



# POLICY UPDATE

**September 4, 2020**

**Pheasant Hunting Season:** The South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks Commission heard a proposal from the Department of Game, Fish and Parks to expand the pheasant hunting season into January. SDFB has policy opposing lengthening the pheasant season beyond December 1<sup>st</sup>. The Commission considered public comment on the proposal on September 2<sup>nd</sup>, including comments from SDFB in opposition to the proposal <https://www.sdfbf.org/page/file?path=Files%2Fpage-375%2F8.20.20%20Pheasant%20Season%20Comments%20090420.pdf>. The Commission voted to move forward with an expansion of the pheasant hunting season to the end of January.

**NRCS Wetland Determinations:** On August 28<sup>th</sup>, USDA announced the finalization of the Highly Erodible Land and Wetland Conservation rule. Prior to this finalization, the American Farm Bureau Federation (AFBF) submitted [comments](#) asking the agency to use this finalization as a means to make necessary changes to the wetland determination process based on recent court rulings, to ensure fair treatment of farmers in conservation compliance. USDA chose not to take that opportunity, forcing producers to continue to deal with NRCS' processes that have been proven in court to be unfair to farmers. South Dakota Farm Bureau and AFBF are working with legislators to introduce legislation to compel NRCS to make these important changes.

**SDDA-SDDENR Merger:** Governor Noem announced a merger of the South Dakota Department of Agriculture (SDDA) with the South Dakota Department of Environment and Natural Resources (SDDENR). The SDDA has been led by Lieutenant Governor Larry Rhoden since Secretary Kim Vanneman's retirement in May. The Governor announced that as of September 8<sup>th</sup> DENR Secretary Hunter Roberts will serve as interim secretary of agriculture until the merger is complete. [South Dakota News Watch](#) interviewed SDFB President Scott VanderWal on the merger.

**Cattle and Beef Market Update:** Be sure to join us for our next installment in the Pasture to Plate series on September 10<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 PM CT. Mike Pearson will be giving us an update on cattle and beef markets. Register for this webinar [here](#). To learn more about the Pasture to Plate series, visit the SDFB website [here](#).