

# LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY

## 2021

ROBERT RIVAS, CHAIR



### *Assembly Committee on Agriculture*

**MEMBERS:**

Hon. Devon J. Mathis, Vice Chair  
Hon. Cecilia Aguiar-Curry  
Hon. Jordon Cunningham  
Hon. Heath Flora  
Hon. Adam Gray  
Hon. Jacqui Irwin  
Hon. Reginald B. Jones-Sawyer, Sr.  
Hon. Marc Levine  
Hon. Carlos Villapudua  
Hon. Jim Wood

**STAFF:**

Victor Francovich, Deputy Chief Consultant  
Nicole Willis, Committee Secretary

**MINORITY CONSULTANT:**

Calvin Rusch

DEPUTY CHIEF CONSULTANT  
VICTOR FRANCOVICH  
COMMITTEE SECRETARY  
NICOLE WILLIS

# Assembly California Legislature

STATE CAPITOL  
P.O. BOX 942849  
SACRAMENTO, CA 94249-0089  
(916) 319-2084  
FAX: (916) 319-2184

## ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

ROBERT RIVAS, CHAIR  
ASSEMBLYMEMBER, THIRTIETH DISTRICT

November 10, 2021

### TO ALL INTERESTED PARTIES:

The following report summarizes legislation referred to the Assembly Committee on Agriculture during the 2021 legislative session and indicates the final status of each measure.

The Committee's primary jurisdiction extends to agricultural land use, commodity specific legislation, agricultural commissions and councils, the California Department of Food and Agriculture, fairs and expositions, agricultural marketing, food safety and labeling, and agricultural pesticides.

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,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'R. Rivas', is placed over a light blue rectangular background.

Robert Rivas, Chair  
Assembly Committee on Agriculture

# ASSEMBLY AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE

## LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY

### 2021

#### ASSEMBLY BILLS

**AB 350 (Villapudua) Agriculture: Cannella Environmental Farming Act of 1995: technical assistance grant program: groundwater conservation planning. Ordered to Senate inactive file.** – This bill establishes, within the California Department of Food And Agriculture (CDFA), a technical assistance (TA) grant program to help landowners keep agriculture land, which may be fallowed due to the implementation of The Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA), in production in the San Joaquin Valley (SJ Valley).

**AB 391 (Villapudua) Pollinator habitat conservation: funding. Ordered to Assembly inactive file.** – This bill appropriates \$5,000,000 from the General Fund to the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA). The funds will increase technical assistance (TA), outreach, and provide grants to incentivize participation in state and federal conservation programs where pollinator habitat and forage are established.

**AB 425 (Mathis) Milk and other dairy products: Dairy Council of California Law: producer-handlers. Chaptered by Secretary of State - Chapter 371, Statutes of 2021.** – This bill makes several technical, conforming and needed changes to the California Dairy law.

**AB 519 (Irwin) Honey: labeling requirements. In committee: held under submission. In committee. Held under submission.** – This bill would expand the country of origin labels (COOL) on imported honey by requiring the COOL to be conspicuous and be of the same size and font as the statement for the United States honey grade.

**AB 623 (Ag Committee) State-designated fairs: district agricultural associations: farmers' markets: California Apple Commission. Chaptered by Secretary of State - Chapter 374, Statutes of 2021.** – AB 623 is the Assembly Committee on Agriculture's 2021 omnibus bill. This bill clarifies that the nine directors of a fair board association shall complete all mandatory forms and training within "90 days of the relevant form or training requirement or the expiration of the effective period of the form or training." Additionally, this bill changes the period of time a certified farmers' market (CFM) certificate is valid from 12 months to up to 12 months and makes other conforming and technical changes. Finally, this bill allows the California Apple

Commission to lower the number of California Apple Commission districts to match the lower number of apple producers in the state.

**AB 710 (E. Garcia) Sale of listed agricultural products: requirements for sale.** *In committee: Set, first hearing. Hearing canceled at the request of author.* – This bill would prohibit a retailer from selling a listed agricultural product (LAP), produced in the state or outside of the state unless the product was produced in compliance with specified California health and environmental protection laws. Furthermore, prohibits a retailer from selling a LAP produced in the state or outside of the country unless the product was produced in compliance with specified California labor laws.

**AB 719 (Ag Committee) Bees.** *Ordered to Senate inactive file.* – This bill updates and changes portion of the Apiary Protection Act (APA), primarily changing the makeup of the California Department of Food and Agriculture’s (CDFA) Apiary Advisory board, revising definitions, and updating provisions.

**AB 778 (E. Garcia) Institutional purchasers: purchase of California-grown agricultural food products.** *In committee.* – This bill requires for all state-owned or state-run institutions that purchase agricultural products to only purchase California grown agricultural products with certain exceptions.

**AB 866 (M.Dahle) Food and agriculture: Feed Inspection Advisory Board: California Seed Law.** *In committee: held under submission.* – This bill allows Secretary of the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA), to approve other governmental and commercial laboratories to provide regulatory testing and analysis to the Commercial Feed Regulatory Program (CFRP) and Seed Services Program (SSP).

**AB 888 (Levine) Mobile slaughter operations: sheep, goats, and swine.** – *Chaptered by Secretary of State - Chapter 378, Statutes of 2021.* This bill provides an exemption to animal slaughter inspections for a Mobile Slaughter Operator (MSO) who provides services to an owner of sheep, goats and swine, where the slaughter occurs on the premises of the person who raised the sheep, goats, and swine.

**AB 920 (Aguiar-Curry) Agriculture: cotton pests abatement districts: organization and establishment: authorized counties.** *Ordered to inactive file.* – This bill deletes the authority to establish Cotton Pests Abatement Districts in the Counties of Orange, San Diego, and Ventura.

**AB 1009 (Bloom) Farm to School Food Hub Program.** *Chaptered by Secretary of State - Chapter 608, Statutes of 2021.* – This bill would establish the Farm to School Food Hub Program to create farm to school food hubs for serving as an aggregator and supply chain intermediary for local or regional farms food products to public institutions and nonprofit organizations.

**AB 1012 (Ag Committee) Fruit, nut, and vegetable standards: out-of-state processing.** *In committee: held under submission.* – This bill would expand the exemption to standards for fruits, nuts, and vegetables that are being transported or delivered under

specified conditions, to all packing plants, regardless of the state in which the packing plant operates, and delete a provision that would become redundant.

**AB 1103 (M. Dahle) Agricultural lands: farmers and producers: managerial employees: agricultural pass program: disaster access to farmlands. Chaptered**

***by Secretary of State - Chapter 609, Statutes of 2021.*** – This bill would authorize specified local agencies to establish within a county an agricultural pass program for the purpose of issuing identification documents (ID) granting any qualifying agricultural producer, as defined, or employee access to the qualifying agricultural producer’s farm or ranch property during or following a natural disaster, as specified.

**AB 1282 (Bloom) Veterinary medicine: blood banks for animals. Chaptered by**

***Secretary of State - Chapter 752, Statutes of 2021.*** – This bill allows veterinarians to operate community blood banks for animals, which source blood from animals volunteered by their owners. Establishes conditions for the elimination of captive closed-colony canine blood banks, which source blood from dogs kept, housed, or maintained at a facility for collecting their blood. Allows the importation of animal blood from out-of-state blood banks that comply with California standards. Provides implementation requirements on the Veterinary Medical Board (VMB) and the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA), as specified.

**AB 1362 (Carrillo) Secretary of Food and Agriculture: cooperative agreements: agricultural inspector services. Chaptered by Secretary of**

***State - Chapter 381, Statutes of 2021.*** – This bill deletes a provision that prevents the Secretary (Secretary) of California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) from entering into cooperative agreement, if less than 75% of the agricultural inspector associates in Los Angeles County (LA) are not afforded protections as permanent employees employed, as specified.

## **SENATE BILLS**

**SB 292 (Wilk) Industrial hemp. Chaptered by Secretary of State. Chapter 485,**

***Statutes of 2021.*** – This bill conforms state law to federal law regarding the cultivation and testing of industrial hemp. This bill strikes the requirement that the Secretary of the Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) appoint a representative of the Hemp Industries Association or its successor industry association to the Industrial Hemp Advisory Board (IHAB), and instead requires the CDFA secretary to appoint an additional board member who is a registered grower of industrial hemp.

**SB 453 (Hurtado) California State University Agricultural Research Institute grant program: Agricultural Biosecurity Fund. Chaptered by Secretary of State.**

***Chapter 386, Statutes of 2021.*** – This bill creates the Agricultural Biosecurity Fund (Fund), authorizes the Fund to receive public and private money and continuously appropriates money from the Fund to the California State University (CSU) Agricultural Research Institute (ARI). This bill requires the ARI to administer and award research grants to CSU campuses associated with the ARI, regarding agricultural biosecurity and best practices to mitigate infectious agents on California’s animal and plant agricultural system.

**SB 489 (Laird) Pest control: Agricultural Pest Control Advisory Committee.** *Referred to Rules pursuant to AR 96.* – This bill increases the public members on the Agricultural Pest Control Advisory Committee within the California Department of Pesticide Regulation (DPR) from one to two members.

**SB 547 (Glazer) Animals: emergency response: California Veterinary Emergency Team program.** *In committee: hearing cancelled at request of author.* – This bill requires the University of California, Davis (UCD) School of Veterinary Medicine to develop a program to assist in coordinating and training a network of government agencies, nongovernmental organizations, and individuals to care for household and domestic animals and livestock during emergencies.

**SB 574 (Laird) Agricultural preserves: Williamson Act.** *Chaptered by Secretary of State. Chapter 644, Statutes of 2021.* – This bill narrows the role of the Department of Conservation (DOC) in administering the Williamson Act (Act).

**SB 703 (Hurtado) Diseased animals: laboratory services.** *Chaptered by Secretary of State. Chapter 495, Statutes of 2021.* – This bill allows the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) to establish laboratory certification standards for laboratories analyzing samples obtained from California livestock and poultry for the purpose of detecting conditions that would trigger a regulatory animal health response.

**SB 815 (Committee on Ag) Meat processing establishment, custom livestock slaughterhouse, and poultry plants: licensing and inspectors.** *Chaptered by Secretary of State. Chapter 392, Statutes of 2021.* – This bill extends, to January 1, 2027, provisions in current law that allow the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) to collect fees for initial licensing and renewal of licenses for livestock meat inspectors, poultry meat inspectors, and processing inspectors. These provision expire on January 1, 2022.

## **INFORMATIONAL HEARINGS**

**Environmental Farming, February 10, 2021** - The Assembly Committee on Agriculture held an informational hearing to explore programs and issues related to Environmental Farming in California. The committee heard from 6 panelists, including the Secretary of the California Department of Food and Agriculture, farmers, a carbon sequestration academic expert, and regenerative agriculture advocate. The panelists described the scope of recent wildfires in California, their high-level economic impacts, how individual farming operations were affected, impacts on the hardest hit regions, commodities, worker populations, and—finally—agricultural based wildfire mitigation efforts and opportunities.

**Farmer Equity, March 17, 2021** - The Assembly Committee on Agriculture held an informational hearing to explore programs and issues related to the Farmer Equality Act, issues related to black, Indigenous and people of color (BIPOC) farmers and what policies the State is has and need to improve for farmers and rancher of color. The

committee heard from six panelists, including the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) Farmer Equity Advisor, UC Agriculture and Natural Resources (UCANR) Small Farm Advisors, a strawberry farmer, the director of an urban farming organization, and a farmer/social justice activist.

**The Critical Role of Fairgrounds in California's Emergency Response System (Joint Hearing with Emergency Management Committee), May 19, 2021** - The

Committees discussed fairgrounds and their use during and after disasters. As the recent wildfires of the past few years have shown, fairgrounds play a vital role in disaster response and the aftermath of these disasters. Also discussed was what is working and what could use improvement when using the fairgrounds for emergency purposes.

**The Drought and Its Impact on California's Agriculture (Joint Hearing with Water, Parks, and Wildlife Committee), August 23, 2021** – The Committees came

together as California is faced with what could be another several years of drought, we must look at what actions can be taken as policymakers in the near and long-term to ensure our state's farmers can remain resilient to drought and to ensure our limited water supply is used equitably and responsibly.