With 12 legislative days completed and 26 days remaining, the 2024 session is almost one-third complete. South Dakota Farm Bureau is watching a total of 55 bills. As of Thursday evening, there are 192 House bills and 203 Senate bills for a total of 395 bills. The last day for bills to be turned in to LRC is Monday, January 29, and they must be introduced on the chamber of origin floor by Wednesday, January 31.

**House Bill 1128**
House Ag and Natural Resources unanimously voted to support HB 1128 on Thursday this week. HB 1128 is designed to add clarity in determining whether a water well is abandoned for zoning purposes. SDFB supports responsible development in South Dakota and this legislation will provide clear and fair rules throughout the local zoning process. Furthermore, the bill accomplishes this goal without stripping local control. SDFB, along with SD Dairy, SD Pork, SD Association of Cooperatives, SD Association of Conservation Districts and the Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources testified in support of the bill. The bill will now travel to the House Floor to be further debated.

**Foreign Ownership of Ag Land**
Governor Noem’s Administration, as announced in her State of the State address, has been working on legislation dealing with foreign ownership of agricultural land. To date, no bill has been introduced; however, proposed drafts continue to be modified to try to address various concerns raised by agricultural groups. We will keep you informed of any developments.

**Medicaid Work Requirement Passes Senate**
The Senate recently passed a joint resolution that would allow the State of South Dakota to impose a work requirement on able-bodied individuals who have not been diagnosed as being physically or mentally disabled. SDFB testified in support due to the belief that individuals who are able-bodied should be incentivized to work in the Medicaid program. The joint resolution, if passed by both chambers, will be presented to the voters on the 2024 ballot.

**E-15 Bill Passes the Senate**
SDFB supported an effort to increase the consumption of E-15 at the pump in South Dakota. The bill would give retailers a 5-cent tax refund for each gallon of E-15 sold. The initial bill draft would have impacted the state highway fund; however, the current version leaves the highway fund alone by redirecting existing money found in the ethanol infrastructure incentive fund. This fund receives 1.5 percent of the revenue from the petroleum release compensation and tank inspection fee. SB 78 passed the Senate unanimously and has been referred to House Ag and Natural Resources.

**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 bills that SDFB is supporting, watching, and opposing.
Supporting:

HB 1135: Expand definitions pertaining to the purchasing of grain.
Purpose: This bill updates language related to the purchasing of grain.

HB 1145: Modify brand registration and use laws.
Purpose: This bill will change the penalties pertaining to brand registration and inspection, allow inspection on a conveyance, and will extend the time for horse brand inspection.

SJR 502: Providing legislative approval for a future use water permit application by the Lewis and Clark Regional Water System.
Purpose: This joint resolution will allow for the approval of the Lewis and Clark Regional Water System to apply for an application for an appropriation of water in excess of ten thousand acre-feet annually.

Watching:

SB 14: Expand authorization for the conditional taking of coyotes from snowmobiles.
Purpose: This bill would allow for a landowner, lessee, or guest to hunt coyotes from a snowmobile.

SB 131: Include shelterbelts as a factor affecting productivity in determining assessed value of agricultural land.
Purpose: This bill would allow shelterbelts to be considered as a surface obstruction when making valuation adjustments.

Opposing:

SB 164: Lower the state sales tax rate and the state use tax rate on food to zero percent, and to increase certain gross receipts tax rates, excise tax rates and use tax rates.
Purpose: This bill would remove the sales tax on food and increase the state sales tax to 4.5 percent.

SB 167: Limit annual valuation increases on owner-occupied single-family dwellings.
Purpose: This bill would cap annual valuation increases and shift a burden to agricultural and commercial property. Additionally, the bill would cause property tax inequities between similar properties.

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

Matthew Bogue
SDFB State Public Policy Director
(605) 377-8833
matthew@sdfbf.org

Krystil Smit
SDFB Executive Director
(605) 261-2960
k.smit@sdfbf.org
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:
2024 South Dakota Bills

Find contact information for the Legislators here:
2024 South Dakota Legislators

Legislative Cracker Barrels and Coffee:
Aberdeen Area
January 27, 10:00 am - Noon | Kessler’s Champion’s Club in the Barnett Center @NSU
February 10, 10:00 am - Noon | Kessler’s Champion’s Club in the Barnett Center @NSU
February 14, 10:00 am - Noon | Kessler’s Champion’s Club in the Barnett Center @NSU

Selby
February 10, 2:30 pm CT | Selby Community Golf Course, 201 S Railway St, Selby, SD 57472

Huron
January 27, 9:00 am CT | Huron City Hall
February 10, 9:00 am CT | Huron City Hall
February 24, 9:00 am CT | Huron City Hall

Rapid City
January 27, 9:00 am MT | Western Dakota Tech Event Center
February 17, 9:00 am MT | Western Dakota Tech Event Center
March 2, 9:00 am MT | Western Dakota Tech Event Center

Sioux Falls
January 27, Districts 2, 10 and 14, 9:30 am CT | Hamre Recital Hall (in the Humanities Building) on the Augustana University Campus.

February 10, Districts 6, 12 and 13, 9:30 am CT | Hamre Recital Hall (in the Humanities Building) on the Augustana University Campus.

February 17, Districts 9, 11 and 15, 9:30 am CT | Hamre Recital Hall (in the Humanities Building) on the Augustana University Campus.