



Policy Update

August 22, 2025

South Dakota Farm Bureau Hosts Panels at Dakotafest

South Dakota Farm Bureau hosted two forums at Dakotafest this week. The first panel was focused on property taxes and education around how they are calculated, where the money goes, and potential 2026 legislation and ballot measures.

The second forum hosted by South Dakota Farm Bureau was a Washington D.C. update from South Dakota's Congressional delegation. The panel provided insight into some of the agricultural policy issues facing South Dakota's farmers and ranchers. For example, topics such as Farm Bill, trade, and the Big Beautiful Bill were discussed.

Click [here](#) to watch recordings of the forums.

South Dakota Legislative Research Council Releases Property Tax Ballot Measure Assessment

The South Dakota Legislative Research Council (LRC) recently provided their nonpartisan assessment of a Constitutional Amendment designed to replace property taxes with a "transaction tax." The new tax in the proposed constitutional amendment that would prohibit most property taxation and instead levy a \$1.50 tax on transactions of \$15 or more, and a 10 percent tax on purchases under \$15. Additionally, it is important to note that the current sales tax would not be reduced as a result of this measure. For example, if the amendment were to receive the necessary signatures to be placed on the ballot and have a majority of voters approve the amendment at the 2026 ballot, a South Dakotan could pay up to 16.2% tax (4.2% state sales tax + 2% municipal sales tax + 10% transaction tax) on a loaf of bread at the grocery store.

Click [here](#) to read LRC's assessment.

USDA Announces Opening of Domestic Sterile Fly Production Facility

The United States Department of Agriculture recently announced that it will open a domestic sterile fly production facility to battle the New World screwworm (NWS). The New World screwworm is a fly endemic to Cuba, Haiti, the Dominican Republic and countries in South America. This pest was eradicated from the U.S. in 1966 and eliminated as far south as Panama by 2000. NWS began re-emerging above the biological barrier in Panama in 2022 and has continued moving north through Central America and Mexico. NWS is a serious health and economic threat that could cost the U.S. billions. American Farm Bureau President Zippy Duvall recently commented on the new production facility.

"Farm Bureau commends Agriculture Secretary Brooke Rollins and the Trump administration for committing the necessary resources to continue the battle to prevent the New World screwworm from

entering the United States and affecting our cattle herd. Secretary Rollins and USDA have answered the call of cattle producers across the country by establishing a domestic sterile fly production facility in Texas.”

Contact for Questions

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