



# Policy Update

**December 1, 2023**

## **SDFB Sets Focus Areas for 2024 at Annual Meeting**

South Dakota Farm Bureau's members recently gathered in Sioux Falls to set policy priorities for the upcoming year. A grassroots process is followed to establish policy. Each county Farm Bureau votes to send delegates to the state convention where the delegates can vote on a variety of agriculturally related issues. Furthermore, the debated issues begin as county resolutions which are voted on by the county members. This year's policy discussions included personal property rights, foreign ownership of agricultural land, brand board and brand inspection, county funding and taxation, as well as a multitude of other issues facing the agriculture industry.

To view SDFB's 2024 Focus Areas, please click [here](#).

## **Representative Dusty Johnson Receives Golden Plow Award**

The American Farm Bureau Federation and South Dakota Farm Bureau presented Rep. Dusty Johnson (R-S.D.) with AFBF's Golden Plow award at the South Dakota Farm Bureau Annual Convention. The Golden Plow is the highest honor the organization gives to sitting members of Congress.

South Dakota Farm Bureau nominated Rep. Johnson for his willingness to go against the grain to protect farmers and ranchers, his responsiveness to requests and his determination to fight for fiscal responsibility in Congress. Additionally, Rep. Johnson has taken a personal interest in the long-term success and vitality of South Dakota's farm and ranch families, and regularly attends South Dakota Farm Bureau functions.

AFBF's Golden Plow award recognizes members of Congress who exemplify agricultural leadership. Recipients are chosen for having a philosophy or record that demonstrates a commitment to sound agricultural policies supported by Farm Bureau, the private enterprise system, fiscal conservatism and reduced federal regulation of businesses and individuals.

## **Lincoln County Looks to Regulate Carbon Dioxide Pipelines**

Lincoln County is considering whether to regulate carbon dioxide pipelines. Currently, five other South Dakota counties have set into place "setbacks" for the proposed pipeline. Those counties include Minnehaha, Moody, Spink, Brown, and McPherson. South Dakota law allows counties to establish setback ordinances with the opportunity for the Public Utilities Commission to preempt them if they are viewed as "unduly restrictive." Earlier this year, the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission denied Navigator CO2 Pipeline's motion to preempt the counties' ordinances on three main points.

1. The Commission determined that it was not appropriate to exercise this extreme remedy in this matter, finding that Navigator's project was not being constructed to meet the energy requirements of the people of the state.

2. The Commission found that Navigator failed to prove that the Moody County or Minnehaha County ordinances prohibited construction of the Project and, therefore, Navigator should have made greater attempts to resolve its issues at the county level prior to requesting that the Commission exercise its discretion to preempt county ordinances.
3. The Commission found that because Navigator failed to show that it had exhausted its ability to work with the counties to comply with the ordinances and because Navigator failed to demonstrate that it could not comply with the ordinances, the record does not demonstrate that the ordinances in question are unreasonably restrictive in view of existing technology, factors of cost, or economics, or needs of parties where located in or out of the county.

For more information on Lincoln County's ordinance, please click [here](#).

#### **Gov. Noem Supports Congressman's Bill Protecting U.S. Farmland from Foreign Adversaries**

Governor Kristi Noem announced her support for Congressman Mike Gallagher's [bill](#) preventing the Chinese Communist Party and other nations from owning American agricultural land. She made this announcement in a letter to Congressman Gallagher, who is the Chairman of the House Select Committee on the Chinese Communist Party. Governor Noem ended the letter to Chairman Gallagher by offering to testify before the Select Committee in support of this legislation.

To read the letter, please click [here](#).

#### **Contact for Questions**

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