

10.7 Landholdings restricted.

1. Notwithstanding section 9H.4, a farmers cooperative association may hold agricultural land in this state if it meets all of the following conditions:

a. The farmers cooperative association does not hold an interest in agricultural land of more than six hundred forty acres.

b. The farmers cooperative association does not produce, including by planting or harvesting, forage or grain on agricultural land in which the farmers cooperative association holds an interest. However, the farmers cooperative association may enter into an agreement under a lease or production contract with a person to produce the forage or grain, if the farmers cooperative association does not receive forage or grain in payment under the agreement. The lease or contract may specify the type of forage or grain that must be produced and provide that the farmers cooperative association has a right to purchase the forage or grain on the same terms and conditions as the highest bona fide offer received by the person for the forage or grain, within a period agreed to by the parties to the lease or production contract.

2. *a.* Except as provided in this section, an interest in agricultural land held by a farmers cooperative association shall be attributable as an interest in agricultural land held by a member having an interest in the farmers cooperative association. The member shall be deemed to hold an interest in agricultural land held by the farmers cooperative association in proportion to the interest that the member holds in the farmers cooperative association.

b. Except to the extent provided in this paragraph, a member holding agricultural land by attribution shall be subject to landholding restrictions imposed pursuant to the Code, including sections 9H.4, 9H.5, 9I.3, and 501.103. However, notwithstanding section 9H.4, all of the following shall apply:

(1) A cooperative association may hold an interest in any number of farmers entities, if the total number of acres held by the farmers entities and attributable to the cooperative association is six hundred forty acres or less.

(2) An interest in agricultural land held by a farmers cooperative association shall not be attributable to a member who is an entity organized under state law, if the entity holds a five percent or less interest in the farmers cooperative association.

c. The member's proportionate interest shall be calculated by multiplying the number of acres of agricultural land held by the farmers cooperative association by the percentage interest in the farmers cooperative association held by the member.

3. In the event of a transfer of an interest in a farmers cooperative association by operation of law, the association may disregard the transfer for purposes of determining compliance with subsection 1 for a period of two years after the transfer.