



# Legislative Update

January 27, 2023

Today marks the end of week two of the 2023 Utah legislative session. We have seen swift action on several Farm Bureau priorities already. As we mentioned in the first update, we are regularly updating our [legislative tracker](#) under the policy section of our website ([UtahFarmBureau.org](http://UtahFarmBureau.org)), which provides further details for each specific bill. We also encourage you to read through the [2023 Utah Farm Bureau Policy Book](#) which can also be found under the policy section of our website.

On January 19, Farm Bureau testified before the Senate Natural Resources, Agriculture, and Environment Committee in support of [S.B. 53, Groundwater Use Amendments](#) (Sen. Vickers), [S.B. 61, Livestock Collision Amendments](#) (Sen. Owens), and [S.B. 76, Water Amendments](#) (Sen. Sandall). We also shared our concerns regarding certain provisions in [S.B. 62, Hydrogen Amendments](#) (Sen. Hinkins). You can rewatch that hearing and listen to Farm Bureau testimony by clicking [here](#).



On January 20, we testified before the House Natural Resources, Agriculture, and Environment Committee in support of [H.B. 114, Theft Defense Amendments](#) (Rep. Albrecht). This important bill will strengthen the property rights of farmers and ranchers, protect animal health and farm biosecurity, and deter livestock theft. You can rewatch that hearing and listen to Farm Bureau testimony by clicking [here](#). This bill was favorably reported by the committee and is scheduled to be on the House Floor for a vote today. We encourage you to contact your legislators and urge them to support this bill. You can find who represents you by clicking [here](#).



On Tuesday, we made comments before the Senate Natural Resources, Agriculture, and Environment Committee on [S.B. 108, Animal Shelter Revisions](#) (Sen. McKell). This bill seeks to eliminate the use of gas chambers to euthanize dogs and cats in animal shelters. Farm Bureau did not support or oppose the bill. However, we did work with Senator McKell to ensure that substitute language was adopted by the committee to make emphatically clear that this limitation does not apply to livestock. The bill was favorably reported with our requested substitute language.

On Wednesday, we had an especially busy day testifying before the House in support of [H.B. 169, Urban Farming Assessment Act Amendments](#) (Rep. Peterson), [S.B. 9, Agricultural Advisory Board Sunset Extension](#) (Sen. Sandall), [S.B. 10, Wildlife Sunset Related Amendments](#) (Sen. Sandall), [H.B. 39, State Resource Management Plan Amendments](#) (Rep. Stratton), [H.B. 237, Hunting Mentor Amendments](#) (Rep. Albrecht), [H.B. 184, Veterinarian Education Loan Repayment Program](#) (Rep. Albrecht), and [H.B. 33, Water Related Liability Amendments](#) (Rep. Albrecht). We were pleased that the Committee favorably recommended each of these bills, and in particular, H.B. 33 which is the culmination of significant work by the Utah Farm Bureau and Sevier County Farm Bureau President, Dustin Christensen. This bill will ensure that owners and operators of water facilities are held to a reasonable and ordinary care standard in the operation of water facilities and not strict liability. The bill also ensures that water facility owners and operators are not held liable for damage or injury caused by the diversion or discharge of water or another substance into the water facility by a third party, any other act or omission of a third party that is beyond the control of the owner or operator, or an act of God, including fire, earthquake, storm, flash floods, or similar natural occurrences. You can rewatch that hearing and listen to Farm Bureau testimony by clicking [here](#).

At 2:00 p.m. today, the Senate Natural Resources, Agriculture, and Environment Committee is holding a hearing on [S.B. 133, Local Agricultural Amendments](#) (Sen. Sandall), another bill that we are monitoring closely. This bill would prohibit a political subdivision from adopting or enforcing an ordinance or other regulation that prohibits or effectively prohibits the operation of an animal enterprise or the use of a working animal. The bill defines “animal enterprise” as a commercial enterprise, an academic enterprise, or a competition that uses or sells animals or animal products for profit, food or fiber production, agriculture, education, research, sport, or testing. The term includes an animal competition, exposition, fair, rodeo, farm, feedlot, furrier, ranch, or an event intended to exhibit or advance agricultural arts and sciences. The term does not include an aquarium, circus, retail pet store, or zoo. You can see the agenda and view the hearing by clicking [here](#).

Next week, we anticipate a hearing being scheduled on another Farm Bureau priority, [H.B. 150, Emergency Water Shortages Amendments](#) (Rep. Albrecht). This bill clarifies water use rules during non-drought-related emergency shortages of water declared by the governor. Farm Bureau has worked diligently on this bill, and we are excited to see it move forward in the legislative process.

We hope you will continue to actively communicate with our policy team and send questions or comments on topics of concern. We also would like to remind you to mark your calendar for Farm Bureau Day on the Hill on Friday, February 24.

**Terry Camp**  
(801) 718-2769  
[terry.camp@fbfs.com](mailto:terry.camp@fbfs.com)

**Wade Garrett**  
(435) 660-9292  
[wade.garrett@fbfs.com](mailto:wade.garrett@fbfs.com)