



# Legislative Update

January 20, 2023

The 2023 Utah legislative session began this week and will conclude March 3. We encourage our Farm Bureau members to contact their legislators throughout the session on issues of importance to them. You can find who represents you by visiting <https://le.utah.gov/GIS/findDistrict.jsp>.

This session, we will be debuting a new [legislative tracker](#) under the policy section of our website ([UtahFarmBureau.org](http://UtahFarmBureau.org)). The tracker will be updated regularly as new bills are introduced and move through the legislative process. You can also get to the tracker at [bit.ly/3QOD1qR](http://bit.ly/3QOD1qR). We also encourage our members to read through the [2023 Utah Farm Bureau Policy Book](#) which can also be found under policy section of our website.

We expect this to be a busy session for agriculture. The State of Utah currently enjoys a roughly \$3 billion budget surplus and state legislators will be looking for ways to spend it. The Utah Farm Bureau will be engaging with legislators to secure additional funding for several programs affecting agriculture including: the new four-year veterinary school at Utah State University; agricultural water optimization grants; the LeRay McAllister Fund; the Agriculture and Rural Small Business Innovation and Sustainability initiative administered by Utah State University; the Utah Watershed Restoration Initiative; the Grazing Improvement Program; the Soil Health Program; and the Utah Agri-park proposal.

We will also be working closely with legislators on number of water related bills. Although consistent, large storms in December and January have Utah's snowpack water at around 190% of normal to date, drought and Great Salt Lake levels and salinity continue to be top of mind for many legislators. We will be helping to educate legislators about the amazing advances agriculture has made in water conservation and about the vital role farmers and ranchers play in Utah's economy and in enhancing food security. The Utah Farm Bureau will also be supporting bills including [H.B. 33](#), to provide canal owners with greater liability protection and [H.B. 150](#) clarifying water use rules during emergency shortages of water declared by the governor.

Farm Bureau plans to have a presence at the Capitol every day of the session and is planning a Farm Bureau 'Day on the Hill' for February 24. We encourage you to actively communicate with our policy team with questions or comments on topics of concern. We hope this will be a great legislative session and look forward to hearing from you.

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