

# Senate Committee on Agriculture

Senator Cathleen Galgiani, Chair

1020 N Street, Suite 583 • Sacramento, California 95814 • 916-651-1508 (phone) • 916-403-7397 (fax)

## 2013 Legislative Summary

(2013-2014 Session)

### Introduction

This publication provides a comprehensive report of bills heard by the Senate Committee on Agriculture as well as a brief synopsis of the informational hearings held during the 2013 legislative year.

This report is intended to provide a quick reference to bills that were considered by the Committee and is not intended to provide a comprehensive analysis of each bill. Each summary includes the bill number and author with the final status of the bill presented in italics. Bills that the Legislature passed and the Governor signed into law also include their chapter references.

The Committee also keeps a record of all informational hearings. The record includes the hearing agenda, background materials developed by Committee staff, testimony, and supporting materials submitted by witnesses. In addition, informational hearings are often audio recorded and occasionally video recorded, and these recordings are available upon request.

If you would like additional information about a particular bill or informational hearing presented in this report, please contact the Committee office by phone at (916) 651-1508 or visit the Committee's website at <http://sagri.senate.ca.gov>. The Legislative Data Center also maintains a website where all bills and analyses are readily available. This website can be accessed at <http://www.leginfo.ca.gov/>.

## Senate Bills

### **SB 171 (Rubio)**

### **California Seed Law**

This bill would have clarified the definitions of “person” and “neighbor” for the purposes of seed labeling requirements under the California Seed Law. This bill also would have amended legislative intent to clarify, in addition to quality, that the amount of seed represented on a label be properly identified. *This bill was withdrawn from Senate Committee on Agriculture before being set for hearing, amended and all agriculture-related provisions removed.*

### **SB 250 (Wolk)**

### **Olive Oil Commission of California**

This bill creates the Olive Oil Commission of California within state government. The commission is authorized to engage in olive oil research, establish a commodity assessment rate, enforce penalties, and recommend grades and labeling standards. This bill does not become operative until a favorable producer referendum vote has been conducted. *Signed into law. Chapter 344, Statutes of 2013.*

### **SB 348 (Galgiani)**

### **Agricultural seed: county seed enforcement subventions**

This bill extends the operation and repeal dates for provisions of the California Seed Law, including an annual county subvention for enforcement activities necessary to carry out these provisions, until July 1, 2016, and January 1, 2017, respectively. *Signed into law. Chapter 385, Statutes of 2013.*

### **SB 504 (Berryhill)**

### **Fruit, nut, and vegetable standards: civil penalties**

This bill authorizes county agricultural commissioners, after exhaustion of the appeal and review process, to obtain judgments from a superior court to expedite recovery of civil penalties levied on violators of the Fruit, Nut, and Vegetable Standards Law. *Signed into law. Chapter 254, Statutes of 2013.*

### **SB 566 (Leno)**

### **Industrial hemp**

This bill allows hemp to be grown in California, upon federal approval, by defining “industrial hemp” as separate from the definition of “marijuana,” a schedule I controlled substance. This bill provides for hemp cultivation practices, laboratory testing, reporting requirements, regulatory authority, and creates an Industrial Hemp Advisory Board. *Signed into law. Chapter 398, Statutes of 2013.*

**SB 599 (Evans)****Direct marketing: certified farmers' markets: operator fees**

This bill would have extended the sunset date for the collection of certified farmers' market operator fees and enforcement provisions of direct marketing to January 1, 2018. *This bill was later amended and all agriculture-related provisions removed.*

**SB 675 (Wolk)****Animal welfare: standards**

This bill would require the California Department of Food and Agriculture to develop standards for animal welfare. *This bill is awaiting hearing in the Senate Committee on Agriculture.*

**SB 741 (Cannella)****California fairs: funding**

This bill would revise the duties, responsibilities, and powers of the California Department of Food and Agriculture, the Department of General Services, and district agricultural associations in regards to the operation, oversight, administration, governance, and funding of the network of California fairs. This bill contains an urgency clause. *This bill is in Assembly Appropriations Committee on the Suspense File, awaiting hearing.*

## Assembly Bills

### **AB 69 (Perea)**

### **Groundwater: drinking water: Nitrate at Risk Fund**

This bill would require a person who sells fertilizer for use in California to pay a fertilizer materials charge. This bill would establish the Nitrate at Risk Fund to provide funds for loans or grants to specified water systems operating in a high-nitrate, at-risk area for specified purposes. This bill contains an urgency clause. *This bill is awaiting hearing in Senate Committee on Agriculture.*

### **AB 224 (Gordon)**

### **Agricultural products: direct marketing: community-supported agriculture**

This bill defines “community-supported agriculture” (CSA) within the direct marketing program regulated by the California Department of Food and Agriculture. This bill would establish regulatory parameters and require CSA registration fees to fund administration and related programmatic costs, as specified. *Signed into law. Chapter 404, Statutes of 2013.*

### **AB 571 (Gatto)**

### **Agricultural pest control: citrus disease prevention**

This bill would have appropriated \$5 million from the General Fund to the Citrus Disease Management Account within the California Department of Food and Agriculture Fund for the purposes of combating citrus disease or its vectors. *Vetoed, 2013.*

### **AB 654 (Hall)**

### **Direct marketing: certified farmers’ markets**

This bill extends the sunset date for the collection of certified farmers’ market operator fees and enforcement provisions of direct marketing to January 1, 2018. *Signed into law. Chapter 409, Statutes of 2013.*

### **AB 1038 (Pan)**

### **Milk products: California Dairy Future Task Force**

This bill codifies the California Dairy Future Task Force, encourages the secretary of the California Department of Food and Agriculture to engage the Task Force to develop recommendations that would achieve long-term success and sustainability for the dairy industry, and directs the Task Force to address specified issues and report recommendations by July 1, 2014. This bill also appropriates funding for administration and activities of the Task Force from existing industry assessments. *This bill is on the Assembly Inactive File.*

**AB 1132 (Eggman)****Agriculture: livestock drugs and commercial feed**

This bill increases both the livestock drug license application fee and late payment fee to \$50, authorizes the secretary of the California Department of Food and Agriculture to establish hazard analysis and preventive control measures for all commercial feed, and extends the sunset date for commercial feed license fees, inspection tonnage tax, and provisions regarding the inspection tonnage tax to January 1, 2020. *Signed into law. Chapter 622, Statutes of 2013.*

**AB 1319 (Eggman)****Agriculture**

This bill eliminates state indemnity compensation for the slaughter of brucellosis-positive cattle and provides equal compensation to owners of reacting (diseased) and non-reacting (exposed) cattle slaughtered for the purpose of brucellosis eradication. This bill also adds the secretary of the California Department of Food and Agriculture to the Strategic Growth Council. *Signed into law. Chapter 623, Statutes of 2013.*

**AB 1388 (Assembly Agriculture Committee)****Horses: test verification, horse shows, competitions, and sales**

This bill amends testing requirements for equine infectious anemia, makes changes to the Equine Medication Monitoring Program by redefining horse events and horse sales subject to this chapter, and transfers the approved medication list and maximum acceptable drug levels in horses from statute to departmental regulation. *Signed into law. Chapter 116, Statutes of 2013.*

**AB 1389 (Assembly Agriculture Committee)****Agriculture**

This bill amends the number of members appointed to the Shell Egg Advisory Committee and allows for the San Joaquin Valley Quality Cotton District to become inoperative, as specified. This bill also amends the California Asparagus Commission to remove the use of geographical districts, consecutive term limits for members, and deletes provisions allowing the commission to function as a corporation. *Signed into law. Chapter 383, Statutes of 2013.*

**AB 1390 (Assembly Agriculture Committee)****Milk products: pasteurization: goat milk**

This bill allows licensed milk products plants to import pasteurized goat milk cheese curd from separate, off-site licensed milk products plants or similar food facilities registered with the U.S. Food and Drug Administration for the purposes of goat milk cheese manufacturing. *Signed into law. Chapter 107, Statutes of 2013.*

**AB 1414 (Assembly Accountability &  
Administrative Review Committee)**

**Weights and measures: annual report**

---

This bill would require the California Department of Food and Agriculture to post to its website an annual report regarding weights and measures. This report is currently required to be provided to the governor. *This bill is awaiting hearing in Senate Committee on Agriculture.*

## **Informational Hearings**

### **Committee on Agriculture Hearing**

**11/04/13      The Federal Food Safety Modernization Act: Impact of the Proposed Produce Rule on California On-Farm Agricultural Production**

---

This hearing focused on issues relative to the impact that the federal proposed produce safety rule could have on California farms and farming practices, as well as discussed whether state laws and regulations would need to be amended to ensure compliance with the new rule.

*This hearing was held at the Stockton City Hall in Stockton, California.*

### **Subcommittee on Invasive Species Hearing**

**05/09/13      Aquatic Invasive Weeds in the Delta: Impact and Control**

---

This hearing examined the status of invasive weeds that are of significant threat to Delta waterways and discussed current management tools that may be used for invasive weed control.

*This hearing was held at the Stockton State Building in Stockton, California.*