

Summary of Legislation

2026



Agriculture and Animals

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In 2026, the legislature passed several agricultural bills pertaining to pets, pollinators, and cottage foods. Additionally, several notable bills were considered but did not become law.

Pesticides

In recent years, the legislature has extensively debated pesticide regulations. To prevent improper disposal of pesticide containers, the General Assembly passed [House Bill 26-1111](#), which creates a government enterprise within the Colorado Department of Agriculture to administer a program to safely and legally recycle pesticide containers for business owners and pesticide applicators.

Additional pesticide-related bills that were debated, but did not become law, include:

- [Senate Bill 26-065](#), which would have prohibited the sale or distribution of seeds coated or treated with systemic insecticides unless verified by a third party;
- [Senate Bill 26-062](#), which would have restricted the use of second-generation anticoagulant rodenticides.

Livestock

To address concerns about cattle theft, [Senate Bill 26-136](#) requires the Division of

Brand Inspection within the Department of Agriculture and the State Board of Stock Inspection Commissioners to receive reports of stolen or lost livestock. It also requires both entities to adopt policies to expedite coordination with law enforcement, report stolen livestock within 24 hours to law enforcement, and ensure the public is notified of stolen livestock.

In response to increasing threats from agricultural pathogens, like Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza and screwworms, [House Bill 26-1067](#) expands the use of the diseased livestock indemnity fund. Previously, the fund was meant to compensate producers for culled herds that were infected by or exposed to a pathogen to prevent the spread of disease. This bill expands the use of the fund to include efforts to prepare for and respond to emerging threats to livestock health.

Overtime Pay and Beginner Farmer Loans

In 2021, [Senate Bill 21-087](#) established overtime pay requirements for agricultural employees working more than 48 hours per week, or 56 hours per week for peak seasonal work up to 22 weeks. [Senate Bill 26-121](#) increases the overtime threshold for most agricultural workers to 56 hours per week at all times, while also increasing penalties for agricultural employers that fail

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to pay their employees on time. [Senate Bill 26-081](#) was also considered this session. It would have established a threshold for overtime pay at 40 hours per week. The bill was postponed indefinitely by the Senate Business, Labor, and Technology Committee.

[Senate Bill 26-064](#) concerns the [Agricultural Future Loan Program](#), which provides loans for beginning farmers or ranchers who would not otherwise qualify for loans. The bill expands eligibility for the program to include various irrigation and water districts.

Agricultural Product Marketing

Agricultural products grown in Colorado may display a [Colorado Proud Logo](#) to help consumers identify state-grown products. To prevent false advertising of these products, [House Bill 26-1031](#) prohibits a person from identifying an agricultural product as being produced in the state unless the product was grown in the state. Violations of this law would constitute a deceptive trade practice. This bill was referred by the Water Resources and Agriculture Review Committee in the 2025 interim.

Pets, Pollinators, and Cottage Foods

The General Assembly also passed several bills related to pets, pollinators, and cottage foods sales.

[House Bill 26-1011](#) prohibits the sale of cats or dogs by pet stores starting January 1, 2028. After the effective date, pet stores may

still display cats and dogs for adoption from shelters as long as they do not collect a fee. Cats and dogs can still be purchased through a breeder, as service dogs, or directly from shelters.

In 2022, the General Assembly passed [Senate Bill 22-199](#), which required the Department of Natural Resources to conduct a study on native pollinating insect populations and their current status in the state. In response to these findings, [House Bill 26-1132](#) encourages state agencies to prioritize planting native plants to support pollinator habitats on state land and roads.

Lastly, the General Assembly expanded the Colorado Cottage Foods Act. When the law originally passed, it allowed for the sale of limited types of non-hazardous, non-refrigerated foods directly to consumers without licensing or inspections. [House Bill 26-1033](#) allows the sale of refrigerated and meat items, such as tamales, burritos, and tortas, and increases the yearly sales cap for cottage foods to \$150,000. To be eligible to sell cottage foods, individuals must complete a food safety and handling course and affix an ingredient label to any items being sold.

Wildlife

To decrease human-bear conflict, the General Assembly passed [House Bill 26-1342](#). Previous law stated that intentionally luring a bear with edible food or waste was unlawful, and after an initial warning violators could be subject to fines. This bill lowers the mental state for this crime

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from intention to criminal negligence, meaning that under this bill luring bears is unlawful without doing so intentionally. The bill also removes warnings, meaning a first offense becomes a misdemeanor, and increases fines.

The General Assembly also introduced but ultimately did not pass [House Bill 26-1323](#), which would have prohibited the taking of beavers on public land to increase wildfire resiliency. The bill aimed to naturally reduce wildfire risk by increasing beaver populations, as beaver dams create wetlands that provide natural firebreaks.