



Legislative Update

February 24, 2025

It was wonderful to see so many of you at our Utah Farm Bureau Federation (UFBF) Day on the Hill last Friday. We had a fantastic turnout, and many legislators joined us for our morning meeting and our “We are Utah Ag” showcase in the Rotunda. We received positive feedback and hope to keep the momentum going for the remainder of the 2025 General Session.



On Tuesday, February 18, the UFBF testified before the Senate Natural Resources, Agriculture, and Environment Committee on two bills that we previously supported before the House Natural Resources, Agriculture, and Environment Committee. The first, [H.B. 253, Agriculture and Food Amendments](#), sponsored by [Rep. Carl Albrecht](#) and [Sen. Don Ipson](#), makes several changes of interest to the Utah Farm Bureau. The bill expands the Veterinarian Loan Repayment Program by broadening the definition of a qualified veterinarian and allowing for more flexible practice requirements. Of note to agricultural water users, the bill modifies the Water Optimization Program to allow for a 75% cost-share for water optimization measurement, telemetry, or reporting projects. Additionally, the bill updates predator control fee timelines and allows for ten-year brand registrations. The bill also limits the ability of counties and municipalities to regulate the trading, selling, or transfer of livestock within their jurisdiction.

The UFBF also testified in support of [H.B. 342, Animal Composting Amendments](#), sponsored by [Rep. Mike Kohler](#) and [Sen. Derrin Owens](#). This bill redefines “commercial nonhazardous solid waste treatment, storage, or disposal facility” as it pertains to farm and ranch operations. The legislation clarifies that farms and ranches composting animal mortality or offal waste from processing facilities handling their livestock are not to be categorized as commercial facilities. This change offers advantages to both agricultural producers and processing facilities. It enables farms to effectively manage animal waste through composting methods, while simultaneously providing processors with an additional option for waste management. These changes support economic viability for processing facilities and enhance food processing capacity while fostering sustainable practices for farms and ranches. You can re-watch the hearing [here](#).

On Wednesday, February 19, the UFBF testified before the Senate Business and Labor Committee in support of [H.B. 138, Food Labeling Amendments](#), sponsored by [Rep. Neil Walter](#) and [Sen. Derrin Owens](#). We previously supported this bill in the House. This legislation focuses on the labeling requirements for

cultivated meat products and meat substitutes derived from plants or insects. It provides definitions for these terms and mandates clear labeling of foods containing such ingredients to ensure consumer awareness. The proposed bill closely aligns with the UFBF's recently adopted policy regarding the labeling of lab-grown meat products. You can re-watch the hearing [here](#).

In the afternoon, the House Business, Labor, and Commerce Committee once again considered [H.B. 214, Employer Verification Amendments](#), sponsored by [Rep. Neil Walter](#). The committee discussed the bill at a prior hearing before adjourning without taking action. The bill proposes significant changes to Utah's Private Employer Verification Act, including lowering the threshold for mandatory E-Verify use from employers with 150 or more employees to those with five or more employees, and introducing criminal penalties for using fraudulent identification for employment. A substitute discussed at the committee would have lowered the threshold from 150 to 15 and pushed the implementation date by 18 months to July 1, 2026. The UFBF once again testified in opposition, citing concerns about the impact on agricultural labor and food security. Rep. Tom Peterson proposed an amendment to increase the employee threshold from 15 to 50, which was approved. Despite this amendment, the committee ultimately decided to hold the bill by a close vote of 7-6-3. The UFBF is pleased the committee held the bill. Mandating the use of E-Verify without a workable guest worker program could have major consequences for agriculture. You can re-watch the debate [here](#).

On Friday, February 21, we hosted our annual UFBF Day on the Hill. It was fantastic to see so many of our members from around the state at the Capitol. We started the day off bright and early listening to UFBF President ValJay Rigby and CEO Spencer Gibbons present before the Rural Caucus. Later in the morning we heard from U.S. Reps. [Mike Kennedy](#) and [Celeste Maloy](#), [House Speaker Mike Schultz](#), State Reps. [Albrecht](#), [Snider](#), [Koford](#), [Nguyen](#), [Peck](#), [Monson](#), [Watkins](#), [Shipp](#), and state Sens. [Sandall](#), [Owens](#), and [Riebe](#). [Rep. Carl Albrecht](#) and [Sen. Derrin Owens](#) read citations recognizing the UFBF on the House and Senate Floor respectively. We also enjoyed a wonderful lunch in the Rotunda, surrounded by tables and booths from our industry partners showcasing agriculture in Utah. We hope you'll join us for UFBF Day on the Hill again in 2026.





Rep. Carl Albrecht with Sevier County Farm Bureau President Dustin Christensen



Sen. Jen Plumb with Mike Mower Senior Advisor to Gov. Cox



Rural Caucus Presentation



Rep. Logan Monson



U.S. Rep. Mike Kennedy (UT-03)



U.S. Rep. Celeste Maloy (UT-02)

As always, we encourage you to actively send our policy team questions or comments on topics of concern. Our 2025 Utah Farm Bureau Federation Policy Book is now 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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