



POLICY UPDATE

September 18, 2020

COVID Relief: The State of South Dakota was awarded \$1.25 billion in federal funding to offset the impact that COVID-19 has had on the state. To date, more than \$600 million is unallocated. Several ideas have been proposed for the use of this funding, which must be spent according to lengthy federal guidance. In addition to ideas already proposed, the legislature is holding listening hearings to solicit feedback from constituents on ideas for use of the federal funds. Ideas that have been proposed so far include:

- Small business grants: Governor Noem has proposed a \$400 million small business grant program to provide grants of up to \$100,000 to small businesses that incurred a 25% loss in business during the pandemic.
- Meat processing equipment grants: The interim joint committee on agriculture and natural resources has recommended that some of these dollars be put towards a grant program to assist local meat processors in making equipment upgrades to increase slaughter capacity in the state. There also was a recommendation to support an education and workforce development program targeted towards meat processing.

E15 Sales: The President announced last week that, subject to state approval, E15 could be sold via existing E10 pumps. This removes a major barrier to sales of the higher blend of ethanol by allowing service stations to use their existing infrastructure.

Beef Labeling and Mandatory Country of Origin Labeling: Join South Dakota Farm Bureau for our next installment in the Pasture to Plate series on September 24th at 7:30 PM CT. Dr. Glynn Tonsor with Kansas State University will present on mandatory country of origin labeling. Additionally, two members of USDA's Food Safety Inspection Service will discuss voluntary labels. Register for this webinar [here](#). To learn more about the Pasture to Plate series, visit the SDFB website [here](#).