



POLICY UPDATE

December 4, 2020

Recreational Marijuana Amendment Challenged: On Friday, Nov. 20, the South Dakota Highway Patrol and the Pennington County Sheriff filed a challenge to the constitutionality of Amendment A, the constitutional amendment passed by voters in November that would legalize recreational marijuana. On the same day, South Dakota Farm Bureau delegates approved a policy resolution supporting “any attempts to remove the legalization of recreational marijuana from the state constitution.” There is a possibility this case will be heard and decided before the beginning of the state legislative session in January.

Secretary Hepler to Retire: Governor Noem has announced that South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks Secretary Kelly Hepler will retire in December. Secretary Hepler led the department under both Governor Dugaard and Governor Noem. Deputy Secretary Kevin Robling will serve as the interim secretary until a permanent secretary is named.

Forward Together: SDFB 2020 Convention Wrap-Up: South Dakota Farm Bureau’s 2020 Annual Convention featured discussion on important policy issues such as agricultural property tax, environmental regulations and cattle markets. SDFB delegates took action on dozens of proposed policy resolutions from county Farm Bureaus. Delegates voted to support allowing the sale of state-inspected meat across state lines; the addition of boxed beef contracts to the CME; and the proposed merger of the South Dakota Department of Agriculture and the South Dakota Department of Environment and Natural Resources. These policies will guide the work done by SDFB leadership and staff on policy issues for the coming year.