



LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY 2025

ESMERALDA SORIA, CHAIR

Assembly Committee on Agriculture

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Hon. Damon Connolly
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ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

ESMERALDA SORIA, CHAIR

ASSEMBLYWOMAN, TWENTY-SEVENTH DISTRICT

November 7, 2025

TO ALL INTERESTED PARTIES:

The following report summarizes legislation referred to the Assembly Committee on Agriculture during the 2025 legislative session and indicates the final status of each measure.

The Committee's primary jurisdiction extends to agricultural commissions, agricultural commodities, Department of Food and Agriculture, expositions and fairs, farmers markets, food access, food labeling, labeling of agricultural commodities, livestock and poultry, marketing orders and agreements, milk and milk products, pest management, veterinarians: agricultural issues.

For additional information regarding this summary, or other activities of the Assembly Committee on Agriculture, please contact the Committee staff at (916) 319-2084.

Sincerely,



Esmeralda Soria, Chair
Assembly Committee on Agriculture

ASSEMBLY AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE

LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY

2025

ASSEMBLY BILLS

AB 312 (Alanis) – Agricultural theft prevention: retention and sale of agricultural commodity: holding and deposit of proceeds. Held in Senate Agriculture Committee. This bill would require the commissioner to hold the proceeds of the sale of a commodity for at least 3 months, rather than 6 months, before depositing them into the general fund of the county.

AB 411 (Papan) – Livestock carcasses: disposal: composting. Chaptered by Secretary of State - Chapter 613, Statutes of 2025. This bill would authorize any part of a livestock carcass resulting from a routine livestock mortality event or on-farm processing to be composted if certain requirements are met, including, among others, that the composting is conducted in accordance with best management practices for livestock composting adopted by the Secretary of Food and Agriculture.

AB 482 (Solache) – California Table Grape Commission. Chaptered by Secretary of State - Chapter 614, Statutes of 2025. This bill would update and revise many provisions in the California Table Grape Commission (CTGC) by, changing the membership of CTGC from 21 to 18 grape producers and a public member. Require the CTGC to annually compile and maintain a list of eligible producers who are qualified to vote in an election, expand the activities, powers, and duties of the commission to also include accepting and matching contributions of funds and making contributions of commission funds to other persons or agencies, and administering any program related to the table grape industry. Increases the maximum amount of the assessment to \$0.02 per pound, and would make numerous changes that technical, conforming and/or outdated.

AB 524 (Wilson) – Farmland Access and Conservation for Thriving Communities Act. Vetoed by the Governor. This bill would have required the Department of Conservation (DOC), in collaboration with the California Agricultural Land Equity Task Force (CALETF), to establish the Farmland Access and Conservation for Thriving Communities (FACT-CA) Program, within the DOC to provide financial and technical assistance to support agricultural land acquisition and protection.

I am returning Assembly Bill 524 without my signature.

This bill would require the Department of Conservation, in collaboration with the California Agricultural Land Equity Task Force, to establish the Farmland Access and Conservation for Thriving Communities Program to improve land access and tenure for socially disadvantaged farmers or ranchers, tribal producers, and beginning farmers and ranchers.

Land access is a critical issue for beginning and socially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers, and I support the intention of this bill to assist those groups. While this bill would authorize the program to receive funds from Proposition 4 - The Safe Drinking Water, Wildfire Prevention, Drought Preparedness, and Clean Air Bond Act of 2024 - recent budget action by the Legislature did not explicitly appropriate funding to support this program and there is no sustained funding to support the ongoing cost pressure this program would create.

In partnership with the Legislature this year, my Administration has enacted a balanced budget that recognizes the challenging fiscal landscape our state faces while maintaining our commitment to working families and our most vulnerable communities. With significant fiscal pressures and the federal government's hostile economic policies, it is vital that we remain disciplined when considering bills with significant fiscal implications that are not included in the budget, such as this measure.

AB 675 (Aguiar-Curry) – Office of Farm to Fork: California Farm to School Program.

Held under submission in Senate Appropriations Committee. This bill would establish the California Farm to School Act for the purpose of cultivating equality, nurturing students, building climate resilience, and creating scalable and sustainable change in the school food system.

AB 732 (Macedo) – Agriculture: neglected or abandoned crops: public nuisances: pests. Chaptered by Secretary of State - Chapter 440, Statutes of 2025. This bill would define pest as an infectious, transmissible, or contagious disease of a plant, or a disorder of a plant that manifests symptoms or behaviors characteristic of an infectious, transmissible, or contagious disease that is, or is liable to be, dangerous or detrimental to the agricultural industry of the state and would authorize a county agricultural commissioner (CAC) to levy a civil penalty against a person who maintains a public nuisance.

AB 928 (Rogers) – Roosters: restrictions. Held in Senate Agriculture Committee.

This bill would prohibit a person from keeping or raising more than 25 roosters and would subject a person who violates this prohibition to a civil penalty not to exceed \$2,500 for each violation, as provided.

AB 937 (Connolly) – The Cannella Environmental Farming Act of 1995: Organic Transition Program. Held under submission in Assembly Appropriations

Committee. This bill would have required the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) to establish and oversee the Organic Transition Program (OTP) on or before July 1, 2026.

AB 947 (Connelly) – Agriculture: Cannella Environmental Farming Act of 1995.

Chaptered by Secretary of State - Chapter 283, Statutes of 2025. This bill (1) requires the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) to oversee a sustainable agriculture program to provide research, technical assistance, and incentive grants to promote agricultural

practices that support climate resilience for farms and ranches and the well-being of ecosystems, air quality, and biodiversity. This bill (2) renames the Scientific Advisory Panel on Environmental Farming to the Scientific Advisory Panel on Resilient and Sustainable Agriculture (Panel) for the purpose of providing advice to the secretary on the implementation of research, incentive, and technical assistance grant programs for sustainable agriculture. This bill (3) expands the panel from nine members to eleven members to add members of the public that represent scientific expertise in sustainable agriculture and members of state agencies that represent expertise in programs and policies related to agriculture.

AB 1042 (Ransom) – The Cannella Environmental Farming Act of 1995: Managed Honeybee Health Program. Vetoed by Governor. This bill would allow the California Department of Food and Agricultural (CDFA), to establish and oversee the Managed Honeybee Health Program (MHHP) under the administration of for the purpose of enhancing the health and well-being of managed honeybees in California that are necessary to support the ecological and economic viability of California agriculture.

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am returning Assembly Bill 1042 without my signature.

This bill would allow the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) to establish the Managed Honeybee Health Program to fund health interventions for managed honeybees according to priorities set by CDFA.

I appreciate the author's interest in protecting our honeybee population, but this bill would create an unfunded grant program and, therefore, should be considered as part of the annual budget process.

In partnership with the Legislature this year, my Administration has enacted a balanced budget that recognizes the challenging fiscal landscape our state faces while maintaining our commitment to working families and our most vulnerable communities. With significant fiscal pressures and the federal government's hostile economic policies, it is vital that we remain disciplined when considering bills with significant fiscal implications that are not included in the budget, such as this measure.

For this reason, I cannot sign this bill.

AB 1142 (Hoover) – Horses: horse shows, competitions, and sales. Chaptered by Secretary of State - Chapter 447, Statutes of 2025. This bill increases specified fee thresholds, for an entry fee to a public equine event, by the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) from \$4.99 to \$15.00 and from \$19.99 to \$60.00 if other fees are involved and specifies the secretary may, in consultation with the Equine Medication Monitoring Program (EMMP) Advisory Committee, increase these amounts.

AB 1156 (Wicks) – Solar-use easements: suspension of Williamson Act contracts: terms of easement: termination. Ordered to Inactive File in Senate. Makes a number of changes to law governing the conversion of a Williamson Act (WA) contract into a solar-use easement (SUE).

AB 1322 (Agriculture Committee) – Agricultural commissions and reports.

Chaptered by Secretary of State - Chapter 188, Statutes of 2025. This bill makes various changes to the California Grape Rootstock Improvement Commission (CGRIC), the California Avocado Commission, the California Apple Commission, the Olive Oil Commission of California (OOC), and Grape Crush annual report dates.

AB 1486 (Soria) – Climate resiliency: research farms: grant program. Held in

Assembly Appropriations Committee. Requires the State Department of Education (DOE), in consultation with the Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA), on or before January 1, 2026, to establish a grant program to provide grants to public postsecondary educational institutions that are designated as Agricultural Experiment Stations or Agricultural Research Institutes to develop or expand research farms to improve climate resiliency, as specified.

AB 1505 (Agriculture Committee) – Food and agriculture: omnibus bill. Chaptered by Secretary of State - Chapter 198, Statutes of 2025.

This bill extends the Vertebrate Pest Control Research (VPCR) program to 2035. The VPCRs current repeal date is January 1, 2026. Additionally, this bill would clarify current law to specify that a medically important antimicrobial drug only be administered to livestock when it is ordered by a licensed veterinarian and meets the requirements of federal and state law, along with the already established Business Professions Code Section 4826.6 requirements. Finally, this bill would add enforcement to the certified mobile farmers' market to mirror enforcement provisions of "static" certified farmers' markets.

AB 1506 (Agriculture Committee) – Invasive pests: lists. Held in Assembly

Appropriations Committee. The Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) is required to develop and maintain a list of invasive pests, as specified, that would likely cause economic or environmental harm if they entered California. This bill would require CDFA to post the invasive pest on CDFA's public website.

AJR 6 (Aguiar-Curry) – Child nutrition: federal programs: funding cuts. Ordered to Inactive File in the Senate.

This resolution calls on the state's representatives in Congress to continue to support investments in the federal Local Food for Schools and Child Care (LFSCC) program and would call on the President of the United States to work with Congress to support family farmers who produce fresh, locally sourced food for school meals.

SENATE BILLS

SB 18 (Rubio) – Food Desert Elimination Grant Program. Held under submission in Assembly Appropriations Committee.

This bill would establish the Food Desert Elimination (FDE) Grant Program, which would allow the Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) for the purpose of expanding access to healthy foods in food deserts in the state, and areas at risk of becoming food deserts, by providing grants to grocery store operators. This bill would also establish the Food Desert Elimination Fund in the General Fund and would authorize monies from the fund be used, upon appropriation, to run the program.

SB 312 (Umberg) – Dog importation: health certificates. Chaptered by Secretary of State. Chapter 480, Statutes of 2025. This bill revises and recasts the requirements for the submission of health certificates (HC) for dogs imported into California; requires additional information be included on a HC and that it be submitted to the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) instead of the county in which the dog is imported into, requires the CDFA to retain the HC for five years; requires the HC to be submitted electronically; and, makes a HC received by the CDFA a public record, as specified.

SB 493 (Becker) – District agricultural associations: secretary-managers: compensation. Held at Desk in the Assembly. This bill changes how fair managers' salaries are determined. It renames fair managers as secretary-managers of district agricultural associations and shifts the responsibility for setting their pay to the secretary of the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA). The secretary must establish a single salary range, conduct a salary survey every three years, and ensure pay stays within existing limits until the first survey. After that, the maximum salary cannot exceed the highest comparable position's salary, except for cost-of-living adjustments, merit increases, or additional pay for managing multiple districts.

INFORMATIONAL HEARINGS

Food Insecurity: How Can California Increase Access to Food Assistance Programs? – March 26, 2025. (Joint Hearing with Assembly Committee on Human Services and Assembly Committee on Agriculture) – Food insecurity, as defined by the USDA, is a household-level economic and social condition of limited or uncertain access to adequate food. This means that at times, households struggle to acquire enough food to meet the needs of all their members due to insufficient resources. Food Insecurity in California affects the vast majority of regions in the state. This hearing will allow for a full discussion on the impacts of insecurity, what steps are being take to lessen the impact and look at how we can work to develop local food systems.

Cost pressures on California's food system and Household Impacts – October 24, 2025. (Joint Hearing with Assembly Committee on Economic Development, Growth, and Household Impact and Assembly Committee on Agriculture) –

This hearing delved into a deeper discussion on California's Food System and Cost Pressures that affect all aspects of our agriculture economy. The panelists elaborated on the impacts of cost inputs, what steps are being take to lessen the impact and look at how we can work to develop policies that will help keep California's farms economically viable.