



Policy Update

March 27, 2026

With the 2026 Legislative Session wrapped up, our weekly Legislative Update will move to a bi-weekly Policy Update, keeping you informed about important state and national issues throughout the rest of the year.

Veto Day and Cell Cultured Protein

The 2026 Legislative Session will officially conclude with Veto Day on March 30, 2026. Veto Day is when the Legislature has the opportunity to override a Governor's veto with a two-thirds vote in both the Senate and the House of Representatives.

To date, the Governor has issued two vetoes – HB 1077 and HB 1138. SDFB supported the Governor's veto of the cell cultured protein bill HB 1077, which would have changed the definition of adulterated food in South Dakota as well as created a California-style prohibition on federally approved food products. To be clear, SDFB does not support or endorse cell cultured proteins; however, we do have serious concerns with the dangerous precedent this bill presented to agriculture. For example, if enacted and upheld, the bill could signal other states to potentially ban federally approved products based solely on subjective or political judgments, rather than science-based standards. Under this framework, nothing would prevent another state from banning federally approved agricultural products simply because a legislature believes them to be undesirable. SDFB sent a letter encouraging the Governor's veto.

In addition to the veto, the Governor did support SB 124 which established a five-year moratorium on the sale of cell cultured protein in South Dakota.

Click [here](#) to read SDFB's letter. Click [here](#) to read the Governor's veto letter.

2026 Primary Election Early Voting Starts April 17

Early voting for the 2026 primary election begins April 17, 2026. In South Dakota, only Republicans can vote in the Republican primary. Democrats and Independents can vote in the Democratic primary. The official primary election day is June 2, 2026. The primary will determine who will be on each respective party's ticket for the general election in November.

It is important to vote in the primary election. In the 2024 primary election, there was only 17% statewide voter turnout. In some counties, the percentage was less than 10%!

Remember to register to vote by MAY 18, 2026 to vote in the primary election. Click [here](#) to learn how to vote in the 2026 primary election.

American Farm Bureau Federation and Others Send Letter to POTUS

On March 19, American Farm Bureau Federation (AFBF) and 54 other agriculture organizations sent a letter to President Trump, asking for market relief to be included in a defense supplemental package. In the letter, AFBF highlighted that America's farmers and ranchers are facing mounting pressure from every direction, as severe weather, rising input costs and global uncertainty continue to squeeze operations to the breaking point. Since 2017, the United States has lost approximately 175,000 farms, and crop producers alone are projected to lose \$32 billion this year. Without timely and meaningful relief such as building on the Farmer Bridge Assistance Program and extending support to specialty crop, sugar and alfalfa growers, there is added risk to accelerating farm closures.

Click [here](#) to access the Farm Economy Action Alert.

Click [here](#) to read the letter to President Trump.

Contact for Questions

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