

The fifth week of the 2025 South Dakota Legislative session is complete. We are over halfway done with the 100th Legislative Session and the Legislature continues to push bills through their respective committees. Twenty-one days have been completed, and 17 days remain over the next four weeks. Six legislative days are left till Crossover Day, when all bills need to be acted on in their body of origin.

Governor Rhoden Releases His Plan for Property Tax Relief

On Thursday, Governor Rhoden released his property tax relief plan for homeowners. Senate bill 216A addresses the property tax burden on homeowners in the following ways:

- Limits the increase in owner-occupied class assessments to 3% countywide for the next 5 tax years;
- Caps the amount taxing districts and school capital outlay budgets can increase as a result of new construction;
- Increases the maximum income limits for the assessment freeze program to \$55,000 for single member homes and \$65,000 for multi-member homes. The bill also increases the maximum eligible home value to \$500,000

In addition to the Governor's bill, there are over 20 property tax bills in the docket. A host of these bills have been heard in committee and have either been deferred for action or defeated. SDFB will evaluate the Governor's bill and keep you informed on any developments on 216A and the other roughly 20 property tax bills. For a complete list of our positions on the multitude of property tax bills, check out our bill tracker on the SDFB website.

ACTION ALERT: Vote **NO on HB 1165**

SDFB, in addition to other agricultural organizations, opposed HB 1165. HB 1165 complicates the current checkoff system and adds another layer of administrative cost and time. Instead of maintaining a system that has worked for decades, the sponsor of HB 1165 wants to insert grain elevators in the middle of the refund process for checkoffs and create an administrative nightmare for those local elevators, farmers, and checkoff administrators. Additionally, farmers and ranchers, on certain commodities, can already refund their checkoff and the system is working.

HB 1165 failed on the House Floor on a 34-34 vote; however, it was moved to reconsider the bill. Please contact your Representative to not vote to reconsider the bill and tell them to vote **NO** on HB 1165.

Right-to-Repair Bill Withdrawn

HB 1151, known as the right-to-repair bill was withdrawn this week and will no longer be heard. Right-to-repair has been an important issue for Farm Bureau members for years and they asked us to find a private-sector solution. At American Farm Bureau Federation's 2023 Annual Convention, AFBF signed the first memorandum of understanding with John Deere. Following the MOU with John Deere, AFBF has signed agreements with four other manufacturers. The MOUs have allowed manufacturers to protect their intellectual property while ensuring farmers and independent repair shops are able to make repairs. HB 1151 would have only complicated the landscape for farmers and ranchers.

CAFO Fee Bill Passes House of Representatives

The Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources is proposing a fee increase to the existing concentrated animal feeding operations program. The current fees have not been changed since they were adopted 28 years ago and currently cover approximately 5 percent of the total **\$1,850,000** cost of running the program. The Agency's goal is to have fees cover approximately a third of the cost of running the program, with state general funds and federal funds each contributing approximately a third of the cost of the program. The current fee structure is below.

Number of Animal Units	Annual Fee
< 1,000	\$100
1,000-1,999	\$175
2,000 or more	\$250

House Bill 1021 would change from a three-tiered fee structure to a per-animal fee structure, with the fee differing based on the species.

The proposed fee structure is shown in the table below.

Permitted Animal Type / Maximum Permitted Head vs Proposed Fee Over Time	
Animal Type	July 1, 2025
Dairy cattle (mature – milked or dry)	\$0.172 / head
Other cattle or bison	\$0.12 / head
Horses	\$0.24 / head
Swine (weaned) less than 55 pounds	\$0.012 / head
Swine equal to or greater than 55 pounds	\$0.048 / head
Sheep or weaned lambs	\$0.012 / head
Turkeys	\$0.0022 / head
Chickens	\$0.0011 / head
Ducks or geese	\$0.004 / head

In addition to the per-animal fee structure, DANR is proposing to assess a \$600 fee for the following:

1. An application for a new operation;
2. An application to increase the maximum animal numbers at an operation;
3. An application to increase the manure or process wastewater containment structure volume at an operation;

4. A second or any subsequent application, submitted in a calendar year, adding land application fields to the permit of an operation;
5. An application submitted for an individual permit; or
6. An application for coverage under a general permit submitted after July 1, 2027.

SDFB supported the bill with the expectation that with the additional funds, the CAFO program will have increased efficiencies and technology that will improve the program. The bill passed the House of Representatives 47-21. HB 1021 will now travel to the Senate for consideration.

SDFB Bill Tracker

The SDFB bill tracking list is up and running. Check it out on the SDFB website. As in past years, it gives you a quick look at the bills we are supporting, opposing, or just watching.

Below is a list of some of the bills that SDFB is supporting, watching, or opposing.

Supporting:

HJR 5001: Proposing and submitting to the voters at the next general election an amendment to the Constitution of the State of South Dakota, conditioning the requirement of expanded Medicaid on the level of federal medical assistance.

Purpose: This joint resolution would allow the State of South Dakota to bind Medicaid expansion to the level of federal medical assistance. If passed by the voters, the new constitutional amendment would clarify that, if the federal government ever reduces their match below the current 90%, the South Dakota Constitution would no longer require South Dakota to continue Medicaid expansion.

HB 1169: Modify the signature requirement for a petition to initiate a constitutional amendment.

Purpose: This bill would require that before an amendment to the South Dakota Constitution is proposed to the voters, the signatures required to put the amendment on the ballot must have at least 5 percent of the total votes cast for Governor in each South Dakota senatorial district at the last Gubernatorial election.

HB 1213: Increase the maximum amount allowable for the livestock ownership inspection fee and to declare an emergency.

Purpose: This bill would increase the fee cap associated with livestock brand inspection from \$1 to \$1.70 per head inspected.

Watching:

SB 56: Authorize the payment of lease rental obligations to the South Dakota Building Authority by the Bureau of Finance and Management, to make an appropriation therefore, and to declare an emergency.

Purpose: This bill would authorize paying off bonds for the Animal Disease Research and Diagnostic Laboratory and Precision Agriculture buildings at SDSU.

Opposed:

HB 1109: Prohibit the manufacture, sale or distribution of cell-cultured meat in this state, and to provide a penalty therefore.

Purpose: This bill would ban the sale, manufacture, or distribution of cell cultured meat in South Dakota. SDFB is opposed based upon commerce clause concerns as well as policy based upon opposition to states trying to individual ban the sale of certain products.

HB 1120: Transfer certain moneys and to make an appropriation for the operations of the state library.

Purpose: This bill would transfer money out of the livestock disease emergency fund into the general fund to help fund the state library.

HB 1246: Require the director of equalization to adjust certain agricultural land values.

Purpose: This bill would require the county director of equalization to make adjustments for land values; however, landowners already have opportunities to appeal decisions made by the director of equalization. Additionally, there are eight criteria that can qualify a parcel for an adjustment and all except one is clear and objective. The remaining seven criteria are subjective, and mandating adjustments will harm the integrity of the productivity system.

SB 214: Repeal the expiration of a reduction in certain gross receipts and use tax rates.

Purpose: This bill repeals the sunset on the reversion of the state sales tax rate from 4.2% to 5.0%.

If you have any questions or comments, please contact the South Dakota Farm Bureau policy team.

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Helpful Links:

View the SDFB bill-tracker list here.

View the details on any bill by clicking this link and typing in the bill number:

[2025 South Dakota Bills](#)

Find contact information for the Legislators here:

[2025 South Dakota Legislators](#)