



# Agriculture - Budget and Legislative Requests

## Fiscal Year 2021-22 Budget Requests

### **R-1 Agricultural Climate Resilience Office**

#### **\$0 and 0.0 FTE**

Create an Agricultural Climate Resilience Office (ACRO) by consolidating resources under the Conservation Services Division. The Department will seek sponsorship for associated legislation allowing the office to accept gifts, grants, and donations for programs administered by the ACRO; providing authority for the ACRO to administer voluntary climate-related technical assistance and grant programs; and reinstating a \$500,000 Severance Tax Cash Fund transfer to the ACRE3 Program, which would be deposited into a new agriculture climate resiliency cash fund.

### **R-2 Industrial Hemp FTE**

#### **\$87,826 Cash Funds, \$7,363 Reappropriated Funds and 1.0 FTE**

Spending authority to hire 1.0 FTE as a Hemp Enforcement Specialist to investigate complaints. As a result of the Interim Final Rule (IFR) on hemp issued by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) and required to be implemented by October 1, 2021, the Department expects to see an increase in the number of investigations and enforcement actions as the State moves to 100 percent testing of THC for all registered hemp crops, as per the IFR.

### **R-3 Budget and Operational Efficiencies**

#### **\$-261,942 General Fund, \$-951,297 Cash Funds and -1.0 FTE**

Permanent adjustments include; (1) merging the Adult Agriculture Leadership Grant Program with the Agriculture Workforce Development Program (2) moving the Pet Animal Care Facility Act funding from the Animal Health Division to the Inspection and Consumer Services Division where it is managed, (3) reducing the appropriation for Information Technology (IT) Asset Maintenance to better reflect expected expenditure and (4) reducing the General Fund appropriation to the Department's Divisions and backfilling some of that funding with cash fund spending authority.

One-time reductions include; (5) the continuation of a one-time FTE funding reduction to the State Insectary and (6) a one-time reduction to the Department Agriculture Management Fund line item spending authority.

## 2021 Legislative Agenda

### **Agricultural Climate Resilience Office (Related to R-1 Budget Request)**

Create the Agricultural Climate Resilience Office (Resilience Office) within the Conservation Services Division to house the existing Advancing Colorado's Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (ACRE3) program and create the administrative framework to house future agricultural climate-related programs that could help meet greenhouse gas reduction targets in the GHG Reduction State of Colorado Roadmap through voluntary, farmer- and rancher-led practices. Changes sought include reinstating the Tier II \$500,000 Severance Tax Cash Fund transfer to the ACRE3 Program, which would be deposited into a new agriculture climate resiliency cash fund.

### **Modernizing the Pest Control Act**

Update definitions in the Pest Control Act, Title 35 Article 4, to better align with model legislation written by the National Plant Board, establish a process for Federal recognition of State-managed control programs and quarantines of non-regulated plant pests, create a new cash fund for emergency pest control measures, and allow for program cost recovery.