

4/1/20
Senator Dwyer
SB 2342

Sixty-ninth
Legislative Assembly

- 1 jobs, and grow the state's economy. Grants under section 4.1-01-27 may be issued
2 from the fund for infrastructure/improvements necessary for the development or
3 expansion of new or existing value-added agriculture businesses. Value-added
4 agriculture businesses include food production or processing facilities; feed or pet food
5 processing facilities; commodity processing facilities; agriculture product
6 manufacturers; and animal agriculture production facilities, including swine, poultry,
7 dairy, and feed lot production facilities.
- 8 3. The Bank of North Dakota shall develop policies for loans and interest rate buydowns
9 from the fund in consultation with the agriculture diversification and development
10 committee. The Bank shall review loan applications. To be eligible for a loan under this
11 section, an entity shall agree to provide the Bank with information as requested. The
12 Bank may develop policies for loan participation with local financial institutions. The
13 Bank shall deposit in the fund all principal and interest paid on the outstanding loans.
14 The Bank may use a portion of the interest paid as a servicing fee to pay for
15 administrative costs, which may not exceed one-half of one percent of the amount of
16 the outstanding loans. The fund must be audited annually pursuant to section 6-09-29,
17 and the cost of the audit must be paid from the fund.
- 18 4. The agricultural diversification and development committee shall develop policies for
19 grants from the fund to support new or expanding value-added agriculture businesses,
20 including eligibility criteria, maximum grant amounts, and reporting requirements.
21 Based on recommendations from the agricultural diversification and development
22 committee, the agriculture commissioner shall distribute the grant funding.
- 23 5. The agriculture diversification and development committee shall develop a
24 value-added milk processing facility incentive program to provide grants.
- 25 a. Grant funding under this subsection is limited to the lesser of ten million dollars or
26 five percent of the total construction cost of building or expanding a value-added
27 milk processing facility in the state capable of producing processing at least
28 five million gallons three million pounds [1360777 kilograms] of milk each year.
- 29 b. Grant funding under the program is a reimbursement for infrastructure, site
30 acquisition, or other capital expenditures necessary for the value-added milk

Processing

- 1 processing facility construction, including natural gas supply, electricity supply,
2 roads, water lines, wastewater lines, storm water conveyance, or rail lines.
3 c. Upon achieving one hundred percent of the production capacity of the
4 value-added milk processing facility, the agriculture commissioner shall distribute
5 the grant award from funding available in the agriculture diversification and
6 development fund.

7 **SECTION 2. TRANSFER - STRATEGIC INVESTMENT AND IMPROVEMENTS FUND TO**
8 **AGRICULTURE DIVERSIFICATION AND DEVELOPMENT FUND.** The office of management
9 and budget shall transfer the sum of \$10,000,000 from the strategic investment and
10 improvements fund, to the agriculture diversification and development fund, for the biennium
11 beginning July 1, 2025, and ending June 30, 2027.

- 1 (3) Have capital investment of at least three hundred fifty million dollars and
2 leverage regional agricultural producer capital investment to support the
3 facility's operations;
4 (4) Have a competing offer from at least one other midwestern state;
5 (5) Produce a new agriculture product or variant of an existing agriculture
6 product to provide a domestic supply of the product and to diversify the
7 market for agriculture products; and
8 (6) Have an estimated economic contribution of at least twenty million dollars
9 when fully operational based on an economic analysis conducted by the
10 Bank.
11 b. Grant funding under the program is a reimbursement for infrastructure, site
12 acquisition, or other capital expenditures necessary for the value-added
13 agriculture facility construction, including natural gas supply, electricity supply,
14 roads, water lines, wastewater lines, storm water conveyance, or rail lines.
15 c. Upon issuance of a certificate of occupancy for the value-added agriculture
16 production facility, the agriculture commissioner shall distribute a grant equal to
17 fifty percent of the total grant award from funding available in the agriculture
18 diversification and development fund.
19 d. Upon achieving fifty percent of the production capacity of the value-added
20 agriculture production facility, the agriculture commissioner shall distribute the
21 remainder of the grant award from funding available in the agriculture
22 diversification and development fund.
23 e. If the agriculture diversification and development committee approves a grant
24 under this subsection, the agriculture commissioner shall request from the
25 legislative assembly during the next regular or special session, a transfer from
26 the strategic investment and improvements fund to the agriculture diversification
27 and development fund, to provide grant funding in an amount equal to the
28 amount approved by the committee.