Duluth New Tribune file photo

The Hansen-Mueller Company owns Elevator A in Duluth, Minnesota. The company filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy on Nov. 17.

Minnesota farmers awaiting payment from Hansen-Mueller should submit claims to MDA

BY JENNY SCHLECHT
Agweek

ST. PAUL — The Minnesota Department of Agriculture advises farmers who have conducted business with Hansen-Mueller Co., based in Omaha, Nebraska, and operating in Duluth, who have not received payments for grain sold in Minnesota to submit a claim with MDA.

Farmers with warehouse receipts for grain in storage will need to contact the United States Department of Agriculture at warehousing@usda.gov.

Hansen-Mueller filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy on Monday, Nov. 17. A statement from the company said it is "pursuing a strategic financial restructuring to address its current financial challenges, facilitate the sale of its assets, and maximize recoveries for its creditors and stakeholders."

The company said it is "pursuing a Court-supervised sale process for substantially all of its assets under Section 363 of the Bankruptcy Code. This process is designed to attract one or more buyers who can continue the business operations, while providing the highest possible return to its creditors."

"After careful consideration of all available strategic alternatives, the Board of Directors determined that a Court-supervised process is the most effective and efficient way to achieve an orderly sale of our assets," CEO Josh Hansen said in a statement. "We believe this path will maximize the value of the Company's assets for the benefit of our creditors, employees, and all stakeholders."

The Nebraska Public Service Commission on Oct. 24 temporarily suspended the license of Hansen-Mueller Co., a Nebraska-based company with commodity trading, transload and feed grain processing services in multiple states.

According to PSC documents, the commission received a report on Oct. 23 that Hansen-Mueller had failed to pay for grain transactions. A subsequent investigation revealed nearly $2 million in grain sales had not been paid to 38 Nebraska farmers from Aug. 30, 2024, to Oct. 21, 2025. The commission asked that civil penalties be assessed, that the company's license be temporarily suspended pending the outcome of the case, and that the company be ordered to cease and desist operations in Nebraska.

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