



# POLICY UPDATE

August 7, 2020

**DOT Mowing Dates:** In response to proposed legislation from the 2020 legislative session, the South Dakota Transportation Commission has proposed a change to administrative rules to add three West River counties, Dewey, Jones and Stanley counties, to the counties where mowing of rights-of-way can't occur before June 15<sup>th</sup>.

South Dakota Farm Bureau (SDFB) has policy opposing restrictions on mowing rights-of-way. In response to the proposal, SDFB sent the Transportation Commission a public comment letter <https://www.sdfbf.org/page/file?path=Files%2Fpage-375%2F7.14.20%20DOT%20Mowing%20Comments.pdf> asking the Commission to not move forward with this proposal. Unfortunately, the Commission chose to proceed with the rules change. SDFB will continue to engage on this issue as the proposal moves through the rules change process.

**Slaughter Capacity in South Dakota:** The South Dakota Animal Industry Board (AIB), which oversees the state meat inspection program, provided an update on slaughter capacity in the state. During the COVID-19 pandemic, AIB has licensed 12 additional custom exempt facilities and several existing custom exempt facilities added state inspection. Current wait times at most facilities are 18 months or more. Despite the slowdown in processing, State Veterinarian, Dr. Dustin Oedekoven, was not aware of any mass depopulation events in the state, unlike surrounding states.

**Wildlife Damage Program Listening Sessions:** The South Dakota Department of Game, Fish and Parks (GF&P) is conducting virtual listening sessions throughout the state on their Wildlife Damage Program, which works with producers and landowners to address predator control and damage caused by wildlife population. The upcoming sessions are on August 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> from 1:30-3:30 p.m. CT. Registration and additional information can be found here: <https://gfp.sd.gov/pages/wdm-meetings/>

For more information or questions, please contact:

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