

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.

It was an active week of committee and floor hearings. All 469 bills that were introduced as of last week's deadline will be heard in committee to determine if they move ahead through the process or not. Many committees will see full schedules in the coming week as bills need to be acted on prior to Crossover Day (the day that a bill has to be passed through its house of origin) February 14th quickly approaches.

This past week SD Cattlemen's participated in several hearings with support for the following:

HB 1116 allows for the exemption of the sale of straw, corn stover and bean straw used for livestock bedding from sales and use tax. Audits performed by the SD Dept of Revenue have been assessing back taxes on livestock operations using straw for animal bedding. Strongly supported by the agriculture industry, HB 1116 passed House Taxation Committee 11-4 and the House floor 52-11. HB 1116 now moves to the Senate for action.

HB 1003 which revises the limitation on the increases and decreases that may be made to the total taxable value of cropland and noncropland passed Senate Ag and Natural Resources 9-0 and the Senate floor 30-5. HB 1003 now heads to the Governor for his signature.

HB 1011 will define domestic use of water in statute passed the Senate Ag and Natural Resources 9-0 and now awaits Senate floor action.

HB 1037 which expands the purpose of the agriculture mediation program by allowing the SD Department of Ag to include the ability to provide mediation to persons or organizations seeking to mediate disputes with federal land management agencies concerning decisions made by those federal agencies. HB 1037 passed the House floor on a vote of 69-0 and awaits a hearing date in Senate Ag & Natural Resources HB 1037 is supported by SDCA.

Rising in opposition, SDCA, along with many other agriculture organizations, encouraged members of the Senate and Natural Resources Committee to send SB 129 to the 41st legislative day (the 2012 Session only has 33 legislative days). SB 129 sought to severe water rights from the land.

SDCA will continue to closely monitor HB 1083 which will set nine-year term limits for brand board service and HB 1084 which revises the political qualifications for brand board membership by removing the restriction that "no more than three of the members shall be of any one political party" for changes which would impact the functions and purpose of the brand inspection program. Passage or not of either bill in their current form, has no real impact on the purpose and function of the brand board and its mission.



HB 1085 revise the residency requirements of the brand board membership by requiring that “all” members of the board shall reside in the livestock ownership inspection areas. In the past, SDAC has opposed such a change and will continue to do so in support of the 20% of brands that are registered outside of the inspection area and for those east river livestock entering the brand inspection area.

HB 1083, 1084 and 1085 will be heard in House Ag and Natural Resources Committee on February 7, 2012.

HB1210 will allow livestock that are brought into a livestock auction market located within the livestock ownership inspection area from a location outside the livestock ownership inspection area need not be inspected for ownership.” There are plans to amend the bill to livestock raised in SD.

HB 1038 increases the penalty for leaving the brand inspection area from a Class 2 to a Class 1. HB 1038 passed House Ag and Natural Resources 11-2 and the House floor 60-4.

For those of you who have inquired about HSUS’s activities – they held their legislative day on Wednesday, February 1 and it was a very quite gathering, by accounts on their website, there were eight HSUS representatives in attendance. Earlier this year they were unable to secure the introduction of two bills due to lack of interest by the legislative body.

HB1070 gives the Animal Industry Board rule-making authority to determine which animals coming into the state need to bring along a Health Certificate. Coming about as the result of those participating in dog shows, the change could allow for better management of “same production system” livestock crossing a state lines. HB 1070 passed the House Ag and Natural Resource Committee on a 13-0 vote and placed on the consent calendar for the House floor where is passed 67-0.

Other bills of interest:

HB 1001 revise certain provisions regarding the sales and use tax. Passed the House floor 64-0.

HB 1003 revise the limitation on the increases and decreases that may be made to the total taxable value of cropland and noncropland. Passed Senate floor 30-5.

HB 1011 revise the definition of domestic use of water. Passed Senate Ag Committee 9-0.

HB 1013 repeal certain obsolete statutes regarding the Department of Environment and Natural Resources. Passed Senate floor 35-0.

HB 1037 revise the purpose of the agriculture mediation program. Passed House floor 69-0.

HB 1038 increase the penalty for leaving the brand inspection area without necessary inspection and authorization. Passed House floor 60-4.

HB 1057 revise certain provisions concerning the manner in which county wheel taxes are imposed. Passed House floor 60-9.

HB 1070 revise certain provisions relating to the certificate of health requirement for the importation of animals. Passed House floor 67-0.

HB 1074 exempt certain counties from restrictions relating to the taking of muskrat. Tabled in House Ag 10-0.

HB 1080 waive certain licensure requirements to hunt fox and coyote with firearms. Hearing set for Feb. 7 in House Ag.

HB 1081 revise certain provisions relating to the killing of any mountain lion to protect human life, livestock, or pets. Hearing set for Feb. 7 in House Ag.

HB 1082 provide certain exceptions to Department of Game, Fish and Parks promulgated rules pertaining to the taking of mountain lions. Hearing set for Feb. 7 in House Ag.

HB 1083 to provide for term limits for brand board service. Hearing set for Feb. 7 in House Ag.

HB 1084 revise the political qualifications for brand board membership. Hearing set for Feb. 7 in House Ag.

HB 1085 revise the residency requirements of the brand board membership. Hearing set for Feb. 7 in House Ag.

HB 1087 limit the terms of certain conservation easements. Hearing set for Feb. 7 in House Ag.

HB 1102 provide for a study of the feasibility of establishing an equine processing facility and to make an appropriation therefor. House Ag sent to the 41st day 10-2.

HB 1116 exempt bedding used for agricultural purposes from sales and use taxes. Passed House floor 52-11

HB 1164 appropriate money for the repair of state-owned dams managed by the Office of School and Public Lands and the Department of Game, Fish, and Parks. Sent to the 41st day by Senate Appropriations.

HB 1166 require the departments of Agriculture and Game, Fish and Parks to provide certain actions and funding specified in the South Dakota black-tailed prairie dog conservation and management plan. Passed House Appropriations 9-0.

HB 1210 exempt certain livestock entering the livestock ownership inspection area from ownership inspection requirements.

HB 1237 assess agricultural land based on its actual use. Hearing set for Feb 7th in House Taxation.

HB 1240 separately classify, assess, and tax agricultural land that is leased for certain purposes that restrict the use of the land.

SB 37 make an appropriation from the coordinated soil and water conservation fund to the State Conservation Commission and to declare an emergency.

SB 45 appropriate additional funds and to extend the availability of appropriations to replace storage facilities at the Cottonwood Agricultural Experiment Station. Passed Senate Appropriations 7-0.

SB 49 revise the property tax levies for the general fund of a school district. Senate Appropriations hearing deferred.

SB 129 provide for the severance of certain water rights. Sent to the 41st day by Senate Ag Committee.

SB 160 create the North Central Water Development District, to provide for the appointment of the board of directors, to establish certain property tax levy limitations, and to revise the boundaries of the James River Water Development District. Hearing set for Feb 7th in Senate Ag.

SB 169 create certain watershed districts. Hearing set for Feb 7th in Senate Ag.

Detailed information on each of the bills listed can be found by going to <http://legis.state.sd.us>

SDCA members are encouraged to contact Jodie at the SDCA office at 605.945.2333 or executive@sd cattlemen.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>.*