

# **Senate Committee on Agriculture**

**Senator Andreas Borgeas, Chair**

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## **2021-2022 Legislative Summary**

### **Introduction**

This publication provides a comprehensive list of bills referred to the Senate Committee on Agriculture during the 2021-2022 Legislative Session.

This report is intended to provide a quick reference to bills considered by the Committee and is not intended to provide a comprehensive analysis of the bill. Each summary includes the final status of the bill. Bills the Legislature passed and the Governor signed into law include the chapter reference.

If you would like additional information about a particular bill 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 Legislature also maintains a website where all bills and analyses are readily available. This website can be accessed at <http://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/>.

## Senate Bills

### **SB 235 (Allen)**

### **Industrial hemp products.**

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This bill establishes a regulatory structure in the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) for food, beverage and cosmetic products containing industrial hemp, and limits these products to containing no more than 0.3% concentration of tetrahydrocannabinol. This bill requires industrial hemp product manufacturers to register with CDPH, and requires industrial hemp to be tested prior to it being incorporated as an ingredient into a product.

*Died on the Senate Inactive File.*

### **SB 292 (Wilk)**

### **Industrial hemp.**

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This bill conforms current state law to the United States Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Interim Final Rule regarding reporting and testing of industrial hemp in the United States.

*Signed into law. Chapter 485, Statutes of 2021.*

### **SB 453 (Hurtado)**

### **California State University Agricultural Research Institute grant program: Agricultural Biosecurity Fund.**

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This bill creates the Agricultural Biosecurity Fund, to be continuously appropriated to the California State University Agricultural Research Institute to establish and administer a grant program for the purpose of supporting research on biosecurity related to agriculture. This bill states that all research grants shall be awarded to campuses of the California State University associated with the California State University Agricultural Research Institute, including, but not limited to, California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo; California State Polytechnic University, Pomona; California State University, Chico; California State University, Fresno; California State University, Humboldt; and California State University, Monterey Bay.

*Signed into law. Chapter 386, Statutes of 2021.*

### **SB 489 (Laird)**

### **Pest control: Agricultural Pest Control Advisory Committee.**

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As passed by this committee, this bill would have increased the public members on the Agricultural Pest Control Advisory Committee within the California Department of Pesticide Regulation from one to two members.

*Agriculture provisions removed by Assembly amendments of 6/13/22..*

**SB 547 (Glazer)**

**Animals: emergency response:  
California Veterinary  
Emergency Team Program.**

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This bill requires the University of California, Davis, School of Veterinary Medicine to establish the California Veterinary Emergency Team program to assist in the coordination and training of a network of government agencies, nongovernmental organizations, and individuals to assist in the evacuation and care of household and domestic animals and livestock in emergencies. This bill requires the program to conduct or support research on best practices for the evacuation and care of the animals in disasters. Lastly, this bill requires the University, the secretary of the Department of Food and Agriculture, and the director of Emergency Services to develop a memorandum of understanding for the university to consult with the secretary and director regarding the coordination of the program's activities with the state's disaster response practices.

*Died in Assembly Higher Education Committee without a hearing. (Double referred: Assembly Agriculture and Assembly Higher Education.*

**SB 703 (Hurtado)**

**Diseased animals: laboratory  
services.**

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This bill allows the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) to establish laboratory certification standards for laboratories analyzing samples obtained from California livestock and poultry for the purpose of detecting conditions that would trigger a regulatory animal health response. This bill allows CDFA to collect an application or renewal fee from an applicant, which CDFA could adjust to cover its reasonable costs to implement laboratory certification requirements. Finally, this bill exempts those laboratories that already comply with existing state and federal laws.

*Signed into law. Chapter 495, Statutes of 2021.*

**SB 815 (Agriculture Committee)**

**Meat processing establishment,  
custom livestock slaughterhouse,  
and poultry plants: licensing  
and inspectors.**

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This bill deletes the sunset provisions in current law that allow the California Department of Food and Agriculture to collect fees for initial licensing and renewal of licenses for livestock meat inspectors, poultry meat inspectors, and processing inspectors, and extends the repeal of these licensing fees and inspectors' fee provisions until January 1, 2027.

*Signed into law. Chapter 392, Statutes of 2021.*

**SB 907 (Pan)**

**Electronic benefits transfer systems:  
farmers' markets.**

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This bill establishes the Local, Equitable Access to Food (LEAF) Program to scale and improve electronic benefits transfer (EBT) processes at existing certified farmers' markets and tribal farmers' markets, establishes EBT access at new certified markets in under-served, low-income communities, and develops education and outreach efforts to local communities.

*Signed into law. Chapter 605, Statutes of 2022.*

**SB 982 (Laird)**

**California Apple Commission: organic  
apple certification program.**

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This bill authorizes the California Apple Commission to establish an organic apple certification program applicable to persons engaged in domestic organic production or processing of apples and to persons engaged in importing apples to determine whether they are in compliance with state and federal laws.

*Signed into law. Chapter 224, Statutes of 2022.*

**SB 1029 (Hurtado)**

**One Health Program: zoonotic diseases.**

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This bill requires the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) and the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) to jointly establish a framework and administer the One Health Program to reduce the spread of disease from animals to humans.

*Signed into law. Chapter 990, Statutes of 2022.*

**SB 1084 (Hurtado)**

**Agricultural land: foreign ownership  
and interests: foreign governments.**

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This bill prohibits a foreign government from purchasing, acquiring, or holding an interest in agricultural land within the state of California and requires the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) to compile data from the United States Secretary of Agriculture pertaining to foreign governments that acquire or transfer any interest in agricultural land in California. This bill requires CDFA to compile data on foreign ownership of water rights, foreign ownership of water desalination facilities, and foreign ownership of energy production, storage, or distribution facilities in California, and to annually report this information to the governor and the Assembly and Senate committees on agriculture.

*Vetoed by the Governor.*

**SB 1239 (Wieckowski)**

**Inedible kitchen grease: biofuels:  
transporter exemption.**

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This bill authorizes a business entity to contract with a biofuel company to collect inedible kitchen grease from that business and exempts that biofuel company from any fees associated with transporting inedible kitchen grease.

*Died in Senate Agriculture Committee without a hearing.*

**SB 1308 (Caballero)**

**Public educational institutions:  
purchase of nondomestic  
agricultural food products.**

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This bill requires school districts to purchase agricultural products grown in California before accepting a bid or price for a domestic (within the United States) agricultural product that is grown outside of California unless the bid or price of the California-grown agricultural product exceeds the lowest bid or price of the domestic agricultural product produced outside the state by 25%. This bill prohibits the California Community Colleges, California State University, and all local educational agencies, and encourages the University of California, to refrain from purchasing agricultural products grown, packed, or processed non-domestically unless the price of the non-domestic product is more than 25% lower than the bid or price of the domestic product and the quality of the product is comparable to the product grown in California.

*Died in Assembly Education Committee without a hearing.*

**SB 1499 (Agriculture Committee)**

**Department of Food and Agriculture:  
Department of Agriculture Building  
Fund.**

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This bill clarifies and conforms the existing mechanism for transferring money into the Department of Agriculture Building Fund. This bill specifies the building fund appropriation would be made annually through the budget act rather than as a continuous appropriation, conforming to existing practice. The bill clarifies that the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) may lease or rent out space within a building acquired by them, which is current practice, subject to approval of the Department of General Services (DGS). Finally, the bill eliminates the requirement that DGS assume control of a facility that is constructed or acquired by CDFA.

*Signed into law. Chapter 198, Statutes of 2022.*

**SR 57 (Caballero)**

**School meals.**

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This resolution expresses the Senate's support for Buy American requirements for all school food purchases and calls upon the 117th Congress to help the United States Department of Agriculture meet its obligations under the President's executive order and to minimize exceptions and maximize domestic procurement in the upcoming reauthorization of the Child Nutrition Act.

*Died in Senate Agriculture Committee without a hearing.*

## Assembly Bills

### **AB 45 (Aguiar-Curry)**

### **Industrial hemp products.**

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This bill establishes a regulatory structure in the California Department of Public Health for food, beverage and cosmetic products containing industrial hemp, and limits these products to containing no more than 0.3% concentration of tetrahydrocannabinol.

*Signed into law. Chapter 576, Statutes of 2021.*

### **AB 350 (Villapudua)**

### **Agriculture: Cannella Environmental Farming Act of 1995: technical assistance grant program: groundwater conservation planning.**

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This bill requires, upon appropriation of funds, the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) to establish and administer a 3-year grant program to fund technical assistance to support landowners located in a critically overdrafted basin, as defined, in reaching water use reduction goals established pursuant to the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act. This bill specifies the grant program shall prioritize grants for socially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers and farmers and ranchers in disadvantaged communities. This bill also allows CDFA to award a grant to one or more technical assistance provider in each critically overdrafted basin.

*Died on the Senate Inactive File.*

### **AB 391 (Villapudua)**

### **Pollinator habitat conservation: funding.**

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This bill allocates \$5 million from the General Fund to the California Department of Food and Agriculture to partner with others to provide technical assistance, outreach, and provide grants to incentivize growers to participate in state and federal conservation programs that integrate pollinator habitat and forage on working lands.

*Died on the Assembly Inactive File after passing the Senate.*

### **AB 425 (Mathis)**

### **Milk and other dairy products: Dairy Council of California Law: producer-handlers.**

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This bill makes changes to the laws that govern the Dairy Council of California and dairy marketing provisions.

*Signed into law. Chapter 371, Statutes of 2021.*

**AB 535 (Aguiar-Curry)**

**Olive oil: labeling.**

This bill requires a container of olive oil produced, processed, sold, offered for sale, given away, or possessed in California that includes “California” in any form on its principal display panel and contains olive oil derived from olives grown outside California to disclose the minimum percentage of olive oil in the container derived from olives grown in California.

*Signed into law. Chapter 466, Statutes of 2021.*

**AB 623 (Agriculture Committee)**

**State designated fairs: district  
agricultural associations:  
farmers’ markets: California  
Apple Commission.**

This bill, the Assembly Committee on Agriculture’s omnibus bill, clarifies that the nine directors of a fair board association shall complete all mandatory forms and training within “90 days of the relevant form or training requirement or the expiration of the effective period of the form or training.” Additionally, this bill changes the period of time a certified farmers’ market certificate is valid from 12 months to up to 12 months and makes other conforming and technical changes. Finally, this bill allows the California Apple Commission to lower the number of California Apple Commission districts to match the lower number of apple producers in the state.

*Signed into law. Chapter 374, Statutes of 2021.*

**AB 710 (E. Garcia)**

**Sale of listed agricultural  
products: requirements  
for sale.**

This bill, as amended in Senate Business, Professions, and Economic Development Committee, requires that a grower or producer selling specified agricultural products use a self-attestation form developed by the California Food and Agriculture Department (CDFA) to demonstrate compliance with applicable California environmental, health, and labor laws, among other things.

*Failed passage in Senate Business, Professions and Economic Development Committee. (Double referred: Senate Business, Professions & Economic Development and Senate Agriculture.)*

**AB 719 (Agriculture Committee)**

**Bees.**

This bill updates portions of the Apiary Protection Act, primarily by changing the makeup of the Apiary Advisory Board, revising definitions and updating provisions.

*Signed into law. Chapter 683, Statutes of 2022.*

**AB 778 (E. Garcia)**

**Institutional purchasers:  
purchase of California-  
grown agricultural  
food products.**

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This bill requires a California state-owned or state-run institution that purchases agricultural food products to implement necessary practices to achieve a goal of ensuring that at least 60% of the agricultural food products it purchases in a calendar year are grown or produced in the state by December 31, 2025, as specified.

*Signed into law. Chapter 576, Statutes of 2022.*

**AB 888 (Levine)**

**Mobile slaughter operations:  
livestock.**

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This bill provides an exemption from animal slaughter inspections for a mobile slaughter operator who provides services to an owner of livestock, where the slaughter occurs on the premises of the person who raised the livestock.

*Signed into law. Chapter 378, Statutes of 2021.*

**AB 1009 (Bloom)**

**Farm to Community Food Hub  
Program.**

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This bill establishes the Farm to Community Food Hub Program to be administered by the Office of Farm to Fork within the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA). This bill authorizes CDFA to consult with outside entities who possess expertise in specified areas. Specifies that the program would provide incentives to schools and other institutions to purchase local, environmentally sustainable, climate-adaptation friendly, and equitably produced food. This bill requires the secretary of CDFA to establish the Farm to Community Food Hub Advisory Committee for the purpose of advising the secretary on education, outreach, and technical assistance for the program.

*Signed into law. Chapter 608, Statutes of 2021.*

**AB 1103 (M. Dahle)**

**Agricultural lands: livestock  
producers: managerial  
employees: livestock pass  
program: disaster access to  
ranch lands.**

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This bill establishes within a county a livestock pass program (Livestock Pass) for the purpose of issuing identification documents granting any qualifying livestock producer or managerial employee, as defined, to the producer's ranch property during or following a natural disaster.

*Signed into law. Chapter 609, Statutes of 2021.*



**AB 1282 (Bloom)**

**Veterinary medicine: blood banks for animals.**

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This bill establishes guidelines for veterinarians to operate community blood banks for animals that source blood from animals volunteered by their owners. This bill establishes conditions on which captive closed-colony canine blood banks would be eliminated. This bill allows the importation of animal blood from out-of-state blood banks that comply with California standards. This bill provides implementation requirements for the Veterinary Medical Board and the California Department of Food and Agriculture.

*Signed into law. Chapter 752, Statutes of 2021.*

**AB 1362 (Carrillo)**

**Secretary of Food and Agriculture: cooperative Agreements: agricultural inspector services.**

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This bill allows the secretary of the California Department of Food and Agriculture to enter into cooperative agreements with Los Angeles County for agricultural inspection services even if 75% or more of the county's agricultural inspector associates are not granted permanent civil service employee protections.

*Signed into law. Chapter 381, Statutes of 2021.*

**AB 1825 (Agriculture Committee)**

**Fruit, nut, and vegetable standards: out-of-state processing.**

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This bill exempts the transportation of melons and vegetables in field bins or bulk to out-of-state processing and packing plants that are in an adjacent state from California's fruits, nuts, and vegetable standards.

*Signed into law. Chapter 178, Statutes of 2022.*

**AB 1959 (Agriculture Committee)**

**Food and agriculture: omnibus bill.**

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This bill deletes the sunset clause in the law that allows the use of carbon monoxide for the control of burrowing rodent pests, adds conforming privacy protection to recent updates to the Food and Agricultural Code related to the federal Food Safety Modernization Act, and adds integrated pest management course work for the Department of Pesticide Regulation's program and examination for various pest control applications and licenses.

*Signed into law. Chapter 254, Statutes of 2022.*

**AB 2487 (Gray)**

**Fairs: district agricultural associations: sponsorship fees.**

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This bill authorizes a district agricultural association to pay sponsorship fees and join and participate in affairs of any similar organization that deals with subjects related to the powers and duties of the association.

*Died on the Senate Inactive File.*

**AB 2499 (Maienschein)**

**Organic products sector: Organic Transition Pilot Program.**

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This bill requires the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) to develop and oversee an Organic Transition Pilot Program, as specified. Additionally, the bill (1) requires CDFA to provide incentives to socially-disadvantaged farmer or rancher applicants, as specified; (2) requires CDFA to submit a report on the outcome of the pilot program to the Legislature and post that report on CDFA's website on or before January 1, 2025; and (3) requires the Governor's Office of Business and Economic Development (GO-Biz) to conduct a comprehensive statewide market analysis of the total economic impacts of California's organic products sector on or before July 1, 2024.

*Died in Senate Appropriations Committee, held on the Suspense File.*

**AB 2964 (Agriculture Committee)**

**Agricultural land conservation: California Farmland Conservancy Program Act.**

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This bill revises and recasts provisions of the California Farmland Conservation Program Act (CFCP) under the California Department of Conservation to, among other things, authorizes the CFCP to offer financial aid for projects and activities on agricultural lands that support conservation and sustainable land management, revises requirements on the department before disbursing funding under the program, and authorizes any interest earned on moneys from federal grants and gifts and donations to the CFCP to be deposited into the California Farmland Conservancy Program Fund.

*Signed into law. Chapter 502, Statutes of 2022.*

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