.

http://www.dot.state.mn.us/ofrw/PDF/MN_SFP_Final_Report_05.pdf

More than 636 million tons of freight moved in and through Minnesota in 2001 according to Minnesota's first-ever statewide freight plan. This comprehensive plan builds on the strategies and policies delineated in the Minnesota Department of Transportation's previous transportation planning documents, ***Strategic Plan*** and ***Minnesota Statewide Transportation Plan***, to help guide decisions for enhancing Minnesota's freight transportation system.

Web Sites of Note

Business Services. Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development. Web resource at: <http://www.deed.state.mn.us/bizdev/>

This redesigned Web site touches many areas of interest to businesses, including how to start a company, how to get business financing, how to find workers, how to train workers, and how to find a building. The "How to Export" section leads to an interesting Issue Brief to help potential exporters learn from others, ***Gearing Up and Going Global: Experiences of Minnesota Businesses.***"

(<http://www.deed.state.mn.us/facts/PDFs/IssBrfGearingUp.pdf>)

Minnesota Notary Public Website. Minnesota Secretary of State. Web resource at:

<https://notary.sos.state.mn.us/>

The Legislature moved the responsibility for serving notaries from the Commerce Department to the Secretary of State's office effective July 1, 2005. This page leads to information for notaries and to a search to help find a notary. It is part of the recently revamped site of the Secretary of State. The site, at <http://www.sos.state.mn.us>, also includes a useful listing of online business services, along with an FAQ on using the services.

Original Public Land Survey Plat Maps of Minnesota.

<http://www.gis.state.mn.us/GLO/Index.htm>

This digital collection is a compilation of the state's original plat maps drawn by the U.S. Surveyor General's Office over the years 1848–1907. The collection includes later plat maps, up to the year 2001, drawn from surveys conducted by the General Land Office and the Bureau of Land Management. These digital Public Land Survey plat map images are the result of an important collaborative effort by the State Archives of the Minnesota Historical Society, the Minnesota Department of Transportation, the Office of the Secretary of State, the Department of Administration's Land Management Information Center and the Minnesota Association of County Surveyors.

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