



# Legislative Update

October 30, 2023

## Interim Update

The Utah Farm Bureau policy team is busy traversing the state attending annual business meetings and doing some leaf peeping along the way. We are already over halfway through annual business meetings and we have enjoyed listening to the priorities of counties throughout the state. We look forward to discussing county resolutions at our convention in November.



*(Photo Credit: Stan Croft)*

The Utah Legislature met for Interim meetings October 10-12, and the public policy team was on hand to meet with legislators and to comment on several important items. On October 10, the Natural Resources, Agriculture, and Environmental Quality Appropriations Subcommittee met to discuss a wide array of topics. One agenda item of interest to the Utah Farm Bureau Federation was a presentation on the Utah Department of Environmental Quality's Used Oil Program. Doug Hansen, director of the Division of Waste Management and Radiation Control, spoke about the program and the services that his division provides to the public. In his presentation, he explained that the state funds the Used Oil Program through a recycling fee of \$0.04 per quart or \$0.16 per gallon charged to consumers. Through collection of this fee, the state created a grant program for the establishment of new or existing used oil collection centers or curbside collection programs to address the proper management of used oil. The policy team testified in support of the Used Oil Program and shared the results of an informal Utah Farm Bureau survey sent out to members earlier this year. The public policy team is working with Rep. Scott Chew to discuss improvements to the program and identify any areas of the state that are unserved or underserved for used oil collection.

On October 11, the Transportation Interim Committee reviewed railroad legislation from the last session. One of the bills discussed was SB 51, Livestock Collision Amendments sponsored last session by Senator Owens (District 27). This bill, which has delayed implementation until April 1, 2024, requires railroads to erect and maintain fencing along each side of the railroad right of way owned or operated by the railroad that passes through privately-owned land and public land upon which livestock grazing occurs. Additionally, the bill clarifies that a railroad is liable for damages to livestock caused by railroad operations and requires railroads to report livestock strikes. The bill also provides a process, to be administered by the Department of Agriculture and Food, for a livestock owner to file a claim for damage to livestock by a railroad. The committee heard testimony from Adrian Guerrero, Assistant Vice President, Public Affairs, at Union Pacific. The Utah Farm Bureau is actively working with Union Pacific, as well as with the

Utah Department of Agriculture and Food, on ways to streamline the process for producers to report livestock losses from collisions with trains and to receive prompt reimbursement at fair market value. Union Pacific is seeking to find a resolution outside of legislation. You can rewatch the hearing by clicking [here](#).

The Natural Resources, Agriculture, and Environment Interim Committee also met on October 11. The Committee listened to presentations on cloud seeding, deer management, and meningeal worms. If you are interested in any of these topics, you can find links to the presentation slides and video of the hearing by clicking [here](#).

On October 12, the Legislative Water Development Commission met to discuss three pieces of draft legislation. The Committee discussed Riparian Corridor Amendments, Water Efficient Landscaping Requirements, and Water Rights Publication Amendments. Rep. Bennion's Riparian Corridor Amendments would require a riparian element to be included in a municipal or county general plan. Rep. Owens' Water Efficient Landscaping Requirements proposes to limit the use of lawn or turf by local entities for any new construction or reconstruction on or after May 1, 2024. Rep. Briscoe's Water Rights Publication Amendments would authorize the state engineer to confirm the publication of a notice of application by electronic means. You can read the text of these draft bills and listen to the discussion by clicking [here](#).

The next dates for interim session are November 14 and 15, right before our convention. You can view the upcoming schedule by visiting [le.utah.gov](http://le.utah.gov). As always, we encourage you to actively send our policy team questions or comments on topics of concern. 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.

We look forward to seeing you at our annual convention in November.

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