



This Week at the Statehouse

Legislative Update - Week 10

South Carolina State Legislative Weekly Update - March 19, 2021

The General Assembly returned to the Capitol this week for their tenth week of the legislative session to continue their work for the state.

Purple Paint as Alternative Trespass Notice

House Bill 3291 that *allows for a different method of posting notices of trespassing involving clearly visible purple-painted boundaries* passed favorably out of House and now heads to the Senate for consideration.

Illegal Transportation of Feral Hogs

The **Feral Hog Transportation Bill, House Bill 3539**, will be heard next in full committee and debated. SC Farm Bureau Government Relations team is deeply engaged with the committee, and other members of the Senate, working to push this crucial legislation.

The Post and Courier newspaper published an article, written by Shamira McCoy, detailing a list of South Carolina's most invasive species. Wild hogs lead off the article as one of the top invasive species identified in the state. The article can be found [here](#). Below is an excerpt from the article:

"To this day, wild hogs are competing with native animals such as deer and wild turkeys for food and basic habitat. DNR estimates as many as 140,000 wild hogs roam South Carolina and have been established in every county in the state."

Feral hogs are responsible for \$115 million in damage statewide each year and have been a growing problem for farmers. The Feral Hog Transport Bill gives law enforcement the tools needed to identify and prosecute individuals illegally transporting feral hogs. While it is currently illegal in South Carolina to transport feral hogs, it is very difficult to prove hogs are wild. This legislation would require individuals to obtain proper identification of the animals to prove their origin. An amendment was adopted that created additional documents that can be used for identification of hogs during transportation. More information on this priority issue can be found [here](#).

House Budget Deliberations Begin

House budget deliberations begin **Monday March 22, 2021**. **South Carolina Farm Bureau continues to emphasize the expansion of the state's broadband infrastructure services to rural communities**. The lack of access to broadband and its expansion is a top legislative priority that we will continue to work with the General Assembly to increase funding to meet the needs across our state.

SC DHEC Raw Milk and Pasteurized Milk and Milk Products Regulations Update

SC DHEC staff proposed amending Regulation 61-34, Raw Milk for Human Consumption and Regulation 61-34.1 Pasteurized Milk and Milk Products during a public hearing in front of the SCDHEC Board. The regulations are for the production, storing, labeling, transportation, and selling of milk and milk products, filled milk and filled milk products, imitation milk and imitation milk products, synthetic milk and synthetic milk products, milk derivatives, and any other products made in semblance of milk or milk products. The board approved the regulations that will now be submitted to the General Assembly for action.

R.61-34, Raw Milk for Human Consumption, the Department provides sanitation oversight for the production and sale of raw milk that has not been pasteurized for food safety in South Carolina. The Department is amending R.61-34 to address the further processing and sale of raw milk products, specifically, cream, buttermilk, and kefir, and adding additional consumer advisory changes that are needed for products that receive further processing or become necessary as a byproduct of further processing. The revisions also update raw milk standards as needed to align certain requirements with the 2019 version of the U.S. Food and Drug Administration Pasteurized Milk Ordinance ("PMO").

R.61-34.1, Pasteurized Milk and Milk Products, the Department provides sanitation oversight of the production and sale of pasteurized milk and milk products for both intrastate and interstate commerce. The Department is amending R.61-34.1 to adopt requirements of the 2019 PMO. The regulation is currently based on the 2013 PMO and will not meet the federal standards after this year. The amendment of R.61-34.1 to incorporate the updated requirements of the 2019 PMO will enable South Carolina milk producers to continue to meet federal standards and ship milk and milk products for interstate commerce.

New State Veterinarian Named

Below is an excerpt of an article previously published by Clemson News that can be found [here](#).

Michael J. Neault, DVM, has been named South Carolina's next state veterinarian and director of Clemson University Livestock-Poultry Health.

Neault comes to Clemson from the North Carolina Department of Agricultural and Consumer Services, where he has served as the state's Director of Livestock Animal Health Programs since 2015. Previously he served as Emergency Programs Manager for the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development Animal Industry Division. His work in Michigan included time as Animal Disease and Traceability Coordinator and Poultry Programs Manager.

Neault will begin in April and replace current state veterinarian and LPH director Boyd Parr upon his retirement at the end of June after 17 years at Clemson.

"Dr. Parr has been the steady and visionary leader of a regulatory agency that has been successful in helping the South Carolina animal agriculture industry navigate through natural disasters, animal diseases and countless other challenges. While he will be sorely missed, we are extremely excited that Dr. Neault has agreed to become our next state veterinarian and LPH director. He brings all the necessary experience to the job, and I have no doubt that LPH will continue its excellence under his direction," said George Askew, vice-president of Clemson Public Service and Agriculture (PSA).

As South Carolina State Veterinarian and LPH Director, Neault will lead a state regulatory agency whose mission is to protect animal health by controlling endemic, foreign and emerging diseases in livestock and poultry and to protect the health of

South Carolina consumers by inspecting meat and poultry products to ensure they are safe, wholesome and accurately labeled.

"I have had the pleasure of working with Dr. Neault over the years in a number of capacities related to emergency and disease management, and I am confident LPH and South Carolina's animal agriculture industry will continue to thrive with Mike as state veterinarian and LPH director," Parr said.

As director of Livestock Animal Health Programs in North Carolina, Neault designed and administered programs that monitored and protected the state's livestock and equine industries. He also led investigations to detect and eradicate emerging animal diseases. In 2018, Neault cofounded the North Carolina Feral Hog Task Force and helped secure funding from the USDA to address feral swine issues on agricultural crops and livestock. Feral hogs are an invasive species that are a major concern for farmers and landowners throughout South Carolina and the Southeast.

Congressional Report

National News

Immigration and Labor: The Farm Workforce Modernization Act of 2021 passed the House Thursday with a vote of 247-147.

Background: Reps. Zoe Lofgren (D-CA) and Dan Newhouse (R-WA) reintroduced the Farm Workforce Modernization Act in the 117th Congress. AFBF's current position on this legislation is as follows: "AFBF acknowledges there are severe shortcomings in the Farm Workforce Modernization Act and reserves the right to continue to seek improvements to this legislation. The bill must be substantially modified to receive the support of AFBF."