



POLICY UPDATE

January 8, 2021

2021 Session: The 2021 Legislative Session will kick off on Tuesday, January 12th, with Governor Kristi Noem's State of the State address. To watch her speech and follow along with committee hearings and floor activity, visit sd.net.

While there is still much unknown about the topics that will dominate this year's legislative session, there are several proposals that South Dakota Farm Bureau will be following closely. These include the Governor's proposed funding for a meat processing grant; possible changes to the Department of Revenue's buffer strip program; and reaction to the legalization of recreational and medicinal marijuana.

CRP Signup: the US Department of Agriculture has announced a general signup period for the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) beginning January 4th and running through February 12th. CRP allows landowners to place potentially marginal acres in grass or other cover for 10-15 years while receiving a rental payment from the USDA. Landowners interested in signing up should reach out to their local Farm Service Agency. Contact information for county FSA offices can be found [here](#).

Gray Wolf Delisted: The gray wolf has been removed from the federal list of endangered species, allowing South Dakota producers to manage wolves as predators. Producers wanting to harvest wolves should apply for a predator/varmint license, a furbearer license, or a hunting license from the South Dakota Department of Game, Fish and Parks (GFP). Information on those licenses can be found on the GFP [website](#). Additionally, the GFP is asking anyone who harvests a wolf to notify the department so a DNA sample can be gathered.