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California State Assembly

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AGRICULTURE



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ROBERT RIVAS
CHAIR

AGENDA

Wednesday, April 6, 2022
1:30 p.m. -- State Capitol, Room 126

HEARD IN FILE ORDER

- | | | | |
|----|--------------------|-----------------|---|
| 1. | AB 2500 | Arambula | Farm to Hospital Grant Pilot Program. |
| 2. | AB 1678 | Fong | Department of Food and Agriculture: Blue Ribbon Commission on Port Congestion and Supply Chain Deficiencies.(Urgency) |
| 3. | AB 1689 | Fong | Pest control operations: aircraft operations: certificates. |
| 4. | AB 1773 | Patterson | Williamson Act: subvention payments: appropriation. |
| 5. | AB 2487* | Gray | Fairs: district agricultural associations: sponsorship fees. |
| 6. | AB 2414* | Mathis | Invasive pests: list. |
| 7. | AB 2412 | Villapudua | Agriculture: State Water Efficiency and Enhancement Program. |

* Proposed Consent

Date of Hearing: April 6, 2022

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

Robert Rivas, Chair

AB 2500 (Arambula) – As Introduced February 17, 2022

SUBJECT: Farm to Hospital Grant Pilot Program

SUMMARY: This bill would establish the Farm to Hospital Grant Pilot Program, which the office would administer, to award competitive grants to eligible applicants to provide hospital patients with meals prepared from California-sourced agricultural products, as specified. Specifically, *this bill*:

- 1) Defines the following:
 - a) California-sourced agricultural products means agricultural products produced in California or harvested in its surface or coastal waters.
 - b) Eligible applicant means the University of California, a research hospital, or a hospital capable of complying with the requirements of this article.
 - c) Food hub means a public-serving aggregation and distribution enterprise or community food hub for California-sourced agricultural products.
 - d) Grant moneys means moneys awarded to an eligible applicant through the pilot program.
 - e) Grantee means an eligible applicant awarded grant moneys through the pilot program.
 - f) Office means the Office of Farm to Fork (OF2F), as specified.
 - g) Pilot program means the Farm to Hospital Grant Pilot Program.
 - h) Research hospital means a hospital that expends at least 10 percent of its operating budget in each fiscal year exclusively on medical research activities not directly related to the provision of services to patients.
 - i) Socially disadvantaged farmer or rancher has the same meaning as defined in Section 512 of the Food and Agriculture code.
 - j) Sustainable agricultural practices has the same meaning as that term in the Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education Act of 1986.
- 2) Establishes the pilot program within OF2F.
- 3) Requires OF2F to administer the pilot program by awarding competitive grants to eligible applicants to provide hospital patients with meals prepared from California-sourced agricultural products and build direct relationships with California farmers and ranchers.
- 4) Requires OF2F, in consultation with the California Department of Public Health (CDPH), to develop grant criteria to evaluate proposals from eligible applicants.
 - a) Requires grant proposal to include the following:
 - i) A proposal narrative.
 - ii) A proposal budget.
 - iii) The scope and estimated number of hospital patients to be served meals, as specified.

- iv) A description of the eligible applicant's existing meal preparation facilities and food procurement practices.
 - v) The proposed use of any grant moneys awarded, including how that use is consistent with this chapter.
 - vi) A plan for direct outreach to farms, ranches, and food hubs and for procurement, either directly or through a food distributor, from farms, ranches, and food hubs.
- 5) Allows grantee to only use grant funds as follows:
- a) Improving or expanding hospital meal preparation facilities or infrastructure for the use, preparation, or storage of California-sourced agricultural products.
 - b) Supporting the planning of menus and patient meals that use seasonal California-sourced agricultural products.
 - c) Purchasing equipment for meal preparation or storage of California-sourced agricultural products.
 - d) Staffing necessary to conduct outreach to farms, plan menus, and procure California-sourced agricultural products.
 - e) Cost-share purchasing of California-sourced agricultural products, as specified.
 - f) Conducting outreach to California farmers, ranchers, or food hubs to procure California-sourced agricultural products or connect farmers, ranchers, or food hubs with food distributors contracted by a hospital.
- 6) Requires OF2F to set the percentage of a grantee's costs of purchasing California-sourced agricultural products that the office will pay using grant moneys through cost-share purchasing.
- a) Provides that in addition to the percentage set pursuant to subdivision (a) for purposes of cost-share purchasing, for each of the following conditions applicable to the entity from which the California-sourced agricultural products are purchased, the office shall set separate cost-share purchasing percentage:
 - i) The farm or ranch employs sustainable agricultural practices.
 - ii) The farm or ranch is owned by a socially disadvantaged farmer or rancher, woman farmer or rancher, or veteran farmer or rancher.
 - iii) The farm or ranch has gross incomes under two hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$250,000).
 - iv) The entity is a food hub that serves a farm or ranch described in paragraph (2) or (3).
 - b) Allows OF2F, when setting percentages, to set a different percentage for each condition.
- 7) Requires OF2F to provide technical assistance and leverage OF2F's relationships with community-based organizations, local and statewide farming organizations, to assist grantees for purposes of identifying and communicating with California farmers, ranchers, and food hubs.
- 8) Requires grantee to collect the following information, as specified:

- a) The hospital patient's mood.
 - b) The hospital patient's duration of hospitalization.
 - c) The hospital patient's blood sugar level.
- 9) Each grantee shall collect the following information:
- a) The grantee's average daily expenditures on food procurement and preparation.
 - b) The grantee's average daily income from meal purchases.
 - c) The grantee's method of outreach to farms and ranches.
 - d) The grantee's procurement agreements with farms, ranches, food hubs, and food distributors.
- 10) Requires, by January 1, 2026, each grantee to submit a report to OF2F and CDPH based on the information collection in 7 and 8 above, in a manner consistent with the federal Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPA) of 1996.
- 11) Requires OF2F to submit a report on the Pilot Programs the legislature by January 1, 2027, which included, but is not limited to the following:
- a) The use of grant moneys by grantees.
 - b) The number of patients and meals served through the pilot program.
 - c) The pilot program's impact on patient outcomes.
 - d) Any recommendations for future revisions to the pilot program.
- 12) Allows OF2FF to contract with a private entity for fulfilling the report requirement.
- 13) Repeals the Pilot Program on January 1, 2023.

EXISTING LAW: creates OF2F within the Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA), and requires the office, to the extent that resources are available, to work with various entities, as prescribed, to increase the amount of agricultural products available to underserved communities and schools in the state.

FISCAL EFFECT: Unknown

COMMENTS: Research suggests that approximately one-third of patients in developed countries have some degree of malnourishment upon entering a hospital, with two-thirds worsening during their hospital stay. This is not only taxing to the patient but also increases costs to the hospital. A key disconnect between the importance of nutrition and the presence of widespread malnutrition is centered on the meals offered in hospitals. Hospitals currently decide what meals to provide based on a number of factors, including food availability, fiscal concerns, and the limits of their meal preparation facilities. Even as the nation faces an epidemic of obesity and food-related diseases such as diabetes and heart disease, many hospitals are forced to offer nutritionally insufficient meals in order to cut costs.

According to the author, taking a different approach, the concept of "farm to fork" recognizes the positive benefits of brining locally grown, fresh, and healthy foods directly to consumers. This

aims to bring this approach to hospitals by fostering relationships between hospitals and California farmers, supporting upgrades to hospital kitchens necessary to receive California agricultural products, and guiding planning of meals around seasonal availability all to the benefit of patient nutrition and recovery.

Supporters state that along with helping California farmers, this bill will also provide an avenue for health insecure patients to consume fresh, healthy, California-grown agricultural products in a hospital setting. Poor diet is one of the leading causes of death in California, and contributes to obesity, heart disease, high blood pressure, and cancer. California-grown procurement and farm-to-fork policy action throughout this Program will result in positive changes in patient health outcomes and provide for lifelong healthy eating habits post-discharge. This bill is a triple win – for patients, farmers, and communities.

OF2F was initially an objective of the Health in All Policies (HiAP) Task Force’s Farm to Fork Implementation Plan, endorsed by the Strategic Growth Council in January of 2012. With HiAP’s help, CDFA collaborated with the California Department of Education and California Department of Public Health to form OF2F. Assembly Bill 2413 permanently established OF2F within CDFA in 2014 when Governor Brown signed. OF2F works to increase access to healthy foods for underserved communities and schools in the state of California. Current programs include Farm to School, Healthy Stores Refrigeration Grant Program and working to reduce food insecurity in California.

The committee may wish to consider the following technical amendments that more accurately define sustainable farming practices:

- 1) On page 3, lines 19-22, ~~(j) “Sustainable agricultural practices” has the same meaning as that term is used in the Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education Act of 1986 (Article 8 (commencing with Section 550) of Chapter 3 of Part 1 of Division 1),~~ and replace with (j) *“Climate smart agricultural practices” includes those practices defined as “climate smart agricultural practices” in the United States Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service’s conservation practice standards or by the Department of Food and Agriculture for purposes of the Cannella Environmental Farming Act of 1995 (Article 8.5 (commencing with Section 560) of Chapter 3 of Part 1 of Division 1) or Part 1(commencing with Section 101) of Division 1.*
- 2) On page 5, line 7, strike the word **sustainable** and replace with *climate smart*

Related Legislation:

AB 2413 (Pérez) Chapter 583, Statutes of 2014 established OF2F within CDFA.

ACR 108 (Bonta) Chapter 166, Statutes of 2017 encourage local jurisdictions across California to create “Food as Medicine” programs to address the obesity and diabetes epidemics.

AB 1160 (Rubio) of 2021 would have authorize Medi-Cal managed care plans to provide medically tailored meals to enrollees. Died in Asm. Health

REGISTERED SUPPORT / OPPOSITION:

Support

California Farm Bureau

Opposition

None on file.

Analysis Prepared by: Victor Francovich / AGRI. / (916) 319-2084

Date of Hearing: April 6, 2022

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

Robert Rivas, Chair

AB 1678 (Fong) – As Introduced January 20, 2022

SUBJECT: Department of Food and Agriculture: Blue Ribbon Commission on Port Congestion and Supply Chain Deficiencies

SUMMARY: This bill would require the Californian Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) to establish and convene the Blue Ribbon Commission (BRC) on Port Congestion and Supply Chain Deficiencies. The BRC will recommend changes needed in the near and long-term future to mitigate the impacts of port congestion and supply chain issues on agricultural commodities. The BRC will submit, on or before January 1, 2023, a report to the Legislature documenting its recommendations. Specifically, *this bill*:

- 1) Defines BRC to mean Blue Ribbon Commission on Port Congestion and Supply Chain Deficiencies.
- 2) Requires CDFA to establish and convene the Blue Ribbon Commission, comprised of the following:
 - a) The Secretary of CDFA, who will serve as Chair.
 - b) A member appointed by the secretary that represents the agriculture industry.
 - c) A member appointed by the secretary that represents California ports.
 - d) A member appointed by the secretary with experience in goods movement.
 - e) Any other members that the secretary chooses to appoint who have relevant experience.
- 3) Requires the BRC to recommend changes needed in the immediate and long-term future to mitigate the negative impacts of port congestion and supply chain deficiencies on agricultural commodities.
- 4) Allows the BRC may take public input for recommendations made pursuant to subdivision.
- 5) Requires, on or before January 1, 2023, the BRC to submit a report to the Legislature documenting its recommendations developed pursuant, as specified.
- 6) This bill has an urgency clause.

EXISTING LAW: Requires CDFA to promote and protect the agricultural industry of the state.

FISCAL EFFECT: Unknown.

COMMENTS: In 2020, California's farms and ranches received \$49.1 billion in cash receipts for their output. This represents a 3.3 percent decrease in cash receipts compared to the previous year. California agricultural exports totaled \$21.7 billion in 2019, an increase of 3.4 percent from 2018. In 2019, the top commodities for export included almonds, pistachios, dairy and dairy

products, wine, and walnuts. California Agriculture's top five trading partners are the European Union, Canada, China/Hong Kong, Japan, South Korea, and Mexico.

A Giannini Foundation of Agricultural Economics at UC Davis report analyzed the effects of the 2021 supply chain gridlock and resulting shipping container shortage on California agriculture. Due to exporters' difficulty obtaining empty shipping containers, the value of California's containerized agricultural exports fell by an estimated \$2.1 billion, about 17%, from May to September 2021. The financial damages suffered by California agriculture from the supply chain disruptions exceed the industry's losses from the 2018 U.S. - China trade war.

The Covid-19 lockdown raised U.S. household savings to historical levels. Savings increased from an average of 8% of disposable income in 2019 to 16% in 2020, reaching as high as 34% in April 2020. Amplified by government stimulus payments, the extra savings led to an increase in U.S. consumer spending. The resulting demand shock was partially met with imported goods from Asia, growing the 2021 U.S. goods trade imbalance with China by 15% for the first three quarters of 2021, compared with the same period in 2020.

The COVID-related boost in imports resulted in increased demand for empty shipping containers in Asia, and freight rates from Asia to the United States rose so fast that more and more containers were being shipped back to Asia empty, as opposed to carrying U.S. export products. The empty containers were more valuable in Asia, as they could be quickly loaded and sent back to the United States, earning a much higher freight rate compared to the backhaul rate from California to Asia. This meant that outbound cargo from California was impacted due to a shortage of containers for loading, creating lost export opportunities for California farmers.

According to the Author, the recent congestion at our ports and the subsequent disruption through the supply chain highlighted the vulnerable position our agriculture industry is in when it comes to the state's export policy and infrastructure. While the focus of recent solutions was on our coastal ports, farmers were left without viable export opportunities. A Blue Ribbon Commission on Agricultural Exports will identify inefficiencies, best practices, and recommend improvements to the state's export industry in order to sustain California's robust agricultural sector as a global leader.

REGISTERED SUPPORT / OPPOSITION:

Support

City of Bakersfield
County of Kern

Opposition

None on file.

Analysis Prepared by: Victor Francovich / AGRI. / (916) 319-2084

Date of Hearing: April 6, 2022

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

Robert Rivas, Chair

AB 1689 Fong – As Amended March 30, 2022

SUBJECT: Pest control operations: aircraft operations: certificates

SUMMARY: Updates the licensing process for operators of Unmanned Aircraft Systems (drones), commonly known as drones, for pest control purposes, including agriculture pest control. Specifically, *this bill*:

- 1) Deletes, as it relates to drones used for pest control, provisions on specified Federal certification approving pesticide use and replaces it with certification from the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) for both agricultural and commercial operations consistent with federal law.
- 2) Changes the two designations for unmanned pest control aircraft pilot's status from a journeyman or apprentice, to unmanned aircraft operator.
- 3) Requires, before an initial unmanned certificate is issued, the applicant for unmanned aircraft operator or for vector control technician to pass an examination to demonstrate their ability to legally and safely conduct pest control operations and their knowledge of the nature and effect of materials that are used in pest control.
- 4) Requires a qualified applicator license for an unmanned pest control aircraft operation spraying a regulated pesticide, fungicide, or herbicide.
- 5) Requires an unmanned pest control aircraft operation spraying a regulated pesticide, fungicide, or herbicide under a qualified applicator license shall comply with all of the following:
 - a) All operations shall be conducted in accordance with a Certificate of Waiver or Authorization (COA) issued by the Air Traffic Organization of the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA). An unmanned aircraft operator shall apply for a new or amended COA if they intend to conduct operations that cannot be conducted under the terms of the existing COA.
 - b) An unmanned aircraft operator shall file a Notice to Air Missions with the FAA not more than 72 hours in advance of each operation, but not less than 48 hours before each operation.
 - c) All operations shall not exceed 200 feet above ground level (AGL) unless the COA or a subsequently issued Federal Aviation Administration authorization specifies an altitude restriction lower than 200 feet AGL. Altitude shall be reported to the FAA in feet AGL.
- 6) Requires the application of a pesticide, fungicide, or herbicide by an unmanned pest control aircraft according to the label instructions. Labeling instructions issued by the Department of Pesticide Regulation shall be in compliance with any federal labeling issued pursuant to the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (7 U.S.C. Sec. 136 et seq.).

EXISTING LAW:

- 1) Provides that it is unlawful for any person to operate a drone in pest control unless the pilot operating the drone holds a valid manned pest control aircraft pilot's (PCAP) certificate or a valid unmanned PCAP's certificate issued by the Director of Pesticide Regulation (DPR) and is certified or otherwise authorized by the FAA to operate DRONES approved by the FAA to conduct pest control.
- 2) Requires each unmanned PCAP's certificate to designate the pilot's status as a journeyman, apprentice, or vector control technician.
- 3) Requires an applicant for a PCAP's certificate to pass an examination as a condition of licensure.
- 4) Provides that it is unlawful for any person to act as a PCAP in any county without first registering with the appropriate county agricultural commissioner.
- 5) Provides that it is unlawful to use any fraud or misrepresentation in connection with meeting any license requirement relating to pest control operations.

Federal Law: Regulates, via the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), the operating of drones to dispense or spray substances, including substance that acts as a pesticide, plant regulator, or defoliant, other substance intended for plant nourishment, soil treatment, propagation of plant life, or pest control, engaging in dispensing activities directly affecting agriculture, horticulture, or forest preservation or disinfectants.

FISCAL EFFECT: Unknown.

COMMENTS: AB 527 (Caballero), Chapter 404, statutes of 2017, allowed commercial drones operations for the purposes of pesticide application for mosquito and vector control, if the drone operator complies with FAA rules governing drone flight and the drone operator has approval from DPR. AB 527 created a new PCAP certificate for drone operators, to be provided upon operators passing the exam, as specified.

Current requirements for drone pilots include a training process that requires an apprentice pilot to train under a journeyman pilot for 150 hours for fixed wing aircraft and 50 hours for non-fixed wing aircraft.

According to the author, the current framework was designed for manned aircraft but is not suitable for new technology like drones. AB 527 allowed drone operations for the purposes of pesticide application for mosquito and vector control. More expansion is necessary for agricultural operations. While drones can provide significant benefits to our agriculture industry, there is currently a lack of licensed agricultural drone pilots in the state. The reason for that shortage is a set of complex regulatory hurdles at the federal and state levels that need to be adapted to current technology. Without access to certified pilots, farmers are not able to utilize drones easily and efficiently.

Supporters state other parts of the world have deployed the use of drones in agriculture. For example, in Japan for nearly the past decade, rice farmers have changed their pesticide application processes to use 1/100th of the water needed to dilute pesticides compared with

ground based applicator systems, saving farmers precious water supplies, and decreasing on farm manual labor. This technology has the capability to decrease costs for farmers and improve efficiency, particularly for high value, small acre crops such as rice, berries, grapes, hemp, and other vegetation grown in California.

Furthermore, supporters state the technology will also improve on farm worker safety. Drone deployment of pesticides, herbicides, and even biologicals can be done remotely, as opposed to using backpack blowers and sprayers deployed by a person. Drone applications can be done with more precision than manned aircraft, meaning less product may be required to treat similar areas. The applications can occur at night, when conditions permit for even less worker exposure, and when certain targets are more active, and can be used in conjunction with other advanced on drone technology, like cameras and sensors to further maximize the efficiency of drone applications.

A February 2022 presentation by the United States Environmental Protection Agency (US-EPA) stated US-EPA does not currently have established data testing/information needs for UAVs. US-EPA is working with several stakeholders/working groups - both US and international - to help inform any potential data needs and how it compares to existing application technology in areas such as: off-site drift, worker exposure and exposure to other non-target organism and crop residues.

Since 2017, the State of Oregon's Aerial Applicator licensing rules has allowed for a wider array of training than California. California requires flight training that consist of 150 hours for fixed wing aircraft or 50 hours for non-fixed wing aircraft under a Journeyman aerial pest applicator. In California, drone operators fall under the same rules. Oregon provides for the option to have training under the supervision of a certified Aerial Pesticide Applicator; on flights conducted for the purpose of carrying out, or training to carry out, spraying or otherwise applying pesticides by aircraft.

The committee may wish to consider the following amendment to add another classification of training for PCAP:

On page 3, after line 24 add *2) Complete 50 hours or more hours of certified training as licensed qualified applicator, or flight training experience as a licensed qualified applicator, immediately supervised Trainee of a licensed qualified applicator, or apprentice under the supervision of a certified pest control aircraft pilot, on flights conducted for the purpose of carrying out, or training to carry out, spraying or otherwise applying pesticides by aircraft.*

REGISTERED SUPPORT / OPPOSITION:

Support

California Farm Bureau Federation (Sponsor)
Association for Unmanned Vehicle Systems International
City of Bakersfield
County of Kern

Opposition

None on file.

Analysis Prepared by: Victor Francovich / AGRI. / (916) 319-2084

Date of Hearing: April 6, 2022

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE
Robert Rivas, Chair
AB 1773 (Patterson) – As Introduced February 3, 2022

SUBJECT: Williamson Act: subvention payments: appropriation

SUMMARY: This bill would appropriate an additional \$40,000,000 from the General Fund (GF) to make Williamson Act (Act) subvention payments to counties for losses incurred by counties from reduction of assessed property taxes.

EXISTING LAW: Creates the Act, also known as the California Land Conservation Act of 1965, which authorizes cities and counties to enter into agricultural land preservation contracts with landowners who agree to restrict the use of their land for a minimum of 10 years in exchange for lower-assessed valuations for property tax purposes.

FISCAL EFFECT: Unknown.

COMMENTS: The Act conserves agricultural and open space land by allowing private property owners to sign voluntary contracts with counties and cities, restricting their land to agriculture, open space, and compatible uses. In return, county assessors must lower the assessed value of the contracted lands to reflect their use as agricultural or open space instead of the market value. Making sure that private property owners use their Act land appropriately is essential to maintaining the statute's constitutional integrity.

Approximately 16.6 million acres are under Act contracts. When the proposed 2003-04 budget wanted to save approximately \$39 million by ending the state subventions, the Legislative Analyst's Office recommended a 10-year phase-out. The Legislature's 2009-10 Budget reduced the subventions to \$27.8 million. However, Governor Schwarzenegger essentially eliminated the subventions in the 2009-10 budget by cutting the appropriation to \$1,000. There were several attempts to restore this funding in the Legislature in 2010.

Supporters state, there have been no subvention payments since 2010, which has consequently denied rural counties of critical revenue. The resumption of subvention payments would alleviate the financial hardship rural counties face and help strengthen public safety as well as programs that improve the well-being of our most vulnerable residents.

Supporters further state that with consistent support enrolled lands could be better used by statewide agencies in their land use planning to meet conservation, biodiversity, and climate goals. With the focus on air quality, it is of note that research shows that an acre of urban land emits 70 times as much greenhouse gasses as an acre of irrigated cropland. The preservation of our agricultural lands decreases the cost of community services and vehicle miles traveled while providing wildlife habitat contributing to biological diversity.

REGISTERED SUPPORT / OPPOSITION:

Support

Butte LAFCO
CA Association of Local Agency Formation Commissions
Colusa, County of
County of Butte
County of Fresno
County of Yolo
Madera County
Sacramento; County of
Siskiyou County Board of Supervisors
Solano County Board of Supervisors
Tulare County Board of Supervisors

Opposition

None on file.

Analysis Prepared by: Victor Francovich / AGRI. / (916) 319-2084

Date of Hearing: April 6, 2022

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

Robert Rivas, Chair

AB 2487 (Gray) – As Introduced February 17, 2022

SUBJECT: Fairs: district agricultural associations: sponsorship fees

SUMMARY: This bill would authorize a District Agriculture Association (DAA), also known as fairs, to pay sponsorship fees, and join and participate in affairs of any similar organization.

EXISTING LAW:

1. Provides for the establishment of DAA; and
2. Allows a DAA to engage in various activities, including paying membership fees and joining and participating in affairs of any similar organization that deals with subjects that are related to the powers and duties of the DAA.

FISCAL EFFECT: Unknown.

COMMENTS: There are 54 statutory DAAs, of which 52 are active, and 41 operate on state owned lands. They hold various activities on their sites, such as fairs, day care operations, fund raising and commercial events. DAAs in some areas provide the only event space for the local community. DAA budgets run from several hundred thousand dollars to over ten million dollars. Only a few DAAs are self-sustaining, most are not.

California's fairs operate under the guidelines of the Department of Food and Agriculture - Division of Fairs and Expositions. Collectively they host events that are attended by nearly ten million Californians and tourists annually. According to the Author, the network of California fairs is an economic, social, and cultural institution that enriches the lives of Californians from every background and walk of life and seeks to connect urban populations that may have little contact with farms, ranches, and agribusinesses with California's agricultural heritage.

Sponsorship fees are any fees collected from the sale of any and all title, signage, billboard, and secondary advertisements. This includes app sponsorships, website sponsorships, and physical sponsorships. Membership fees are dues remitted by entities to an organization for the right to use shared services such as facilities, legal expertise, and common vendors. Current law allows a fair, by a majority vote of its board, to elect to pay membership fees into another association that manages a fair, horse racing program, or livestock show on its property.

However, fairs are not explicitly allowed to pay sponsorship fees to the same organizations. This bill clarifies that DAA can pay sponsorship fees, in addition to membership fees, to organizations that manage events on California fairgrounds.

REGISTERED SUPPORT / OPPOSITION:

Support

None on file.

Opposition

None on file.

Analysis Prepared by: Victor Francovich / AGRI. / (916) 319-2084

Date of Hearing: April 6, 2022

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE
Robert Rivas, Chair
AB 2414 (Mathis) – As Introduced February 17, 2022

SUBJECT: Invasive pests: list

SUMMARY: 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.

EXISTING LAW: Requires CDFA to develop and maintain a list of invasive pests, defined to mean animals, plants, insects, and plant and animal diseases or groups of those animals, plants, insects, and plant and animal diseases where introduction into California would or would likely cause economic or environmental harm, that have a reasonable likelihood of entering California for which a detection, exclusion, eradication, control, or management action by the state might be appropriate.

FISCAL EFFECT: Unknown.

COMMENTS: One of the primary mandates of CDFA is to "Protect against invasion of exotic pests and diseases." California agricultural losses to exotic pests exceed \$3 billion annually. Exotic pests are organisms that have been introduced into an area beyond their natural range; and become pests in the new environment. They are also referred to as alien, non-native, or introduced pests.

Most introductions have been unintentional and accidental. Having evolved in a different ecosystem, these non-native species may have few natural enemies in their new locations, which can often lead to population increases that can overwhelm native species by out-competing them for resources (e.g., food, water, light, space). An invasive species is a species that does not occur naturally in a specific area and whose introduction does or is likely to cause economic (including agricultural) or environmental harm or harm to human health.

Common traits of invasive pests and pathogens include rapid reproduction, fast growth, wide dispersal, altering of growth or form to suit a particular habitat, tolerating a wide range of environmental conditions and the ability to feed on a variety of different foods. All species have vectors that can move them to new areas to colonize, but for invasive species it's usually human activity of some kind (such as foreign trade and travel) that has transported them here unknowingly. Often the best single predictor of invasive ability is whether a species is already known to be an invasive pest somewhere else. This bill will help keep Californians informed on potential invasive pest issues.

REGISTERED SUPPORT / OPPOSITION:

Support

None on file.

Opposition

None on file.

Analysis Prepared by: Victor Francovich / AGRI. / (916) 319-2084

Date of Hearing: April 6, 2022

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE
Robert Rivas, Chair
AB 2412 (Villapudua) – As Introduced February 17, 2022

SUBJECT: Agriculture: State Water Efficiency and Enhancement Program

SUMMARY: This bill codifies, with some modifications, the existing State Water Efficiency and Enhancement Program (SWEEP) at the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA), which provides grants to agricultural operations to implement irrigation systems that reduce greenhouse gases (GHG) and save water. Specifically, *this bill*:

- 1) Defines grant program to mean SWEEP established by CDFA in 2014.
- 2) Requires, upon appropriation by the Legislature, CDFA to administer the grant program, as specified, to provide financial assistance in the form of grants to agricultural operations to implement irrigation, water reclamation, water storage, or groundwater recharge systems that reduce greenhouse gases and energy use and increase water use efficiency, subject to both of the following:
 - a) Requires CDFA to prioritize financial assistance for farms and ranches of 500 acres or less and socially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers, as defined in Section 512.
 - b) Allows CDFA to consider and prioritize projects that provide cobenefits, including, but not limited to, improved water quality, groundwater recharge, on-farm water storage, and surface water efficiency.
- 3) Requires the Secretary of CDFA (Secretary), in consultation with the Secretary of the Natural Resources Agency, the Natural Resources Conservation Service of the United States Department of Agriculture (NRCS-USDA), and the Scientific Advisory Panel on Environmental Farming (Scientific Panel), to develop and adopt guidelines for awarding funds under the grant program.
 - a) Requires the guidelines to include relevant conservation practice standards issued by the NRSC-USDA and allows the guidelines to be amended from time to time to promote the funding of projects that include any of the following conservation practices:
 - i) Combustive system improvements for agricultural irrigation engines.
 - ii) Irrigation systems and micro-irrigation.
 - iii) Sprinkler systems.
 - iv) Irrigation systems that are surface or subsurface, or both.
 - v) Irrigation water management.
 - vi) Pumping plants.
 - vii) Irrigation and drainage tailwater recovery.
 - viii) Irrigation field ditches.

- ix) Irrigation land leveling.
 - x) Ponds and pond sealing or lining with compacted soil, geomembrane or geosynthetic clay, or concrete.
 - xi) Irrigation pipelines.
 - xii) Irrigation reservoirs.
- 4) Requires the secretary to provide a report to the Legislature that includes:
- a) a review of the guidelines,
 - b) a list of projects awarded financial assistance pursuant to the program, and,
 - c) a review of the effectiveness of those projects in implementing irrigation, water reclamation, water storage, or groundwater recharge systems that reduce greenhouse gases and energy use and increase water use efficiency.

EXISTING LAW:

- 1) Requires CDFA to establish and oversee an environmental farming program that provides incentives to farmers whose practices promote the well-being of ecosystems, air quality, and wildlife and their habitat.
- 2) Requires the secretary to convene the Scientific Panel to advise the secretary on the implementation of the Healthy Soils Program and SWEEP, and to assist federal, state, and local government agencies, as appropriate or necessary, on issues relating to the impact of agricultural practices on air, water, and wildlife habitat, as specified.

FISCAL EFFECT: Unknown.

COMMENTS: SWEEP provides financial assistance in the form of grants to implement irrigation systems that reduce greenhouse gases and save water on California agricultural operations. Eligible system components include (among others) soil moisture monitoring, drip systems, switching to low pressure irrigation systems, pump retrofits, variable frequency drives and installation of renewable energy to reduce on-farm water use and energy.

Since 2014, CDFA has selected 835 projects to be awarded covering over 137,000 acres. \$81.1 million awarded to date, with more than \$52.8 million in matching funds contributed by awardees. Along with helping farmers and ranchers save water and reduce their energy costs, SWEEP results in environmental benefits as well. CDFA estimates that over 81,000 metric tons of CO₂e will be reduced annually, the equivalent of removing 17,500 cars from the road for one year (based on emissions reductions equivalent). Moreover, SWEEP projects will help save over 117,000 acre-ft. of water annually.

According to the Author, despite the success and popularity of the program among farmers, SWEEP has been hampered by inconsistent and limited funding. In 2014, SWEEP was first funded through the state's cap and trade revenues. In 2017, SWEEP funding was eliminated to maximize other climate investment priorities. In 2019, SWEEP returned with funding from a \$20 million bond. Additionally, from 2014 to 2017, CDFA could only provide grants to 38% of farmers that applied.

The state's traditional hydrology patterns are rapidly changing due to climate change. Climate scientists hypothesize that California is experiencing increased "precipitation whiplash" which is increasing the frequency of severe drought and flood by nearly 50 percent until 2100. By coordinating with the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), approved NRCS practices can be incentivized by the state for small farmers, especially those historically disadvantaged, to implement and adapt to the increasingly adverse and volatile climate hydrology.

To address the issues of SWEEPs variable funding, this bill would codify CDFA's ability to add USDA NRCS approved practices to SWEEP to encourage adaptively of small farmers to the climate adverse hydrology based on funds available from the Department of Food and Agricultural Fund.

REGISTERED SUPPORT / OPPOSITION:**Support**

None on file.

Opposition

None on file.

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