

Agricultural Programs, Products, and Land Bill Senate File 2465

Last Action:
**Senate Appropriations
Committee**
March 4, 2026

Executive Summary Only

An Act relating to agriculture, including by providing for the powers and duties of the Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship, including the promotion and regulation of commodities and products, the regulation of the transportation of agricultural commodities, and the use of agricultural land, making penalties applicable, and including effective date provisions.

**Fiscal Services Division
Legislative Services Agency**

NOTES ON BILLS AND AMENDMENTS (NOBA)

Available online at www.legis.iowa.gov/publications/information/appropriationBillAnalysis

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BILL SUMMARY

Division I

Removes the cap on the allocation of moneys to the Renewable Fuel Infrastructure Program (RFIP) for the installation, replacement, or conversion of biodiesel infrastructure at retail motor fuel sites. Page 1, Line 4

Increases the allocation of moneys from the Renewable Fuels Infrastructure Fund to the Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship (DALs) for administration of the RFIP from \$100,000 to \$150,000. Page 1, Line 12

Division II Part A

Adds an exemption for the DALs for the promotion of Iowa commodities and products in regard to State agencies and political subdivisions competing with private enterprises. Page 1, Line 24

Division II Part B

Requires the DALs to enroll a person as a Choose Iowa member if the person is: Page 2, Line 6

- Actively participating in the Program by producing, processing, or marketing Iowa agricultural products originating as commodities produced on an Iowa farm.
- Otherwise supporting the Program as required by the Department.

Allows the DALs to adopt administrative rules for Choose Iowa membership criteria. Page 2, Line 15

Creates a Choose Iowa School Purchasing Program within the DALs and allows the DALs to establish administrative rules to determine the limitations of funding available to each school. The DALs may use up to 5.0% of the moneys appropriated to support the Program for administration of the Program. The DALs is directed to prepare and submit an annual report to the General Assembly by July 31. Page 2, Line 35

Makes changes to the Choose Iowa Food Purchasing Program by changing eligibility requirements for the Program, as well as renaming it the Choose Iowa Food Bank Purchasing Program. Page 4, Line 6

Removes the limit of \$200,000 on how much money is required to be used to reimburse Iowa food banks or emergency feeding organizations from moneys appropriated to the Choose Iowa Food Bank Purchasing Program. Page 4, Line 26

Changes the date that the DALs must submit a report on its findings and recommendations for the Program and General Assembly from no later than January 15 to July 31 of each year. Page 5, Line 7

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Removes the repeal date of the Choose Iowa Food Bank Purchasing Program.	Page 5, Line 11
Removes the definitions of "fund" and "school district" from Iowa Code section 190A.2 (Farm-to-School Act).	Page 5, Line 12
Repeals Iowa Code section 190A.6 .	Page 6, Line 4
<i>Division II Part C</i>	
Allows the DALs to give priority to an applicant for the Dairy Innovation and Revitalization Program if the applicant is a beginning farmer.	Page 6, Line 17
Transfers the Butchery Innovation and Revitalization Program from the Iowa Economic Development Authority to the DALs and expands the Program to businesses employing up to 200 full-time nonseasonal individuals.	Page 6, Line 19
Repeals the Butchery Innovation and Revitalization Program and Fund established in Iowa Code section 15E.370 .	Page 8, Line 8
<i>Division III</i>	
Allows the DALs to lease facilities to carry out and administer duties related to an infectious or foreign animal disease preparedness and response effort.	Page 8, Line 14
Specifies that all information and records relating to an infectious or contagious disease received or collected by the DALs pursuant to Iowa Code chapter 163 , including administrative rules adopted pursuant to the chapter, are confidential if they identify any of the following:	Page 8, Line 18
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The name, address, and contact information of any person owning or caring for an animal affected or suspected of being affected with any infectious or contagious disease.• Any location where an animal affected or suspected of being affected by any infectious or contagious disease is kept.• Information that when considered together leads to the identity of a person or location with an animal affected or suspected of being affected by any infectious or contagious disease.	
Allows the DALs to disclose a record or part of a record if it is deemed necessary by the State Veterinarian to protect the public health or well-being of animals within the State.	Page 8, Line 34

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Division IV

Specifies that weights and measures regulated under Iowa Code chapter [210](#) are required to conform with Iowa's State primary standard of weights and measures.

Page 9, Line 7

Allows the Secretary of Agriculture to designate the Bureau Chief of the DALs' Weights and Measures Bureau to act as the State Metrologist of weights and measures, designates the Bureau Chief as the appropriate State official responsible for cooperating with the National Institute of Standards and Technology and in the administration of weights and measures, and removes the requirements that all weights and measures sealed by the State Metrologist be impressed with the word "Iowa".

Page 9, Line 21

Removes a requirement that DALs is required to inspect all commercial weighing and measuring devices unless a complaint is received.

Page 11, Line 16

Allows the DALs to order the owner of a device or a service agency that installed, serviced, or repaired the device to deliver to the DALs one or more of the service agency's most recent test reports that documents the device's accuracy and allows the report to be used in lieu of an inspection and provides requirements for when the DALs is required to provide an inspection.

Page 11, Line 30

Repeals the ability for a citizen, firm, city or county, or educational institution to make a written request to the DALs for a test or calibration of any weights, measures, weighing or measuring device, or instruments or apparatus used as standards.

Page 13, Line 13

Repeals the provision stating that any expenses incurred in furnishing cities with standards, or in comparing those that may be in the city's possession, must be borne by the city.

Division V Part A

Allows the DALs to accept a qualification in an opinion based on an audit that is unavoidable by any audit procedure that is permitted under generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP) or a financial statement that is accompanied by the report of a certified public accountant licensed in the State for grain dealers that do not purchase grain by credit-sale contract.

Page 13, Line 30

Allows the DALs to accept a qualification in an opinion based on an audit that is unavoidable by any audit procedure that is permitted under generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP) or a financial statement that is accompanied by the report of a certified public accountant licensed in the State for grain dealers to retain a class 2 license.

Page 14, Line 28

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Specifies that if a title to grain was previously transferred pursuant to an ordinary cash-sale contract, titles to grain sold by credit-sale contract are deemed to have transferred to the grain dealer when the credit-sale contract is signed by both the grain dealer and the seller, and the grain dealer has possession of the grain or another person has possession of the grain in accordance with the terms of the credit-sale contract.

Page 15, Line 25

Specifies that upon the cessation of a grain dealer license pursuant to Iowa Code section [203.10](#) or upon filing a petition of bankruptcy by a grain dealer, any claim for the purchase price of grain against the grain dealer must be made with the issuer of a deficiency bond or of an irrevocable letter of credit and with the DALs within 120 days after the date of cessation or filing of a petition in bankruptcy, whichever occurs first.

Page 16, Line 6

Allows the DALs to accept the following when issuing a class 1 license to a warehouse operator:

Page 16, Line 33

- A qualification in an opinion based on an audit that is unavoidable by an audit procedure that is permitted under GAAP, but not an opinion that is qualified because of a limited audit procedure or because the scope of an audit is limited.
- A financial statement that is accompanied by the report of a certified public accountant licensed in the State which must be based upon a review performed by the certified public accountant. The report must be in lieu of an unqualified opinion based on an audit, however, the DALs may require the warehouse operator to submit a subsequent financial statement that is accompanied by the report at any time upon good cause.

Specifies that upon the cessation of a warehouse operator's license pursuant to Iowa Code section 203.10 or upon filing a petition of bankruptcy by a warehouse operator, a claim against the warehouse operator must be made in writing to the warehouse operator, with the issuer of a bond on agricultural products other than bulk grain, a deficiency bond, or an irrevocable letter of credit, and with the DALs if the claim relates to bulk grain. The claim must be made within 120 days after the date of cessation of the license or filing of a petition in bankruptcy, whichever occurs first.

Page 19, Line 3

Division V Part C

Requires that the per-bushel fee occur at the time of payment if the fee is passed on to a seller.

Page 20, Line 4

Requires a seller to file a repayment claim with the DALs no later than 60 days after a bankruptcy court's default judgement is entered or a subsequent settlement agreement is approved and entered, whichever is later, if the seller's loss is based upon a bankruptcy court's default judgement.

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Division VI Part A

Increases the gross weight allowed for milk haulers to 136,000 pounds and requires the Department of Transportation (DOT) to establish administrative rules regarding minimum distance for axle configurations for milk haulers.

Page 21, Line 4

Division VI Part B

Specifies that an implement of husbandry cannot have an overall length in excess of 57 feet when used in a truck tractor-semitrailer combination and operated on the highways of the State.

Page 21, Line 20

Division VII

Adds tree farms to the definition of "farm" for the purposes of the Agricultural Tourism Act established in Iowa Code section [673A](#).

Page 22, Line 5

Updates the definition of "farm crop" to include fungus used for food, animal feed, oil, energy, or decoration, including honey, and adds nuts, maple syrup, mushrooms, and Christmas trees to what can qualify as a farm crop.

Page 22, Line 13

Division VIII

Exempts agricultural tourism activities or events, value-added agricultural processing, direct-to-consumer marketing, or other on-farm enterprises that support the economic viability of the farm from county zoning ordinances.

Page 22, Line 30

Specifies that agricultural experience is not limited to any agriculture-related activity or agriculture related event if the activity or event is located on a farm open to the public for the intended purpose of promoting or educating the public about agriculture or agricultural practices, activities, or products.

Page 23, Line 2

An agricultural experience includes the following:

- Agricultural tourism activities.
- A fair event conducted on a fairgrounds under the management or control of a fair as defined in Iowa Code section [174.1](#).

Specifies that any conditional use permit, special use permit, special exception, or variance described in Iowa Code section 335.28 is void and unenforceable.

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EFFECTIVE DATE

Specifies that Division VI, Part A related to milk haulers, takes effect January 1, 2027.

Page 21, Line 16

Specifies that Division VIII of the Bill related to land use takes effect upon enactment.

Page 23, Line 28