



# Legislative Update

**March 3, 2025**

Today marks the final week of the 2025 General Session of the Utah State Legislature. As one of our favorite quotes goes, “All’s well that ends.” With just one week remaining, critical decisions are still being made that will significantly impact agriculture. Over the past six weeks, we have closely monitored and actively participated in discussions on key issues affecting farmers and ranchers across Utah. Our final update next week will provide a comprehensive overview of the session’s outcomes.

On **Monday**, February 24, the Utah Farm Bureau Federation (UFBF) testified before the House Natural Resources, Agriculture, and Environment Committee in support of [H.B. 510, Agricultural Amendments](#), sponsored by [Rep. Jennifer Dailey-Provost](#) and [Sen. David Hinkins](#). This bill requires the Utah Department of Agriculture and Food (UDAF) to study barriers and gaps in increasing the availability of local food within the state. The study will examine key areas such as the intrastate food supply chain, crop production and optimization, the agricultural workforce, and capital funding for local food production. It will also explore regulatory burdens on local food systems. Additionally, the research will assess production costs, economic impacts for agricultural operators, and opportunities for modernizing equipment or incorporating alternative crops. Findings and recommendations will be reported to the Natural Resources, Agriculture, and Environment Interim Committee by June 2026. You can re-watch the hearing by clicking [here](#).

That same morning, UFBF also testified before the House Transportation Committee in support of [S.B. 113, Traffic Code Amendments](#), sponsored by [Sen. Scott Sandall](#) and [Rep. Scott Chew](#). This bill establishes a rebuttable presumption of driver negligence in cases involving range stock drifting onto highways near their customary ranges. This bill is valuable for Utah ranchers as it will improve ranchers’ ability to recover damages when livestock are injured or killed in collisions with vehicles. You can re-watch the hearing by clicking [here](#).



Wade Garrett, Utah Farm Bureau Federation VP of Advocacy & Strategic Relations

On **Tuesday**, February 25, UFBF attended the Senate Natural Resources, Agriculture, and Environment Committee to testify in support of [H.B. 421, Grazing Amendments](#), sponsored by [Rep. Logan Monson](#) and [Sen. Scott Sandall](#). This bill adds a new requirement for the Division of Wildlife Resources before purchasing or acquiring a grazing permit. Under this legislation, the Division must obtain approval from three entities: the local land use authority, the Department of Natural Resources, and the Department of Agriculture and Food. The bill also includes a provision that if these entities do not deny the request within 60 days of submission, the Division may consider it approved. This additional layer of oversight will help to protect grazing permits in Utah by ensuring that multiple stakeholders have input on the acquisition process. You can re-watch the hearing by clicking [here](#).

The next day, **Wednesday**, February 26, UFBF once again testified on [H.B. 240, Urban Farming Assessment Amendments](#), sponsored by [Rep. Rex Shipp](#) and [Sen. Keven Stratton](#), before the Senate Revenue and Taxation Committee. This bill modifies the Urban Farming Assessment Act to allow qualification based on gross sales, not just agricultural production. It also ensures that farms that may have a temporary setback in meeting timing requirements can still qualify based on prior sales. The bill also simplifies the application process by removing the need for annual renewal applications, reducing administrative burdens on both farmers and county assessors. We are optimistic that these changes will help small urban farms and encourage more local food production. You can re-watch the hearing by clicking [here](#).



On **Thursday**, February 27, UFBF was present at the Senate Natural Resources, Agriculture, and Environment Committee to testify in support of two bills. The first was [H.B. 202, Private Landowner Big Game Revisions](#), sponsored by [Rep. Carl Albrecht](#) and [Sen. Evan Vickers](#). This bill makes significant changes to Utah's big game hunting regulations, particularly benefiting agricultural producers and private landowners. The bill establishes a new landowner draw system for bull elk vouchers, allowing landowners with at least 640 contiguous acres of private land within a limited entry elk unit to participate. This system allocates an additional 5% of limited entry bull permits to the landowner draw, providing more hunting opportunities on private lands. Landowners with 4,000–8,999 contiguous acres may qualify for up to two additional bull elk vouchers annually. The bill also addresses landowner associations, creating a program

that incentivizes private landowners to manage their land as quality habitat for public wildlife while increasing hunting opportunities and reducing depredation issues. These changes are valuable to agriculture and private landowners as they offer economic incentives for wildlife management, help mitigate crop damage, and provide a balanced approach to managing public wildlife on private lands.

We also testified in support of [H.B. 346, Department of Agriculture and Food Amendments](#), sponsored by [Rep. Doug Welton](#) and [Sen. Mike McKell](#). As we have written previously, this bill mandates that an accountant annually review any department account containing proceeds from marketing orders, replacing the previous requirement for a full audit. This bill eases the financial oversight burden on Utah fruit and sheep marketing boards by requiring an annual “review” of their accounts instead of an unnecessary and costly “audit”. You can re-watch the hearing by clicking [here](#).

As always, we encourage you to actively send our policy team questions or comments on topics of concern. We will provide a comprehensive recap of the 2025 General Session next week, including appropriations priorities. We remind you that our 2025 Utah Farm Bureau Federation Policy Book is online and can be found [here](#). We also encourage you to visit our website, where you can view our [bill tracker](#).

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