



House Ag Advances Markup Reconciliation Piece

Last Wednesday, the House Agriculture Committee voted through their portion of the GOP's major reconciliation bill. Passing 29-25 along party lines, the legislation effectively includes $60 billion in Farm Bill-related funding, much of which is aimed at certain commodity reference prices. However, it also includes provisions relating to specialty crops, research, and other areas. It falls short of a traditional 'full' Farm Bill though, despite many ag groups' insistence that a piecemeal approach be avoided. Democrats argued this as well, but also focused in on the revisions to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP).

Changes to SNAP included capping potential increases, doing more to root out fraud, and shifting some of the costs to states. It could lead to an estimated $300 billion in cuts overall. The legislation now heads to the House Budget Committee before it is packaged together with other GOP priorities. Their hope is to pass a wide-ranging reconciliation package that would also include extending several sunsetting tax cuts from the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act of 2018. Reconciliation essentially means that it can pass with a simple majority in the Senate, once finalized. There *are* restrictions on what can be included though, so there is no guarantee that all of the Republican priorities will be included, subject to interpretation by the Senate Parliamentarian. The Senate hopes to get the bill by later this week, but several hurdles still remain.

Staff Contact: Matthew Viohl, mviohl@cfbf.com

Membership Opportunity: USDA to Boost Timber Production

Last week, USDA announced $23 million in grant funding to support the processing of timber and hazardous fuels from national forests and grasslands. The Hazardous Fuels Transportation Assistance Grant Program will remain open to applicants through June 20th. Potential projects must remove hazardous materials either from National Forest System Lands—or demonstrate a direct benefit to them. Additional details can be found here.

Staff Contact: Erin Huston, ehuston@cfbf.com

Member Opportunity: CRP Enrollments Open

The USDA opened up applications for the General and Continuous Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) through June 6th, with the Grassland CRP signup approaching in the future. Administered by the Farm Service Agency (FSA), CRP is a voluntary program that encourages farmers and landowners to convert highly erodible and other environmentally sensitive acreage to vegetative cover. Participants receive annual rental payments and cost-share assistance to establish these long-term vegetative covers. Members are encouraged to click here for more information.

Staff Contact: Erin Huston, ehuston@cfbf.com

Bipartisan Ag Workforce Bill Reintroduced

Two weeks ago, Reps. Zoe Lofgren (CA-18) and Dan Newhouse (WA-04) reintroduced the Farm Workforce Modernization Act (FWMA), along with support from Reps. Jim Costa (CA-21), David Valadao (CA-22), and Adam Gray (CA-13). The legislation offers a comprehensive solution to addressing many of the workforce challenges being faced in the agricultural industry. While bipartisan and typically bicameral, the bill has struggled to find enough Republican support in the Senate (it would need 60 votes for passage). The legislation is unchanged from previous iterations, which likely dampens its odds of success given the GOP's control in the House, Senate, and White House. Nevertheless, labor continues to be a major issue facing farmers and ranchers across the US, particularly in our labor-intensive state. Whether FWMA or another bill, the industry is in much need of a win on this issue, and CAFB continues to work with lawmakers and other partners on finding a path forward.

Staff Contact: Matthew Viohl, mviohl@cfbf.com

Threats from New World Screwworm Renewed

The last several weeks, lawmakers and ag groups have been working to draw attention to the threats posed by the New World Screwworm (NWS), a parasitic fly that can infect living animals. Imports of live cattle, horses, and bison at the southern border were halted last weekend due to reports of an outbreak in Mexico and elsewhere in Central America. The species has been considered eradicated in the US dating back to the 60s, but has remained under close watch by the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS). Legislation is being drafted to help establish a new sterile fly facility at the southern border to assist in mitigation efforts. State

Staff Contact: Matthew Viohl, mviohl@cfbf.com

Disaster Program Timeline Released

Two weeks ago, USDA Secretary Brooke Rollins held a 'Farmers First Roundtable' in Nebraska to examine some of the issues faced by smaller-scale family-owned farming operations. USDA also used this as an opportunity to share the expected timeline of dates for several disaster programs funded through the agency. This includes the timeline of payments for the Emergency Livestock Relief Program and Supplemental Disaster Relief Program, staggered depending on the types of losses. The earliest of those are drought and wildfire payments under ELRP, starting May 23rd. The full timeline can be found here.

Staff Contact: Erin Huston, ehuston@cfbf.com



Cal/OSHA Proposes Revisions to Heat and Smoke Rules Under AB 2243

The Division of Occupational Safety and Health (Cal/OSHA) released proposed revisions to its outdoor and indoor heat illness regulations and wildfire smoke protection regulations on May 11. The division acted to comply with AB 2243 (Garcia, 2022) which mandated the agency and the Cal/OSHA Standards Board consider revisions to those regulations to tighten acclimatization requirements and require more frequent provision of copies of an employer's written heat illness program. AB 2243 also requires the agency and Board to

consider changes to require mandatory wildfire respirator use when the Air Quality Index (AQI) exceeds 300 – for agricultural employees only. Non-ag employers will be required to mandate respirator use only when the AQI exceeds 500. Mandatory respirator use obliges an employer to implement a respiratory protection program triggering extensive fit-testing and medical testing to ensure use of a respirator does not trigger undue cardiovascular stress with respect to individual employees – something that will be difficult to impossible to implement with hundreds or thousands of employees when a wildfire smoke event arises. Very few ag employees are typically subject to respirator fit testing and medical review, other than pesticide applicators. In its release, the agency indicated it will convene an advisory committee to discuss the proposals. AB 2243 requires the agency and Board to consider these proposals by December 31, 2025.

SB 353

Senate Bill 353, authored by Senator Marie Alvarado-Gil (R Jackson) passed from the Senate Revenue and Taxation Committee with bipartisan support. The bill would remove a sunset provision from existing law that would otherwise end a tax credit program for donations of fresh fruits, dairy products, and vegetables to California food banks. SB 353 would make that tax credit permanent. California Farm Bureua supports SB 353. The bill moves onto the Senate Appropriations Committee. *Staff: Peter Ansel; pansel@cfbf.com*

SB 5

Senate Bill 5, authored by Senator Christopher Cabaldon (D Napa) passed is on the Senate Floor awaiting a vote to move onto the Assembly. The bill was recently amended to protect Williamson Act lands by prohibiting the transfer of property taxes from those lands to an Enhanced Infrastructure Finance District or Community Revitalization Investment Authority. The author's intent is to protect these lands from developers that leverage community development financing tools to acquire agricultural lands, specifically in response to activities in Solano County. Farm Bureau supports SB 5. *Staff: Peter Ansel; pansel@cfbf.com*

AB 735

Assembly Bill 735, authored by Assemblymember Juan Carillo (D Palmdale) and its Senate companion bill Senate Bill 415, authored by Senator Eloise Gomez Reyes (D San Bernadino) have been amended to provide an exclusion from the definition of "logistics use" when a facility "serves a primary agricultural use that is actively operated for a single period of 90 consecutive days or less each year." Both bills are heading to floor votes. California Farm Bureau is neutral on both bills but met with both authors extensively in support of the amendments. *Staff: Peter Ansel; pansel@cfbf.com*

AB 518

AB-518 by Assemblymember Chris Ward which allows for low impact camping on private land passed on the Assembly Floor 55-0, with bipartisan support. Farm Bureau supports the bill because it would give landowners the opportunity to pursue additional income from these short term stays.

Staff: Steven Fenaroli; sfenaroli@cfbf.com

SB 279

SB-279 by Senator Jerry McNerney is supported by CAFB. It increases the amount of compostable material able to be sent to composting. As burning is no longer allowed in the San Joaquin Air District, agriculture needs alternatives to send their organic waste. SB-279 will give farmers and ranchers more alternatives when it comes to their ag waste. Staff: Steven Fenaroli; sfenaroli@cfbf.com

AB 525

AB-525 by Assemblymember Tom Lackey is supported by California Farm Bureau. AB-525 extends the date that agricultural vehicles are exempt from the Basic Inspection of Terminals. Basic Inspection of Terminals (BIT) program makes it illegal for motor carriers to operate certain large vehicles without informing the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) about inspection locations and record maintenance sites. Currently, agricultural vehicles are exempt from this requirement until January 1, 2026. The new bill would extend that date until 2031. Staff: Steven Fenaroli; sfenaroli@cfbf.com

AB 411

Farm Bureau sponsored AB-411 by Assemblymember Diane Papan, which allows for the on-farm composting of livestock carcass has advanced from the policy committee and is currently in Assembly Appropriations Suspense File. Staff: Steven Fenaroli; sfenaroli@cfbf.com

Fish and Wildlife Releases Wolf Mapping Tool

The California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) announced today the release of a brand-new mapping tool designed to provide regular location information on GPS-collared gray wolves in California to help prevent wolf-livestock conflict.

The Wolf Location Automated Mapping System, available to the public on CDFW's website, shows the approximate location of GPS collared wolves across the state. The goal of the map is to better enable livestock producers to understand the movement of collared wolves near their properties and to assist them in mitigating wolf-livestock conflicts.

Staff: Steven Fenaroli; sfenaroli@cfbf.com

Fish and Game Commission Continues to Discuss Coyotes

On May 15, Fish and Game Commission Members at the Wildlife Resource Committee discussed removing coyotes from code that currently allows their take prior to depredation or crop damage. FarmTeam members submitted over 1,300 letters to commissioners on the topic asking them to not remove valuable tools. Because of the overwhelming opposition to the plan, Commission Members pulled the proposal back and heard from farmers and ranchers about the need to protect livestock and crops.

California Farm Bureau and Farm Bureau members asked for no changes to the current code. The commission heard public comment for five hours and narrowed the scope of their considerations to exclude agriculture from any future discussions around coyotes.

Staff: Steven Fenaroli; sfenaroli@cfbf.com

Clean Truck Check Webinar

The California Air Resources Board (CARB) staff invite you to participate in a public online webinar covering vehicle testing requirements for the Clean Truck Check program that began in October 2024. This is the third in a series of trainings that are focused on the requirements for owners of trucks registered in California.

Date: Thursday, May 21, 2025
Time: 9:00 a.m. - Noon
Location: Zoom Meeting**Register**

The upcoming webinar will be held via Zoom. You must register to participate. Please register for the meeting if you wish to attend. You will have the option to participate via Zoom or access the meeting by telephone with a dial-in number. CARB staff highly recommend using the Zoom Desktop or Mobile App to participate.

There will be an opportunity to ask live questions related to topic(s) during the webinar. Please see below for the question submission deadlines for each webinar.

If you are unable to attend after registering, please email hdim@arb.ca.gov and request to be removed from registration to allow others to register, as we are typically at capacity for these events. CARB staff will hold additional webinars as needed.

Staff: Steven Fenaroli; sfenaroli@cfbf.com