



Agriculture

During the 2020 legislative session, the General Assembly considered several measures related to agriculture including industrial hemp; product safety and labeling; pesticides; animal welfare; and price setting.

Industrial Hemp

The General Assembly passed one bill and one resolution concerning industrial hemp. The federal 2018 Farm Bill removed hemp from the Controlled Substances Act and changed the classification of hemp to be regulated as an agricultural product. *Senate Bill 20-197* aligns state statutes with federal law. These changes include: new and modified definitions; changes to the size and appointing authorities for the renamed Industrial Hemp Advisory Committee; allowing the Commissioner of Agriculture to establish registration and waiver requirements for research and development; requiring that fingerprint-based criminal history record checks be submitted with applications for registrations; establishing a registration and certification program for industrial hemp samples; requiring testing of hemp lots; expanding record-keeping requirements for registrants; specifying unlawful acts and establishing civil penalties for violations; and authorizing the commissioner to administer oaths, take statements, and issue subpoenas.

SJR 20-005 supports the state's comments submitted on the United States Department of Agriculture's interim final rule regarding the establishment of a domestic hemp production program.

Product Safety and Labeling

Every year, the General Assembly conducts sunset reviews for regulatory programs. Three programs concerning food safety and labeling were continued in 2020. *House Bill 20-1184* continues the Colorado Seed Act, which requires containers of seed to be properly labeled, until September 1, 2031. *House Bill 20-1211* continues the licensing of egg dealers in the Department of Agriculture (CDA) until September 1, 2031, and adds the regulation of nonpoultry eggs to the program. *House Bill 20-1213* continues and combines the Commodity Handler Act and the Farm Products Act in CDA until September 1, 2025.

Under current law, imported meat or meat products must be labeled to indicate that it is imported or it is considered to be misbranded. *House Bill 20-1117* would have expanded the definition of misbranding to require that meat from animals that were not born, raised, and harvested exclusively in the United States to be labeled as imported. Additionally, the bill would have prohibited food that is not primarily derived from livestock or that is grown in a lab from being labeled as meat.

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House Bill 20-1226 would have encouraged food manufacturers to label food with elevated risk dates and quality dates. Both bills were postponed indefinitely.

Pesticides

Three bills concerning the application of pesticides were considered in 2020. Current law requires certain commercial pesticide applicators to be licensed or registered. *Senate Bill 20-101* would have required the Commissioner of Agriculture to notify the applicator within 24 hours if CDA receives a complaint concerning the applicator. The bill was postponed indefinitely.

The state has primacy over the regulation of pesticides and preempts local governments from regulating them. *Senate Bill 20-189* would have authorized local governments to regulate pesticide use and application. The bill was postponed indefinitely.

House Bill 20-1180 would have required CDA to adopt rules to classify neonicotinoid and sulfoximine pesticides as restricted-use, with certain exceptions, in order to protect pollinators. The bill was postponed indefinitely.

Animal Welfare

Several bills concerning the protection of animals were considered in 2020. *House Bill 20-1343* established enclosure standards for farm producers to house female domesticated chickens, turkeys, ducks, geese, or hens kept for commercial egg production.

Senate Bill 20-104 assigns additional powers and duties to Bureau of Animal Protection agents within CDA.

Senate Bill 20-125 would have prohibited the use of exotic animals in traveling animal acts. The bill was postponed indefinitely. *House Bill 20-1084* would have created the Humane Pet Act, which would have established standards for the care and treatment of dogs and cats by breeders; prohibited the sale of a dog or cat in a public place; and prohibited the sale of a dog or cat by pet stores. The bill was postponed indefinitely.

Senate Bill 20-164 would have established a standard of care for animal shelters and pet animal rescues. The bill was postponed indefinitely. *Senate Bill 20-142* would have amended the Pet Animal Care Facilities Act (PACFA) to change licensing requirements and fees. The bill was postponed indefinitely.

Price Setting

The General Assembly passed *HJR 20-1011* concerning supporting a federal investigation into the meatpacking industry for possible market manipulation during the COVID-19 pandemic.