

# Senate Committee on Agriculture

Senator Andreas Borgeas, Chair

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

## 2021 Legislative Summary

(2021-2022 Session)

### Introduction

This publication provides a comprehensive list of bills referred to the Senate Committee on Agriculture as well as a brief synopsis of the oversight and informational hearings held during the 2021 legislative year.

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 also include their chapter references.

The Committee keeps a record of all oversight and informational hearings held during the year. The record includes the hearing agenda, background materials developed by Committee staff, testimony, and supporting materials submitted by witnesses. In addition, oversight and informational hearings are generally audio and/or video recorded. Those recordings are posted on the Senate's website at <http://senate.ca.gov/media-archive>.

If you would like additional information about a particular bill or oversight 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 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.

*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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This bill increases the public members on the Agricultural Pest Control Advisory Committee within the California Department of Pesticide Regulation from one to two members.

*Re-referred to Assembly Rules Committee by Assembly Agriculture Committee pursuant to Assembly Rule 96.*

**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.

*Awaiting hearing in Assembly Higher Education Committee. Double referred: Agriculture and 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.*

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.

*Awaiting hearing in Senate Agriculture Committee.*

**Assembly Bills**

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.*

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.

*On the Senate Inactive File.*

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.

*Passed by the Senate. Placed on the Assembly Inactive File.*

**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.**

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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.**

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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.**

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This bill prohibits a vendor from selling a listed agricultural product produced in the state or outside of the state to a retailer unless the product was produced in compliance with specified California health and environmental protection laws and labor laws.

*Awaiting hearing in Senate Business, Professions and Economic Development Committee.  
Double referred: Business, Professions & Economic Development and Agriculture.*

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

*On the Senate Inactive File.*

**AB 778 (E. Garcia)**

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

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This bill expands the current law requirement that all state-owned or state-run institutions that purchase agricultural food products to only purchase California grown or produced products to include public universities and colleges and school districts.

*Awaiting hearing in Senate Governmental Organization Committee. Double referred: Governmental Organization and Agriculture.*

**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.*

## **Oversight and Informational Hearings**

No oversight or informational hearing was held in 2021.