



Legislative Update

February 14, 2022

We have officially passed the half-way point of the session. This week we saw the Governor sign a \$193 million tax cut designed to keep more money in the pocket of Utah citizens. The appropriation sub-committees have issued their reports ranking the funding requests that each committee received. Now it's up to the Executive Appropriations Committee to review the reports and make the final decision on what will be funded. As we have reviewed the report from the Natural Resource Committee, we are pleased to see several important funding priorities ranked quite high:

- \$360,000 ongoing for 4 additional meat inspectors
- \$50,000,000 water optimization
- \$4,800,000 quagga muscle decontamination tanks
- \$2,000,000 grazing improvement program
- \$1,000,000 soil health equipment grants

We are continuing to work on a \$3,000,000 UDAF request for a grant program to help increase food processing plants. This request did not rank as high as we would have liked. We feel good about the USU veterinary school request and we will continue to push for this until the final decision is made. Now that appropriation committees have finished their work, we will see increased emphasis and time dedicated to debating bills. Several bills of note moved this week:

HB 166, Water Facilities Amendments – This bill creates a criminal penalty for persons introducing water into a canal through a physical connection without the permission of the canal owner. The bill passed the house natural resource committee unanimously.

HB 62, Big Game Amendments – This bill addresses how and when DWR compensates landowners for big game depredation damage. When the bill was first introduced, we identified several concerns, and have worked hard to have the bill amended to address our concerns. It appears ready to pass the full Senate this week.

HB 256, Farm to School Program - This bill will create a new state position to help agricultural producers navigate the challenges of supplying local food to the school lunch program. It passed the house natural resource committee this week to begin its way through the legislative process.

SCR 8, Concurrent Resolution Recognizing the Importance of the Agriculture Industry – this resolution recognizes the positive impacts that Farmers and Ranchers have on the environment and declares this the “Decade of Agriculture”

We look forward to seeing many of you this week at our Farm Bureau Day on the Hill. We have a great line up of legislators that plan to stop by and visit with you including a visit from Congressman Burgess Owens. You will have the opportunity to visit personally with your legislators about the issues important to you.

We expect that as we get closer to the end of the session there will be increased urgency by legislators to see their bills move through the process. Check our website for a complete list of bills that we are following. As always feel free to contact us with any question or concerns.

Wade Garrett
435-660-9292
wade.garrett@fbfs.com

Garrick Hall
435-232-1117
garrickahall@gmail.com