



# POLICY UPDATE

**October 16, 2020**

**Special Session:** The legislature met on October 5<sup>th</sup> in a special session and passed two pieces of legislation related to the state's response to COVID. The first gives the state additional funding authority to spend federal COVID relief funding. The second was a resolution providing guidance to the Governor on how to spend the remainder of the federal COVID dollars. The legislature recommended allocating \$400 million to a small business grant program which is now accepting applications. Businesses or agricultural operations have to demonstrate a loss in 2020 revenue. More information on the program and application process can be found [here](#).

**Goose Management Plan:** The South Dakota Department of Game, Fish and Parks is reviewing its Goose Management Plan and is seeking input from various groups, including South Dakota Farm Bureau. In particular, they are looking for feedback from producers that may have been impacted by crop loss due to geese. If you have experienced crop loss due to goose depredation, please reach out to Dani Hanson, Director of Public Policy with South Dakota Farm Bureau at [dani@sdfbf.org](mailto:dani@sdfbf.org) or 605.209.6021.

**Pesticide Rules Change:** The South Dakota Department of Agriculture is changing their administrative rules regarding pesticide regulation to implement legislation passed during session as well as implement changes made to federal pesticide regulation. Substantive changes include: all pesticide applicator tests will need to be proctored and private applicators will be required to maintain application records just like commercial applicators are. The department held a public hearing on October 13<sup>th</sup> and will present its proposal to the legislature's Interim Rules Committee later this fall.

**November Ballot Measures:** South Dakota Farm Bureau has developed an [overview](#) and backgrounders, found [here](#) and [here](#), on the three measures that will be on the ballot this November. Based on policy, South Dakota Farm Bureau recommends a no vote on all three measures.

**Cattle and Beef Market Update:** Be sure to join us for our next installment in the Pasture to Plate series on October 22<sup>nd</sup> at 7:30 p.m. CT. Dr. Derrell Peel from Oklahoma State University will be visiting with us about international trade of beef and cattle. Register for this webinar [here](#). To learn more about the Pasture to Plate series, visit the SDFB website [here](#).