

Senate Committee on Agriculture

Senator Cathleen Galgiani, Chair

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2015 Legislative Summary

(2015-2016 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 2015 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 27 (Hill)

Livestock: use of antimicrobial drugs

This bill restricts the use of medically important antimicrobial drugs in livestock for specified purposes, requires a veterinarian's prescription or feed directive for use, and eliminates the over-the-counter availability of these drugs; requires the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) to, in coordination with federal programs and agencies, develop a program to track antimicrobial drug use in livestock and the emergence of antimicrobial-resistant bacteria; and requires CDFA to develop antimicrobial stewardship guidelines and best management practices on the proper use of these drugs. *Signed into law. Chapter 758, Statutes of 2015.*

SB 65 (Wolk)

Food labeling: olive oil

This bill removes the use of American Viticultural Areas from olive oil labels and instead uses specific regions or estates within California to indicate oil source. This bill requires that olive oil labeled as originating from a specific region of California contain at least 85% oil made from olives grown in that specified region and if labeled from a specific estate, 95% from olives grown on the specified estate. *Signed into law. Chapter 138, Statutes of 2015.*

SB 367 (Wolk)

Agricultural lands: greenhouse gases

This bill would recast and expand the membership and duties of the California Department of Food and Agriculture's (CDFA) Science Advisory Panel on Environmental Farming to include on-farm practices to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and increase carbon storage in soil. This bill would appropriate \$25 million from the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund to CDFA for the establishment of a new grant program to support these activities. This bill would also appropriate 2% of the proceeds from this fund to the Strategic Growth Council's Sustainable Agricultural Lands Conservation Program to also address on-farm reductions of greenhouse gases and increased carbon storage. *Held in the Assembly Appropriations Committee.*

SB 699 (McGuire)

Food banks: Food Bank Advisory Committee

This bill would expand the duties of the Food Bank Advisory Committee and provide clarifying and nonsubstantive changes. *This bill is awaiting hearing in the Senate Committee on Agriculture.*

SB 740 (McGuire)

California Marketing Act of 1937: marketing orders: notice

This bill would have required the secretary of the California Department of Food and Agriculture to post on the department's internet website any specified changes to a marketing order or marketing agreement. *This bill was later amended and all agriculture-related provisions removed.*

SB 770 (Mendoza)

Department of Food and Agriculture: medicated feed

This bill requires the California Department of Food and Agriculture to continue to be the primary regulatory agency responsible for regulating medicated feed. *Signed into law. Chapter 806, Statutes of 2015.*

Assembly Bills

AB 20 (Alejo)

Undocumented workers: California Agricultural Act

This bill would enact the California Agricultural Act to create a model program to provide undocumented agricultural employees with a permit to work and live in California and direct the state Employment Development Department and the California Department of Food and Agriculture to convene a working group to consult with the federal government and other stakeholders on how to best implement this program. *Held in the Senate Appropriations Committee.*

AB 264 (Dahle)

Farm products: processors: produce dealers: seeds

This bill removes seeds from the definition of “farm product” under market enforcement provisions regarding produce dealers, thus removing seed dealers from these provisions. This bill retains a provision regarding the use of product liens for seed owned and grown by a seed producer and sold to a seed dealer under contract. This bill adds to the California Seed Law the authority for the California Department of Food and Agriculture to establish methods and procedures to settle disputes regarding financial terms and lack of payment by a seed dealer to a seed grower. *Signed into law. Chapter 294, Statutes of 2015.*

AB 315 (Bigelow)

Fairs: annual reports and expenditures

This bill would have repealed the requirement that the California Department of Food and Agriculture spend \$100,000 for specified exhibits located at the fair and \$15,000 for a conference of fair exhibit judges. *This bill was later amended and all agriculture-related provisions removed.*

AB 629 (Perea)

Market milk: stabilization and marketing plans: minimum prices

This bill would require the secretary of the California Department of Food and Agriculture to ensure that milk producers and handlers receive a notice of monthly milk component prices. *This bill is awaiting hearing in the Senate Committee on Agriculture.*

AB 655 (Quirk)

Rendering: inedible kitchen grease: registration fee: additional fees

This bill would increase the registration fee and other additional fees charged by the California Department of Food and Agriculture to cover administrative costs associated with the transportation of inedible kitchen grease and would authorize the department to raise specified

**AB 958 (Assembly Agriculture Committee) Agriculture: California Avocado
Commission: California Salmon Council**

This bill changes the membership and district reapportionment of the California Avocado Commission; requires the secretary of the California Department of Food and Agriculture to hold a referendum vote to include salmon handlers on the California Salmon Council (CSC), as specified; and provides for CSC implementation procedures, membership, and other conforming changes should the referendum affirm handler participation. *Signed into law. Chapter 307, Statutes of 2015.*

**AB 1039 (Assembly Agriculture Committee) Fertilizing materials: violations: administrative
penalty: filing of final judgement**

This bill removes the authority of the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) to levy a civil penalty against a person in violation of provisions relating to fertilizer and instead authorizes CDFA to levy an administrative penalty. This bill authorizes CDFA to file the department's final decision directing payment of an administrative penalty and, if applicable, an order denying a petition for a writ of administrative mandamus with the county court clerk who shall enter judgement immediately and at no cost. *Signed into law. Chapter 227, Statutes of 2015.*

AB 1135 (Assembly Agriculture Committee) Agricultural products

This bill would have reimbursed the secretary of the California Department of Food and Agriculture for all, rather than only reasonable, expenditures incurred in carrying out duties in regards to citrus pest and disease prevention and would have added "cultivated mushrooms" and "herbs" to the list of products that cannot be sold in areas in proximity to a certified farmers' market. *This bill was withdrawn from the Senate Committee on Agriculture after amendments removed all agriculture-related provisions.*

AB 1259 (Levine) Bees: apiculture: state-owned lands

This bill requires the Department of Fish and Wildlife to consider authorizing, rather than permitting, apiculture on department-managed wildlife areas; allows the department to temporarily authorize the placement of beehives on these lands through simple lease or permit agreements that are not subject to competitive bidding; and makes findings and declarations. This bill contains an urgency clause. *Signed into law. Chapter 380, Statutes of 2015.*

AB 1321 (Ting)

Nutrition Incentive Matching Grant Program

This bill establishes the Nutrition Incentive Matching Grant Program in the Office of Farm to Fork within the California Department of Food and Agriculture to encourage the purchase and consumption of fresh fruits, nuts, and vegetables by connecting farmers with food assistance recipients. *Signed into law. Chapter 442, Statutes of 2015.*

AB 1363 (Salas)

Animals: estrays: alpacas, llamas, and goats

This bill adds alpacas, llamas, and goats to the definition of “estrays”; adds sheep, swine, alpacas, llamas, and goats to the list of animals that require a poundkeeper or public animal control agency or shelter to immediately notify the secretary of the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) upon impoundment; and requires CDFA to take possession of that animal. *Signed into law. Chapter 444, Statutes of 2015.*

Informational Hearings

Committee on Agriculture Hearing

12/03/15

Impacts of the Drought on Agriculture

This hearing focused on issues relative to the impact of the prolonged four-year drought on California agriculture and the surrounding communities and what measures are or can be taken to mitigate the effects of the drought. This hearing also provided an update of state programs and activities to assist sustainable water use on farms, discussed the multiplier effects of the drought on agricultural communities such as schools and farmworkers, and discussed current adaptation strategies and changes in farming practices in response to water availability and conservation. *This hearing was held at the State Capitol in Sacramento, California.*

Subcommittee on Invasive Species Hearing

03/27/15

**An Evaluation of Strategies to Eradicate and Control
Aquatic Invasive Weeds in the Delta**

This hearing evaluated the effectiveness of invasive weed control and mitigation strategies currently underway in the Sacramento–San Joaquin River Delta. Of specific concern was water hyacinth, a highly prolific weed that obstructs waterways and marinas, damages natural ecosystems, creates human health and safety hazards, and consumes valuable water resources. Witnesses included local, state, and federal government officials who provided testimony as to the current activities underway by their respective entities, as well as local business owners who represented the Port of Stockton and impacted marinas. *This hearing was held at the San Joaquin County Administration Building in Stockton, California.*