



Legislative Update

February 24, 2026

Week Five (February 16-20, 2026)

We are in the home stretch of the 2026 General Session of the Utah State Legislature. We have two weeks left, and there are over 970 bills drafted and available for consideration.

Appropriations Update

Last week, the Executive Appropriations Committee received reports from the appropriations subcommittees as they continue to finish their work. Utah Farm Bureau was pleased to see several key agricultural priorities receive strong consideration. The Natural Resources, Agriculture, and Environmental Quality Appropriations Subcommittee listed the Utah FFA Association and FFA Teacher Mentor position request for \$695,300 ongoing as priority number 1 in the subcommittee's funding request priority list. The subcommittee listed the Utah Department of Agriculture and Food's request for \$1 million in one-time funding for the Agriculture Voluntary Incentive Program (AGVIP) at number 16.

One other request for appropriations that we are monitoring closely is [Rep. Carl Albrecht's](#) request for additional funding for the [Utah State University Extension Rural E-Commerce Accelerator](#). This program helps small businesses, especially those in rural and agricultural communities, build and expand their online presence through hands-on technical assistance and digital marketing support. So far, the program has achieved the following successes:

- 50 total completions
- 39 agricultural completions
- 36 active sites producing revenue
- Over \$1 million in new revenue generated (\$1,086,826)
- More than 90 participants are currently queued for training

If you have participated in the program and benefited from it, or if you are in line to take part, or you simply see the potential for rural ag businesses by supporting this program, we would encourage you to contact your legislators and ask them to support funding for the program. You can find contact information for your legislators by typing in your address on this [page](#).

H.B. 483 Flower Sales Modifications

On February 18, Utah Farm Bureau testified before the House Political Subdivisions Committee in support of [H.B. 483, Flower Sales Modifications](#), sponsored by [Rep. Doug Owens](#). This bill helps small and micro cut-flower businesses by clarifying that if a city allows a resident to grow flowers on their property, the city must also allow them to sell the flowers they produce. In some communities, local ordinances have created barriers by requiring home occupation businesses to operate entirely within the dwelling or by prohibiting "commercial agriculture" in residential zones, even when growing flowers is permitted. H.B. 483 addresses these inconsistencies by ensuring that local governments cannot deny the ability to sell cut flowers solely because

they are grown at a residence or located in a residential zone, while still allowing municipalities to require a business license. This provides needed clarity and protection for small-scale growers seeking to market the products they raise on their own property. You can watch Farm Bureau's testimony by clicking [here](#).



Photo Credit: Daniel Burton

[HB 378 Fugitive Dust Mitigation Amendments](#)

On Thursday, Utah Farm Bureau again testified in support of [H.B. 378, Fugitive Dust Mitigation Amendments](#), sponsored by [Rep. Stephanie Gricius](#), this time before the Senate Business and Labor Committee. The bill authorizes the Division of Air Quality to impose an aggregate compliance fee up to certain amounts on a covered facility to support additional inspectors and inspections, and requires covered facilities to post informational signage that is clearly visible so that members of the public know who to contact at the site to share concerns about fugitive dust. Utah Farm Bureau will continue working with the bill sponsor and aggregate companies to find more ways to mitigate fugitive dust, which has been negatively impacting our fruit-growing regions. You can listen to Utah Farm Bureau's testimony by clicking [here](#).

Policy Resources

As the session continues, please remember that you can follow priority legislation through the Utah Farm Bureau Legislative Tracker, available under the ["Policy & Action"](#) tab on our website. The 2026 Policy Book is also now online, and you can read it by clicking [here](#). You can find your state representative and senator by typing your address in the search bar on this [page](#).

As always, we encourage you to actively send our policy team questions or comments on topics of concern.

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