SDFB Legislative Update – Week 2

Seven days have been completed in the 2021 legislative session. This week, committees began holding hearings on some of the early bills and the pace is beginning to accelerate. As of Thursday afternoon, there are 73 House bills and 87 bills in the Senate. We are tracking 21 bills so far, which can be found on our bill tracking list.

SDFB HEALTH CARE LEGISLATION
Yesterday you received some information on SB 87 which, when passed, will allow SDFB to offer a much improved/higher value product to Farm Bureau members in South Dakota.

WE NEED YOUR HELP. Our work at the Capitol is assisted greatly by the contact each of you can provide with your legislator. The info in yesterday’s enewsletter gives you the necessary information to contact your local legislators. Thank you in advance for your help in this most important effort.

DEPARTMENT OF AG AND DENR MERGER
This week Governor Noem issued an Executive Order intended to combine the two departments into one Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources-DANR. At the 102nd Annual Meeting of the SDFB in November, delegates adopted policy supporting the merger, stating the result would be to serve farmers and ranchers better, eliminate government duplication and overlap and result in more efficient use of taxpayer dollars. Either body – House or Senate – can stop the merger by passing a resolution of disapproval. While we hear rumors of one surfacing, we have not seen a resolution. That is another issue for you to contact your legislators about this weekend.

CAFO GENERAL PERMIT – SB 52
The length of a CAFO general permit for a livestock producer is presently 5 years. SB 52 proposes to change the term to 10 years and passed out of the Senate Ag Committee on Thursday by a vote of 5 to 2. SB 52 will now be considered on the Senate floor. There are currently 450 General Permits and SB 52 will save time and paperwork for the livestock producer and for the State. Minnesota extended their permits to 10 years about 5 years ago and it is working well for both parties in that state. SDFB testified in favor of 52.

If you have questions or need more info, please contact me.

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Helpful Links:
View the SDFB bill-tracker list here:  https://www.sdfbf.org/Policy-Advocacy/State-Legislative

View the details on any bill by clicking this link and typing in the bill number:  https://sdlegislature.gov/Session/Bills/44

Find contact information for the Legislators here:  https://sdlegislature.gov/Legislators/Contacts/44