This Utah Farm Bureau Policy Watch is made available to Farm Bureau members via email or on the Utah Farm Bureau website - www.utahfarmbureau.org. For additional information about these bills, contact Sterling Brown, Vice President-Public Policy at sterling.brown@fbfs.com or 801-547-2688. Contact information for your respective lawmakers is found online at www.le.utah.gov.

APPROPRIATIONS

One-time funding for FY2019 include:

- Utah’s Own: $25,000
- Sage Grouse State Plan Implementation: $2,000,000
- Agriculture Sprinkler Conversion: $220,000
- Wild Horse & Burro Management: $250,000
- Watershed Restoration Initiative: $2,000,000
- Predator Control Program: $100,000

Ongoing Funding includes:

- Brand Inspection Program: $800,000
- Algal Bloom Cyanotoxin Testing: $84,800
- Grazing Improvement Program: $500,000
- Forestry, Fire and Statelands River Analyst: $100,000

HOUSE BILLS

HB 60, Water Commissioner Amendments, Rep Chew (R) Jensen (Dayton) - Directs Utah’s Division of Finance and the State Engineer to establish a rule that would allow for water commissioners to receive reimbursements for personal vehicle or supplies while performing water commissioner duties. After review, financial savings can occur as Water Commissioner Service Districts direct employee salary and benefit expenses to the State of Utah and contract with the private sector to address other expenses. Passed the House, but did not advance in the Senate. Farm Bureau supports.

HB 73, Instream Flow Water Rights Amendments, Rep. Hawkes (R) Centerville - Removes the sunset provision (December 31, 2018) regarding an instream flow application that would be filed by Utah’s Trout Unlimited. Farm Bureau supports leasing water for instream flows under certain conditions. See also SB 35. Sponsor will not advance this bill and will support SB 35. Farm Bureau monitored.

2S HB 74, Emissions Inspection Modifications, Rep. Sandall (R) Tremonton - Exempts from an emissions inspection a vehicle owned and operated by a canal or irrigation company that is used solely for canal or irrigation purposes. Held in House Committee and will not advance this Legislative Session. Farm Bureau monitored.
HB 93, Agriculture Commodity Zone Amendments, Rep. Stratton (R) Orem (Hinkins) - Modifies the boundaries of the Agricultural Commodity Zone located in Garfield County. The purpose of these zones are to help preserve and protect agricultural livestock interests, including the history, culture, custom and economic values. The purpose of this bill is to align Agricultural Zones boundaries with the new county Resource Management Plans (RMP). Passed both the House and Senate. Waiting for the Governor’s signature. Farm Bureau supports.

1S HB 97, Local Food Advisory Council Amendments, Rep. Handy (R) Layton (Davis) - Would allow for the co-chairs of the Local Food Advisory Council to appoint non-voting members of the Council, so long as a majority of the Council members agree. Passed both the House and Senate. Waiting for the Governor’s signature. Farm Bureau supports.

1S HB 103, Water Conservation Revisions, Rep. Froerer (R) Huntsville (Anderegg) - Requires Water Districts, Water Conservancy Districts and Retail Water Providers to have a water conservation plan that states the over water use reduction goals for residential, commercial and industrial uses. Passed the House, but session ended before bill was adopted. Did not pass. Farm Bureau supports.

HB 114, Street-Legal ATV Amendments, Rep. Noel (R) Kanab (Fillmore) - Allows for an individual to operate a Type I vehicle on a highway in Salt Lake County so long as the highway is near a grade separated portion of the highway and the speed limit is not above 50 mph. Passed the House, but session ended before bill was adopted. Did not pass. Farm Bureau supports.

1S HB 124, Water Holdings Accountability and Transparency Amendments, Rep. Coleman (R) West Jordan (Van Tassell) - Requires a city that supplies municipal water outside the city boundaries to make available specific information to the public and to the State Engineer. Required information includes: a legal description and map of the service area being served, the cost of water being assessed and information about the water right being used. Passed the House, then held in Senate Committee. Did not pass. Farm Bureau monitored.

HB 130, Resource Conservation Amendments, Rep. Sandall (R) Tremonton (Hinkins) - Reduces the membership of the Conservation Commission Board from 15 to 11. Board members would include: USU Extension, Utah Department of Natural Resources, Utah Department of Environmental Quality, County Weed Supervisors Association and the seven district supervisors. The Commissioner (or designee) of Utah’s Department of Agriculture and Food would serve as Chair. Clarifies that a Conservation District may not exercise taxing authority. Passed both the House and Senate. Waiting for the Governor’s signature. Farm Bureau supports.

3S HB 135, Extraterritorial Jurisdiction Amendments, Rep. Noel (R) Kanab (Hinkins) - Limits what a city has jurisdiction over with regards to maintaining and operating waterworks within their city jurisdiction. Authorizes Salt Lake City to provide a highway through the city for the purposes moving livestock. Passed the House, then held in Senate Committee. Did not pass. Farm Bureau monitored.

1S HB 136, Federal Designations, Rep. Noel (R) Kanab (Hinkins) - States a government entity cannot advocate or lobby for a federal land designation within Utah unless the Utah Legislature passes a concurrent resolution in favor of the proposed federal designation. Federal designation includes: national monument, national conservation area, wilderness area or wilderness study area, area of critical environmental concerns, research study areas or national recreation areas. Passed the House, then session ended and bill was not adopted. Did not pass. Farm Bureau supports.
2S HB 143, Off-Highway Vehicle Amendments, Rep. Noel (R) Kanab (Vickers) - Increases the limit for registration fees for off-highway vehicles from $18 to $35. Also, establishes the registration fee limit for street-legal all-terrain vehicles at $72. Passed both the House and Senate. Waiting for the Governor’s signature. Farm Bureau supports.

1S HB 148, Tax Revisions, Rep. Quinn (R) Heber City (Escamilla) - Increases the general state sales and use tax rate from 4.70% to 4.94%. Reduces the state sales and tax rate on food and food ingredients from 1.75% to 0% and exempts candy from the definition of food and food ingredients. Farm Bureau supports equalizing the food tax to the state sales and use tax rate. Passed the House, but failed to pass in Senate Committee. Farm Bureau opposed.

1S HB 172, Greenbelt Amendments, Rep. Wilde (R) Croydon (Millner) - Requires those with Greenbelt parcels, specifically rangelands, to provide written land-use management plans to the County Assessor to ensure the land is used for production agriculture. The purpose of this bill is to minimize those who abuse qualifying for Greenbelt. Farm Bureau worked to ensure bill provisions are not burdensome to greenbelt landowners. Held in House Committee for further interim revisions. Farm Bureau monitored.

2S HB 181, Home Consumption and Homemade Food Act, Rep. Roberts (R) Spanish Fork (Hemmert) - Allows those who harvest or produce homemade food to be exempt from city, county and state regulations regarding the preparation, serving, use, consumption or storage of food and food products. Farm Bureau is concerned this bill may have negative impacts to public safety and business fairness. Passed both the House and Senate. Waiting for the Governor’s signature. Farm Bureau opposed.


HB 214, Agricultural Advisory Board Amendments, Rep. McKell (R) Spanish Fork (Henderson) - Directs Utah’s Agriculture Advisory Board to adopt best management practices for the sheep, swine, cattle and poultry sectors. The Board may adopt best management practices for domesticated elk, mink, apiaries, and other agricultural industries in the state. Passed both the House and Senate. Waiting for the Governor’s signature. Farm Bureau supports.

HB 240, Utah State Fair Board Amendments, Rep. Schultz (R) Hooper (Van Tassell) - Amends the membership of the State Fair Board by allowing one Utah House of Representative and one Utah Senator to serve on the Board. Passed both the House and Senate. Waiting for the Governor’s signature. Farm Bureau supports.

1S HB 242, Local Animal Control Regulation Amendments, Rep. Roberts (R) Spanish Fork - In cities and counties that have ordinances that don’t allow for landowners to have animals, this bill would allow for private landowners to keep one or more animals on their property so long as the city/county adopted an ordinance establishing nuisance standards for determining when an animal unreasonably degrades health, safety, noise, odor or sanitation of the environment. Held in Committee and did not advance/pass. Farm Bureau monitored.
2S HB 249, Statewide Resource Management Plan Adoption, Rep. Stratton (R) Orem (Hinkins) - Adopts the statewide resource management plan created by Utah’s Public Lands Policy Coordinating Office (PLPCO), with input from all 29 counties. See HCR 10. Passed both the House and Senate. Waiting for the Governor’s signature. Farm Bureau supports.

1S HB 251, Utah’s Wholesome Food Act Amendments, Rep. Stratton (R) Orem (Dayton) - Defines the term “produce” to mean a food that is a fruit, vegetable, mix of intact fruits and vegetables, mushroom, sprout from any seed source, peanut, tree nut, or herb and a raw agricultural commodity. Expands the definition of “food establishment” to include farms and would allow employees of Utah’s Department of Agriculture and Food to enter a farm for purposes of inspections when administering the Federal Safety and Modernization Act (FSMA). Passed the House, then session ended and bill was not adopted. Did not pass. Farm Bureau supports.

1S HB 253, Trust Lands Amendments, Rep. Snow (R) St. George (Dayton) - States the director of Utah’s School and Institutional Trust Lands Administration (SITLA) may make determinations regarding the management, protection, and conservation of plant species proposed for designation as endangered or threatened under the Endangered Species Act of 1973. Also, authorizes the SITLA Director to enter into an agreement with a county or a municipality concerning the applicability of a local ordinance to trust lands. Passed both the House and Senate. Waiting for the Governor’s signature. Farm Bureau supports.

1S HB 266, Limited Access Highway Amendments, Rep. Webb (R) Logan (Hemmert) - Utah’s Department of Transportation may not terminate, modify or impede the use of a property owner’s access to the public highway if there is evidence the access has existed for 10 or more years and UDOT has not acquired the access point. Passed both the House and Senate. Waiting for the Governor’s signature. Farm Bureau supports.

HB 267, Oil, Gas and Mining Amendments, Rep. Chew (R) Jensen - States an oil and gas operator should collaboratively work with the private landowner to ensure the greatest possible use of the surface, private property. Also, ensures the surface, private property owner is fairly compensated for loss of crops, loss of value and permanent damages to the surface, private property. Farm Bureau supports legislative efforts to define the surface, private property rights in balancing development of the sub-surface estate. Held in Committee for interim study. Farm Bureau supports.

1S HB 275, State Monuments Act Amendments, Rep. Eliason (R) Sandy (Hinkins) - Requires Utah’s Division of State Parks and Recreation to determine if a state monument designation is appropriate. If deemed appropriate, the bill outlines the process for designating a state monument which includes local input and support. Farm Bureau opposes the creation of State Monuments. However, if State Monuments are created they must be created and managed with local input, support and direction. Passed the House, then session ended and bill was not adopted. Did not pass. Farm Bureau supports.

HB 312, Concealed Carry Amendments, Rep. Lisonbee (R) Clearfield. (Weiler) - Would allow for a provisional concealed carry permit holder, before age 21, to apply for a concealed carry permit that becomes valid at age 21. Farm Bureau supports the constitutional right to own and to bear arms. Farm Bureau opposes legislation that would limit the rights of citizens to purchase, possess or sell firearms through registration, licensing or taxation of firearms. Passed the House, then session ended and bill was not adopted. Did not pass. Farm Bureau supports.
2S HB 314, Class B and Class C Road Funds Amendments, Rep. Noel (R) Kanab (Vickers) - Would allow a portion of county Class B and D transportation funds be used for Class D roads. Passed the House, then session ended and bill was not adopted. Did not pass. Farm Bureau supports.

HB 318, Stray Current or Voltage Remediation Act, Rep. Handy (R) Layton (Weiler) - Creates the Stray Current and Voltage Remediation Act. Defines procedures for “steady state” testing and scientific standards for measurable stray voltage. Requires the Utah Legislature to review these standards in 2020 for modification considerations. Passed both the House and Senate. Waiting for the Governor’s signature. Farm Bureau supports.

1S HB 327, Rural Online Initiative, Rep. Noel (R) Kanab (Hinkins) - Directs Utah State University Extension to work with individuals living in rural Utah to take advantage of freelance, job and business opportunities available online. Passed both the House and Senate. Waiting for the Governor’s signature. Farm Bureau supports.

HB 329, Aquaculture Amendments, Rep. Roberts (R) Spanish Fork - Changes the name and membership of the Private Aquaculture Advisory Council and gives the Council equal authority with Utah’s Department of Agriculture and Food and Utah’s Division of Wildlife Resources to adopt rules governing private fisheries. Farm Bureau supported legislation last Session that created an Advisory Council and believes additional time should pass allowing stakeholders to address concerns. Held in Committee for possible interim study. Farm Bureau opposed.

HB 341, Government Nonprofit Amendments, Rep. McKell (R) Spanish Fork (Dayton) - Removes a repeal date that would modify the definition of governmental nonprofit corporation. Passed both the House and Senate. Waiting for the Governor’s signature. Farm Bureau supports.

HB 357, Evaluating Tax Revenue Foregone from Federally Controlled Lands, Rep. Ivory (R) West Jordan (Hinkins) - Requires Utah’s Commission on Federalism to hold hearings on the impact of the federal payments in lieu of tax (PILT) and authorizes the Commission to engage Utah’s members of Congress to work with the federal government to secure PILT payments that are equivalent to the property tax the state would generate. Farm Bureau supports increased PILT payments. Passed both the House and Senate. Waiting for the Governor’s signature. Farm Bureau supports.

1S HB 365, Department of Environmental Quality Amendments, Rep. Stratton (R) Orem (Dayton) - Requires Utah’s Department of Environmental Quality to get approval from Utah’s Legislative Natural Resources, Agriculture and Environment Interim Committee before recommending total maximum daily load end point and implementation strategies to the EPA. Passed the House, then session ended and bill was adopted. Did not pass. Farm Bureau supports.

HB 377, Land Use Amendments, Rep. Schultz (R) Hooper (Adams) - Imposes specific requirements on conditional use permits and prohibits cities and counties from denying a building permit application where the land use authority has accepted an improvement completion assurance. Passed both the House and Senate. Waiting for the Governor’s signature. Farm Bureau monitored.
1S HB 381, Agricultural Water Optimization Fund, Rep. Hawkes (R) Centerville (Dayton) - Creates an Agricultural Water Optimization Task Force and authorizes the Task Force to identify critical issues facing Utah’s long-term water supplies, particularly in regard to how Utah should optimize agricultural water supply in light of future population growth. The Task Force is also authorized to issue grants to study the issues associated with agriculture water conservation and efficiency. Passed both the House and Senate. Waiting for the Governor’s signature. Farm Bureau supports.

1S HB 390, Rural Economic Development Incentives, Rep. Albrecht (R) Richfield (Ipson) - Directs the Governor’s Office of Economic Development (GOED) to administer a newly created program called the Rural Employment Expansion Program for the purpose of creating and expanding new rural jobs in counties of the fourth, fifth and sixth counties. Passed both the House and Senate. Waiting for the Governor’s signature. Farm Bureau supports.

1S HB 404, Land Trusts Protection and Advocacy Act, Rep. Last (R) Hurricane (Hinkins) - Creates an Advocacy Office, with oversight by the State Treasurer, to protect the financial interests of Utah’s School and Institutional Trust Lands (SITLA). Authorizes the Advocacy Office to perform certain duties currently conducted by Utah’s State Board of Education. Passed the House. Waiting for Senate Floor vote. Farm Bureau in monitoring.

HB 415, Catastrophic Wildfire Revisions, Rep. Ivory (R) West Jordan - Provides that Utah shall indemnify, defend and hold a Chief Executive Officer or County Sheriff harmless from any claims or damages as a result of their actions in abating a catastrophic public nuisance. Passed the House. Waiting for Senate Floor vote. Farm Bureau supports.

HB 419, Oil and Gas Amendments, Rep. Handy (R) Layton - Authorizes Utah’s Board of Oil, Gas and Mining to make a pooling order retroactive and allows existing pooling orders to apply to additional wells drilled in the same drilling unit. Passed House Committee. Waiting for House Floor vote. Farm Bureau is monitoring.

1S HB 422, Natural Gas Infrastructure Amendments, Rep. Noel (R) Kanab (Hinkins) - Directs Utah’s Public Service Commission to spread rural gas infrastructure development costs to the larger customer base. Passed the House. Waiting for Senate Floor vote. Farm Bureau supports.

1S HB 432, Agriculture Revisions, Rep. Sandall (R) Tremonton (Dayton) - Creates the Utah Beef Council as an independent, quasi-state agency. Members of the 10-member Council would consist of: Commissioner of the Utah Department of Agriculture and Food (UDAF), President, Vice President and board member of the Utah Cattlemen’s Association, member of the national beef check-off board, President of the Utah Cattlemen’s Association, member of the Utah Dairy Commission and three at-large producers. Passed the House. Waiting for Senate Floor vote. Farm Bureau supports.
1S HB 450, Wastewater Reuse Amendments, Rep. Froerer (R) Huntsville - Requires that a water reuse diversion, under a reuse application, be governed by the priority date of the application for reuse. Also requires a public owned treatment works (POTW) to file a change application if the point of diversion is moved more than 650 feet from the previously approved point of diversion. Held in Committee and did not advance/pass. Farm Bureau monitored.

HB 466, Wildland Fire Liability Amendments, Rep. McKell (R) Spanish Fork - States a person who negligently, recklessly or intentionally causes a Wildland fire shall be liable for damages and the cost of suppressing the fire. Farm Bureau is concerned this may have negative, indirect impacts to farmers. For example, disk fields and inadvertently spark a fire. Failed to pass out of a House Committee. Farm Bureau opposed.

2S HCR 1, Concurrent Resolution on Global Warming and Climate Change, Rep. Ward (R) Bountiful - Acknowledges average global temperatures and average Utah temperatures have increased over recent decades. Furthermore, acknowledges a substantial cause for these increases is human caused. Farm Bureau believes that simply implementing carbon reduction strategies will not have a significant impact on reducing global temperatures. Farm Bureau opposes any regulations based on global warming and climate change. Held in Committee and did not advance/pass. Farm Bureau opposed.

HCR 2, Concurrent Resolution Encouraging Congress to Propose an Amendment to the Constitution of the United States, Rep. Eliason (R) Sandy (Bramble) - Petitions the United States Congress to propose an amendment to the Constitution that would provide the Governor of a state to temporarily appointment a vacancy in the United States House of Representatives until the people fill the vacancy by election. Farm Bureau believes changes to the Constitution should only be made through the amendment process, specifically the Convention of the States versus calling a Constitutional Convention. Passed both the House and Senate. Waiting for the Governor’s signature. Farm Bureau supports.

HCR 4, Concurrent Resolution on Economic and Environmental Stewardship, Rep. Edwards (R) North Salt Lake City - Acknowledges Utah’s existing commitment to reduce emissions and improve air quality and recognizes that climate disruption poses a potential threat to our national security. Recognizes good stewardship of the economy and environment fosters security, sustainability and independence. Never received a Committee hearing. Farm Bureau supports.

1S HCR 9, Concurrent Resolution Supporting Rural Development of Wind, Solar and Geothermal Energy, Rep. Arent (D) Salt Lake City (Vickers) - Recognizes the economic benefits that wind, solar, and geothermal energy development provide to the State of Utah. Furthermore, supports the development of wind, solar, and geothermal energy in rural areas of the state, both on private and public lands, and supports the export of Utah-produced wind, solar, and geothermal energy to other states. Farm Bureau supports the responsible development and use of cost effective renewable energy resources. Passed House Committee, but bill sponsor does not like Committee amendments to include development on public lands. Bill did not advance/pass. Farm Bureau supports.

HCR 10, Concurrent Resolution Approving the Statewide Resources Management Plan, Rep. Stratton (R) Orem (Hinkins) - Expresses appreciation for the collaboration between the state and local government entities that contributed to the statewide resource management and approves the "State of Utah Resource Management Plan" as the statewide resource management plan. See HB 249. Passed the House. Waiting for Senate Floor vote. Farm Bureau supports.

HCR 19, Concurrent Resolution Regarding the Impacts of Federal Lands on the State Education System, Rep. Ivory (R) West Jordan (Dabakis) - Urges the President of the United States and Congress to pass legislation that requires PILT payments to be equivalent to the tax revenue the State of Utah would otherwise be able to generate. Passed both the House and Senate. Waiting for the Governor’s signature. Farm Bureau supports.
HJR 1, Joint Resolution Urging Exemption from the Antiquities Act, Rep. Albrecht (R) Richfield (Hinkins) - Encourages Utah’s Congressional delegation to pursue legislation exempting Utah from the Antiquities Act. Farm Bureau supports rewriting the Antiquities Act to revoke the Executive Branch’s ability to designate national monuments. Passed both the House and Senate. Waiting for the Governor’s signature. Farm Bureau supports.

HJR 2, Joint Resolution Urging Congress to Relocate Federal Land Management Agency Headquarters, Rep. Albrecht (R) Richfield (Hinkins) - Encourages the federal government to consider moving the headquarters for the U.S. Department of Interior and the U.S. Forest Service to Utah. Passed both the House and Senate. Waiting for the Governor’s signature. Farm Bureau supports.

HJR 8, Joint Resolution Honoring Utah’s Sportsmen and Sportswomen, Rep. Hawkes (R) Centerville (Christensen) - Urges the United States Congress to support the time-honored Utah traditions of hunting and angling and the sound science delivered by the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources and policies developed by the Utah Wildlife Board. Passed both the House and Senate. Waiting for the Governor’s signature. Farm Bureau supports.

HJR 15, Proposal to Amend Utah Constitution - Municipal Water Amendment, Rep. Stratton (R) Orem - Proposes to amend the Utah Constitution to eliminate a restriction against a city leasing its waterworks, water rights or sources of water. Held in Committee for interim study. Farm Bureau monitored.

SENATE BILLS

SB 34, Legislative Water Development Commission Amendments, Sen. Dayton (R) Orem (Grover) - Removes the sunset date of December 31, 2018 for the Legislative Water Development Commission to meet and conduct business and would authorize the Commission to meet up to six times per year without the approval of the Legislative Management Committee. Farm Bureau staff serves as a member of this Commission. Passed both the Senate and House. Waiting for the Governor’s signature. Farm Bureau supports.

SB 35, Water Right for Trout Habitat Repeal Date Extension, Sen. Christensen (R) Ogden (Sandall) - Extends the repeal date one year for the instream flow water right lease applications from December 31, 2018 to December 31, 2019. See also HB 73. Farm Bureau supports leasing water for instream flows under certain conditions. Passed both the Senate and House. Waiting for the Governor’s signature. Farm Bureau supports.

SB 45, Water Law Amendments - Diligence Claims, Sen. Dayton (R) Orem (Noel) - Requires the Utah State Engineer to include an evaluation of an asserted beneficial use in the report of a field investigation for a diligence claim. Passed both the Senate and House. Waiting for the Governor’s signature. Farm Bureau supports.

SB 50, Animal Shelter Amendments, Sen. Knudson (R) Brigham City - Requires animal shelters to abandon gas chambers and practice euthanasia by injection using sodium pentobarbital. Failed to pass in Senate Committee. Farm Bureau monitored.

SB 52, Sale of State Land Act, Sen. Davis (D) Salt Lake City (Wilson) - Establishes a preference for leasing state land over selling state land. Passed the Senate. Waiting for House Floor vote. Farm Bureau is monitoring.
1S SB 61, Water Rights Adjudication Amendments, Sen. Dayton (R) Orem (Sandall) - Allows the Utah State Engineer to return a claim to the claimant without further action, if received untimely. Also, authorizes the Utah State Engineer to prepare and file an addendum to a proposed determination so long as the State Engineer files the addendum with the court, provides an explanation and serves the addendum on each owner of record. Passed both the Senate and House. Waiting for the Governor’s signature. Farm Bureau supports.

1S SB 91, Animal Welfare Amendments, Sen. (D) Salt Lake City (Hutchings) - Makes it a crime to leave a dog tethered or unattended in extreme weather conditions unless the dog has shelter that prevents moisture, is an appropriate size, contains appropriate bedding and is properly ventilated. Amended in Committee to only apply to Salt Lake County. Farm Bureau supports good animal husbandry practices, but is concerned this proposed legislation may require undue and unnecessary requirements on farmers and ranchers. Passed the Senate. Waiting for House Floor vote. Farm Bureau opposes.

2S SB 96, Canal Amendments, Sen. Hinkins (R) Orangeville (McKell) - Provides a pathway forward for a property owner (example: developer), municipalities and the owner of a water or canal company to approve two things: first, a plan that would change the location of the canal easement, and second, the costs associated with the change. In addition, the Office of the Property Rights Ombudsman shall provide mediation and arbitration services when requested by either a property owner or the water company. Passed both the Senate and House. Waiting for the Governor’s signature. Farm Bureau supports.

SB 98, Ratification of the Ute Indian Water Compact, Sen. (R) Vernal (Wilde) - Attempts to ratify that the State of Utah, the Ute Indian Tribe of the Uintah and Ouray Reservation, Utah and the United States of America, acting through their respective representatives, agree to a Ute Indian Water Compact. The purpose of this Compact is to remove the causes of present and future controversy over the quantification, distribution, and use of all waters claimed by or through the Ute Indian Tribe. Passed both the Senate and House. Waiting for the Governor’s signature. Farm Bureau supports.

2S SB 108, Raw Milk Amendments, Sen. Hinkins (R) Orangeville (Hutchings) - Allows for the sale of raw milk at Farmers Markets and from a mobile refrigerated truck, so long as current productions and testing requirements are met. Would also allow for the sale of up to 120 gallons of raw milk per month so long as the raw milk producer registers with Utah’s Department of Agriculture and Food (UDAF). If UDAF finds illness as a result of raw milk production, UDAF can impose monetary penalties and can direct the producer to stop distribution and sales until testing produces good results. Farm Bureau supports the transportation and sale of raw milk packaged for retail sale so long as the producer follows a strict, high standard of testing. Passed both the Senate and House. Waiting for the Governor’s signature. Farm Bureau monitored.

SB 168, Utah Agricultural Code Amendments, Sen. Dayton (R) Orem (Perry) - Changes labeling requirements for both commercial feed and seed. Changes the membership of the Utah Livestock Brand Board to include one feeder operator and three cattle ranchers representing the state’s three brand districts. Amends the requirements for transporting domesticated elk. Passed both the Senate and House. Waiting for the Governor’s signature. Farm Bureau supports.

SB 170, Conservation District Amendments, Sen. Henderson, (R) Spanish Fork (Eliason) - Amends the definition of a “participating local entity” to include a Conservation District. Passed both the Senate and House. Waiting for the Governor’s signature. Farm Bureau supports.

SB 191, State Regulation of Oil and Gas, Sen. Van Tassell (R) Vernal (Albrecht) - Clarifies the State of Utah, subject to federal law, regulates oil and gas activity and provides that a city or county may regulate surface activity that is incident to an oil and gas activity. Passed both the Senate and House. Waiting for the Governor’s signature. Farm Bureau monitored.
SB 204, Secondary Water Metering Requirements, Sen. Anderegg (R) Lehi (Noel) - Requires a secondary water provider that begins providing new secondary water service on or after May 2018 to meter the use of water. Furthermore, phases in requirements for a secondary water provider to meter the use of water for residential, commercial, industrial, institutional or agricultural users. Amended in Committee to remove the agriculture requirement. Passed the Senate Committee, but bill sponsor opted to pursue this bill further in the interim. Farm Bureau monitored.

SB 211, Equine Distry Amendments, Sen. Hinkins (R) Orangeville - Would allow a non-veterinary equine dental care provider to float teeth without the direct supervision of a veterinary. Farm Bureau wants to gather producer input and direction before enacting legislation. Failed to pass out of Senate Committee. Farm Bureau opposed.

SB 213, Human Trafficking Prevention Training, Sen. Weiler (R) Woods Cross - Requires an individual to complete a human trafficking prevention training course before receiving or renewing a commercial driver’s license (CDL). Farm Bureau is concerned this places undue, unnecessary mandates on CDL drivers. Passed Senate Committee, but bill sponsor will not advance the bill further. Farm Bureau opposed.

SB 226, Urban Farming Amendments, Sen. Van Tassell (R) Vernal (Wilde) - Allows counties that can participate in “urban farming” from Salt Lake and Davis counties to also include those counties that adopt an ordinance governing “urban farming.” Farm Bureau supports urban farming based on county options. However, qualifying lands must have special tax status separate from greenbelt and must be managed as a profitable business. Passed both the Senate and House. Waiting for the Governor’s signature. Farm Bureau supports.

SCR 5, Concurrent Resolution to Change Utah’s Designated Time Zone and Observance of Daylight Savings Time, Sen. Harper (R) Taylorsville (Thurston) - Directs the Utah Department of Transportation to create and submit an application to the United States Department of Transportation to change Utah’s designated time zone from Mountain Standard Time to Central Standard Time. If approved, directs Utah to opt out of Mountain Daylight Saving Time and observe Central Standard Time year-round. Farm Bureau supports Mountain Daylight Savings Time with time changes in the Spring and Fall. Failed to pass Senate Committee. Farm Bureau opposed.

SCR 8, Concurrent Resolution in Support of the Creation of a New National Park, Sen. Okerlund (R) Monroe (Noel) - Supports Congressman Chris Stewart’s bill (H.R. 4558) that would establish the Escalante Canyons National Park and Preserve, Grand Staircase National Monument, Kaiparowits Monument, and Escalante Canyons National Monument. Farm Bureau opposes the creation of new National Monuments and Parks. However, if new Monuments are created, multiple-use management, including livestock grazing, should exist. Passed the Senate. Waiting for House Floor vote. Farm Bureau supports.