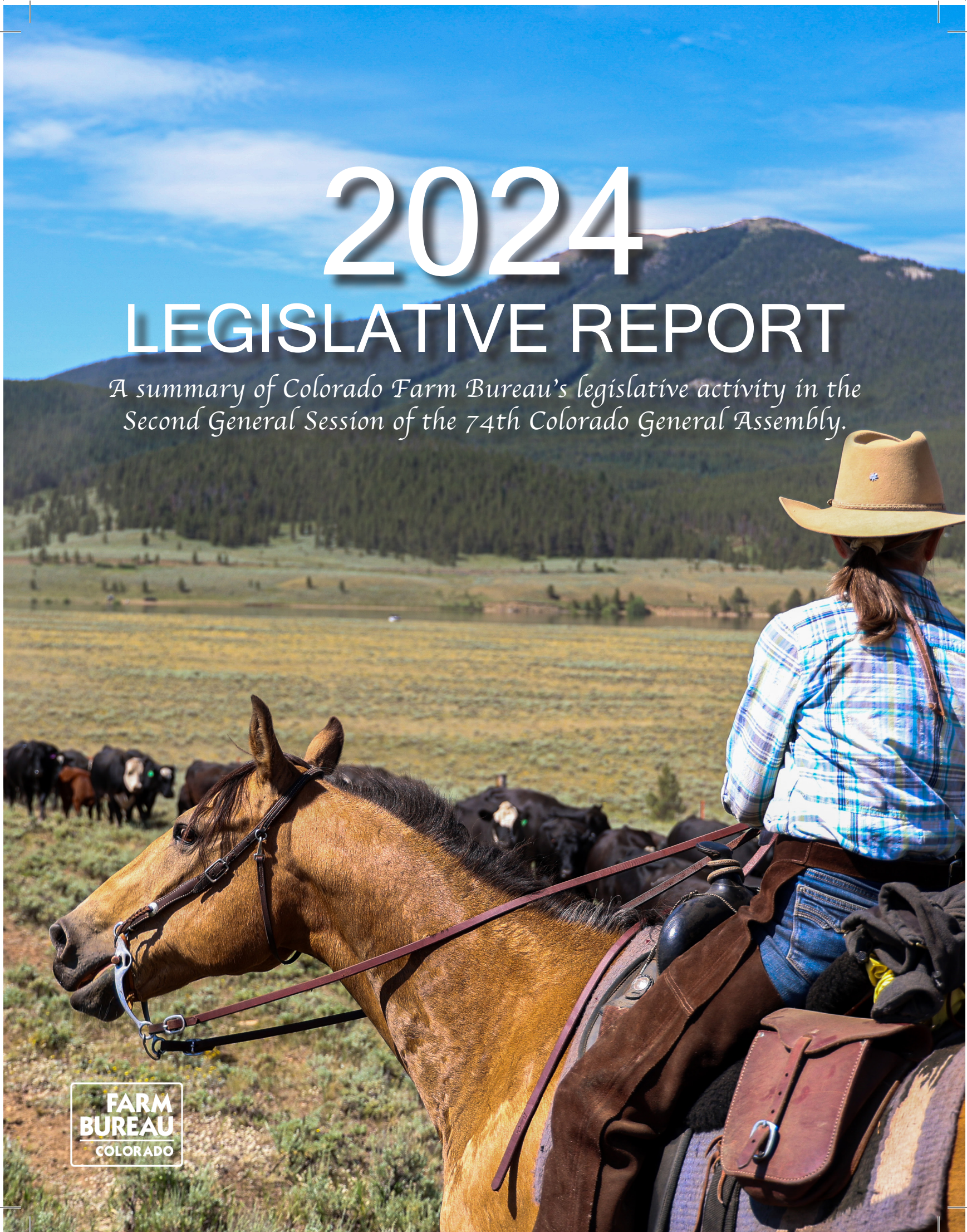


2024 LEGISLATIVE REPORT

*A summary of Colorado Farm Bureau's legislative activity in the
Second General Session of the 74th Colorado General Assembly.*

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2024 Policy Highlights

The second session of the 74th General Assembly was exciting and eventful. Currently, Democrats hold supermajority partisan control in the House (46-19) and are one seat away from the same in the Senate (23-12). There were approximately 707 bills introduced, 186 were passed by the General Assembly and signed by the Governor. CFB took a position on over 50 bills this session, and nine of those were signed by the Governor. Through staff and member efforts of testimonies, stakeholder engagement meetings, and daily advocacy, we were able to help our members be well-equipped to continue farming and ranching. If you would like to see all the bills we followed this year, go check out the Bill Tracker on our website, ColoradoFarmBureau.com.

Private Property

Colorado Farm Bureau focused on property rights this year, but SB24-126 (Conservation Easement Income Tax Credit, **Supported**) deserves a highlight. This bill was introduced in the senate and increased the limit on conservation easement tax credits. Furthermore, HB24-1138 (Tax Credit for Transfer of Agricultural Assets, **Amended**) which establishes a state income tax credit for agricultural assets for certain producers between January 1, 2026 and January 1, 2031. These incentive based bills assist farmers and ranchers in creating enhanced ways to leverage assets, capital, and equity.



Animal Welfare

Veterinary care was also a top priority with HB24-1047 (Veterinary Technician Scope of Practice Supported) and HB24-1048 (Providing Veterinary Services Through Telehealth, Supported). HB24-1047 became law and will be enacted on January 1, 2026. This bill authorizes a veterinary technician specialist designation to be implemented into veterinary technician programs, so veterinary technicians can perform more care. Similarly, HB24-1048 passed and allows telehealth appointments between clients and veterinarians. This bill authorizes telehealth veterinarian care to prescribe medication for animals. The bill exempts physical examinations, which still are required to be in-person. CFB took a support stance and staff engaged in conversations with legislators, which will help support veterinary care for our members

Water

This year legislators introduced very impactful bills pertaining to wildlife and water. These areas are two of Colorado Farm Bureau's main policy priorities, so our efforts were heavily focused on advocating for these bills. Notably, HB24-1379 (Regulate Dredge & Fill Activities in State Waters, **Amended**) creates a state permitting program to regulate the impacts of dredge and fill activities near state waters. Staff and members engaged to ensure comprehensive, agricultural exemptions and exclusions were included in the bill. The Water Quality Control Commission is required to promulgate rules by December 2025 to implement the permitting program.

Colorado Farm Bureau also engaged on Senator Kirkmeyer's bill, SB24-127 (Regulate Dredged & Fill Material State

Waters, **Monitored**). The bill created the Stream and Wetlands Protection Act housed under the Department of Natural Resources. The purpose of the bill was to create a state framework and permit program for regulating discharges of dredged or fill material into state waters that were previously subject to federal regulation before Sackett. The bill created a new Stream and Wetlands Protection Commission and gave them the authority to promulgate rules for a dredge-and-fill program. This new permitting program focused on the "gap waters" that no longer were protected under the federal Clean Water Act. Elements of SB24-127 were added to HB-1379 allowing for a compromise to be reached. With this compromise, the sponsors of SB 127 ultimately agreed to let the bill die in committee.

SB24-197 (Water Conservation Measures, **Monitored**) was introduced following last summer's Colorado River Drought Mitigation Taskforce discussions. The bill aims to address concerns about Colorado River water management and supply. Most importantly, the bill expands Colorado's Agricultural Water Rights Protection Program to all water divisions and allows the owner of a decreed water storage water right to loan water to the CWCB for stretches of streams where there isn't a decreed instream flow water right. The bill also included a provision to allow Tri-State to not be at risk to lose historical consumptive use of the water right if the water was not being used between January 2020 and December 2050 as a result of closing the coal plant due to new state regulations.

Natural Resources, Energy, and Environment

Similar to last year's pesticide applicator bill, pesticide-related bills resurfaced. HB24-1178 (Local Government Authority to Regulate Pesticides, **Opposed**) would have allowed local governments to regulate sales and application of pesticides. It created multiple inconsistencies with the "Colorado Noxious Weed Act" and would have created a patchwork of regulations. Through member testimonies and legislative discussion, the bill was postponed indefinitely in the House.

HB24-1375 (Wild Carnivores & Livestock Nonlethal Coexistence, **Opposed**) would have made it very difficult for livestock owners to get compensated for wolf depredation losses. CFB members and staff led the charge against the bill and it ultimately died in the House Agriculture & Natural Resources Committee.

An important mention is SB24-159 (Modification to Energy & Carbon Management Processes, **Opposed**). This bill would have prohibited new oil and gas permits to be issued after January 1, 2030. CFB joined a diverse group of stakeholders to oppose the bill and it died in the Senate.



CFB Policy Staff

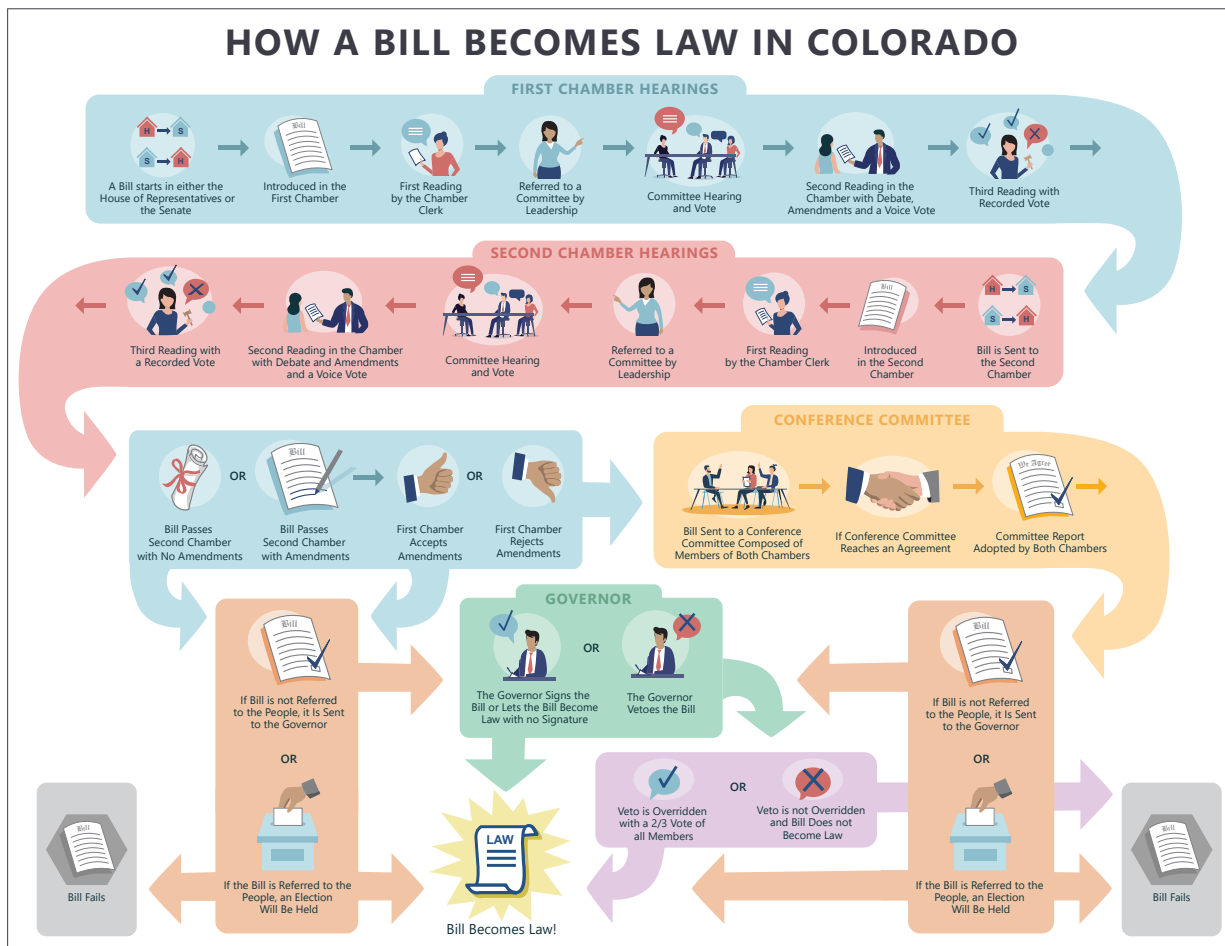
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