



February 12, 2021

Legislative Update - Week Five

General Assembly Weekly Highlights

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

South Carolina **COVID-19 Liability Safe Harbor** bill (Senate Bill 147 which can be found [here](#)) that provides liability protections for healthcare providers and businesses that follow public health guidance in response to the Coronavirus public health emergency was passed out of full committee this week favorably. The bill will now head to the Senate floor for debate. SC Farm Bureau Government Relations will continue to monitor any movement of this bill.

[House Bill 3707](#) is a Joint Resolution to make appropriations to the state's response to the Covid-19 response, including vaccinations for our state, received third reading from the Senate. This resolution was sent back to the House and will be on the calendar for Tuesday, February 16 for consideration.

SC Farm Bureau Hosts Virtual Meeting to Discuss Feral Hog Problem

SC Farm Bureau hosted a member-legislative Feral Hog Zoom Meeting this week. Over sixty SC Farm Bureau members, President Harry Ott and Government Relations Director Gary Spires shared their concerns and discussed the looming feral hog issue and the need for passage of [House Bill 3539](#) with members of the SC House Ag Committee. During the virtual meeting farmers shared their experiences dealing with feral hogs giving accounts of destroyed crops, livestock infected by diseases and little hope of eradicating the feral hogs. 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, was introduced by Representative Sylleste Davis to give law enforcement the tools they need 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. The members of the committee that attended the Zoom meeting this week included: House Ag Committee Chairman Davey Hiott (Pickens), 1st Vice Chairman Representative Steve Moss (Cherokee), 2nd Vice Chairman Representative Bill Hixon (Aiken), Secretary Representative Mike Burns (Greenville), Representative Patrick Haddon (Greenville), Representative Doug Gilliam (Union), Representative Randy Ligon (Chester), Representative RJ May (Lexington), Representative Josiah Magnuson (Spartanburg) and the bill sponsor Representative Sylleste Davis (Berkeley). SC DNR, USDA, Clemson University Livestock-Poultry Health and Clemson Cooperative Extension Services, More information can be found [here](#).

South Carolina DHEC Holds Virtual Meetings on Potential Changes to Pasteurized and Raw Milk Regulations

DHEC is proposing revisions to [Regulation 61-34.1, Pasteurized Milk and Milk Products](#). The revisions are designed to create consistency with the Food & Drug Administration's 2019 Pasteurized Milk Ordinance and to align permitting and enforcement sections with other DHEC food safety regulations.

DHEC is proposing revisions to [Regulation 61-34, Raw Milk for Human Consumption](#). The purpose of the revisions is to update and streamline the regulation to be more inclusive and to provide for the regulation of raw milk products, buttermilk, and cream. The regulation updates will also eliminate unnecessary sections that do not apply to raw milk production.

Upcoming Legislative Week

Legislators are scheduled to return to the Capitol on Tuesday, February 16th. SC Farm Bureau Government Relations will continue to monitor, develop strategy and provide timely updated information on action items when available.

House Ag subcommittee will take up the Feral Hog Transportation Bill, [House Bill 3539](#). Please make sure you [Plug In, Weigh In](#) to ensure our elected officials support the Feral Hog Transportation Bill.

Congressional Report

Deadline Approaches for CFAP!

CFAP: USDA's Farm Service Agency will accept new or modified CFAP applications from eligible producers January 19 through February 26, 2021. Certain producers will receive updated payments automatically. Of particular note, contract poultry growers may now be eligible to receive assistance. For more information, please go to: <https://www.farmers.gov/cfap> or contact your local FSA office.