



# POLICY UPDATE

**December 21, 2020**

**Budget Address:** Governor Kristi Noem gave her budget address on December 8<sup>th</sup>, outlining her priorities and budget recommendations for the 2021 session. Included in her budget recommendations is more than \$4 million to start the implementation of the regulatory frameworks for both recreational and medicinal marijuana. These dollars would go to the Department of Revenue and the Department of Health to start those programs. More information on this budget request can be found [here](#).

Additionally, the Governor is recommending earmarking dollars for several ag-related projects including:

- \$100 million to facilitate broadband expansion in the state;
- \$12 million to build a livestock complex at the South Dakota State Fair;
- \$5 million for a local meat processing grant program.

The legislature will consider each of these recommendations during the 2021 legislative session.

**2021 Legislative Committees Named:** New and returning legislators have been assigned to committees for the 2021 legislative session. Senator V.J. Smith of Brookings and Senator Josh Klumb of Mount Vernon will lead the Senate Agriculture and Natural Resource Committee as chair and vice-chair, respectively. Representative Marty Overweg of New Holland and Representative Charlie Hoffman of Eureka will serve as chair and vice-chair, respectively, of the House Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee. The Joint Committee on Appropriations will be chaired by Senator Jean Hunhoff of Yankton and co-chaired by Representative Chris Karr of Sioux Falls. More information on 2021 legislative committees can be found [here](#).

**PRF Comments:** South Dakota Farm Bureau submitted comments to the Risk Management Agency of the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA-RMA) regarding the Pasture, Rangeland, Forage Rainfall Index Crop Insurance (PRF) Program. This program provides an important risk management tool for producers that rely on pasture or rangeland to feed livestock. South Dakota Farm Bureau encouraged USDA-RMA to build as much flexibility as possible into the PRF program to ensure producers have the opportunity to build an insurance product that will meet the needs of their unique operation. To read the full comments, go to [www.sdfbf.org/policy-advocacy/state-legislative](http://www.sdfbf.org/policy-advocacy/state-legislative) and click on PRF Final Comments.

**Drought Conditions:** As of December 17<sup>th</sup>, the entire state of South Dakota is abnormally dry or experiencing drought conditions. This has allowed for post-harvest field work to get done, but has many watching pasture conditions closely. The mild weather has allowed livestock to stay on pasture through the end of the year. To see weekly updates to drought conditions, check out South Dakota's drought monitor [here](#).