

Important note: if there's a bill you think is important to cattlemen and it's not included on the tracking list below, please contact Jodie at the SDCA office immediately - 605.945.2333 or executive@sd cattlemen.org.

We are wrapping up the final week of Session and bills still in play are either on their way to the Governor or in a conference committee awaiting action. The last day of session is the 29th of March, "Veto Day", and is set aside for consideration of Governor's vetoes and other issues that may come up at the last minute.

At the time of this writing on Thursday, the budget is yet to be addressed and there are several pages of proposed amendments to be reviewed. Budget cuts close to \$40 million are presently being sought. There is also the possibility of \$36 million in federal funds that would be made available should the federal government approve legislation pending in Congress. If the federal money comes through, the budget shortfall could be addressed without the need for many cuts. It is our hope that proposed cuts to extension and research will be re-considered if additional funding is made available.

Bills reaching completion that SDCA has been working on include:

SB75 was hog housed into an Agritourism bill. In summary this bill will add the definition of "Agritourism Activity" to SDCL 20-9-12 and also add Agritourism activities to the other pertinent sections 20-9-12 to 20-9-18 that offer some liability protection for landowners where outdoor recreation occurs. As amended this week, the bill will offer landowners the same liability protection for agritourism. A slight change on the house floor sent the bill to conference committee where concerns brought forth by the trial lawyers were addressed. The conference committee asked for concurrence.

It was reported last week that **HB 1202** was removed from the table and hog-housed to address concerns that the new productivity methodology for valuing ag lands is not being properly implemented by some county directors of equalization. The bill would require the directors of equalization to follow the law for valuation of agriculture land and, if they do not, allows the Department of Revenue to step in and take over the valuation of ag land in that county. As the version passed by the Senate was different from the House passed version, HB 1202 went to conference committee. During the committee hearing today, testimony was provided by the Department of Revenue, assessors, an affected taxpayer and one commodity group. At the conclusion of the hearing, the committee determined that the Department of Revenue already has the authority to order a reassessment of property tax value as well as the authority to remove an assessor.



It was also noted that the committee expects the Department of Revenue to use such authority to properly implement the new system. The final report was to not concur and not reappoint another committee, thereby killing the bill.

Now that session is ending, we will be actively engaged in several issues including the “Animal Care Review Committee” that SDCA and others have committed to leading.

Look for the “2010 Legislative Summary” in the May-June edition of the SDCA magazine.

SDCA members are encouraged to contact Jodie at the SDCA office at 605.945.2333 or e-mail executive@sdcattlemen.org if you have any questions regarding SDCA’s legislative issues.

Useful Contact Information:

- SDCA Office: 605-945-2333
- House Lobby: 605-773-3851 (to leave a message for your Representative)
- Senate Lobby: 605-773-3821 (to leave a message for your Senator)
- *Additional information regarding the bills, legislative committees, etc. can be found on LRC’s website at <http://legis.state.sd.us/index.aspx>.*