# Agriculture Task Force Agenda

**Co-Chairs:**
- Representative Jeni Arndt, Colorado
- Senator Elaine Bowers, Kansas

## Sunday, August 4

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<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tr>
<td>6:00 – 7:00 pm</td>
<td><strong>Optional Evening Gathering</strong>&lt;br&gt;NCSL staff encourages you, if you do not already have plans, to join your fellow agriculture task force members for a brief networking opportunity and some libations before we delve into sessions tomorrow.  <em>Open to Task Force members and partners.</em></td>
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## Monday, August 5

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<th>Time</th>
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<tr>
<td>7:30 am</td>
<td><strong>Breakfast and Introductions</strong>&lt;br&gt;<em>Breakfast and task force sessions will take place in the Omni Hotel in Broadway A.</em>&lt;br&gt;<strong>Representative Jeni Arndt</strong>, Colorado&lt;br&gt;<strong>Senator Elaine Bowers</strong>, Kansas</td>
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<td>7:45 – 9 am</td>
<td><strong>Redefining Meat – State Legislation 2019</strong>&lt;br&gt;The popularity of plant-based foods, including meats and dairy products is growing fast. In response, thirteen states have enacted or adopted legislation that establishes a formal definition of “meat.” These laws will affect any lab-grown meats that come onto the market. Join us for a discussion exploring which states have acted, how these laws have attempted to define products from animals raised and harvested in a traditional manner, and the judicial reviews they have sparked.&lt;br&gt;<strong>Dan Colegrove</strong>, Plant Based Food Association&lt;br&gt;<strong>Dan Kovich</strong>, Director of Science and Technology, National Pork Producers Council&lt;br&gt;<strong>Doug Farquhar</strong>, Environmental Health Program Director, NCSL</td>
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<td>9 – 10:15 am</td>
<td><strong>Tennessee – Sowing and Growing</strong>&lt;br&gt;From businesses to schools to state government, a multitude of players contributes to the agricultural economy. Tennessee is home to several examples of innovative initiatives, including promoting education, supporting business development and developing collaborative networks. Presenters will share information, stories and best practices on how the state is supporting agriculture.</td>
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<td>10:15 – 10:30 am</td>
<td>Break</td>
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<td>10:30 – 11:30 am</td>
<td><strong>Passing the Torch: Building the Next Generation of Farmers</strong></td>
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<td>Farmers keep food on our tables – ensuring that families across the nation</td>
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<td>can have a glass of milk alongside their shredded wheat cereal in the</td>
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<td>morning, and meat and potatoes for dinner. While the number of young</td>
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<td>farmers has increased, it’s not kept pace with the growth of farmers over</td>
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<td>65 which still outnumber them by a margin of six to one. A new</td>
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<td>generation of farmers will be needed – but they currently face significant</td>
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<td>challenges when getting started – from crippling student debt, farmland</td>
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<td>access difficulties, and other structural barriers. Join us as we learn</td>
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<td>what states are doing to ensure that young farmers are a priority and to</td>
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<td>ensure the future of farming.</td>
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<td><strong>David Howard</strong>, Northeast Campaigns Director, National Young Farmers</td>
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<td>Coalition</td>
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<td><strong>Representative Jeni Arndt</strong>, Colorado</td>
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<td>11:30 am – Noon</td>
<td><strong>Business Session and Legislator Roundtable</strong></td>
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<td>Task force members, as well as other legislators and legislative staff,</td>
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<td>are invited to participate in a discussion on policy issues. (All</td>
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<td>attendees are invited. You do not have to be a member of the task force</td>
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<td>to participate in this or any of the sessions.)</td>
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<td>• Discussion of proposed NCSL policies and resolutions.</td>
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<td>• What did you accomplish this session?</td>
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<td>• Discussion on future Task Force activities.</td>
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*The NCSL Legislative Summit will kick off on Monday afternoon, including the opening general session – Living Legend Dolly Parton at 1:30pm in the Music City Center Grand Ballroom.*
The following NCSL Legislative Summit sessions may be of interest to Agriculture Task Force members. All sessions will take place in the Music City Center. Please see the NCSL mobile app and the main agenda for more information.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Session Title</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Panelists</th>
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<tr>
<td>7:30 – 8:45 am</td>
<td>Music City Center 103AB</td>
<td>Food and Farm Breakfast</td>
<td>The 2018 Farm Bill expanded interest in cultivating hemp programs across the country. States continue to explore this rapidly developing industry and to promote cultivation and production. Several challenges continue to face this industry – product development and testing; transportation; and changing regulatory frameworks. Join us for the annual food and farm breakfast as we take a deep dive and hear from state, federal and industry experts on next steps for hemp legalization.</td>
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|               |                        |                                                    |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | Sonia Jimenez, deputy administrator, U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Agricultural Marketing Service  
Courtney Moran, chief legislative strategist, Agricultural Hemp Solutions  
Annie Self, Plant Certification Administrator, Tenn. Department of Agriculture  
David Waddell, Legal and Policy director, Tenn. Department of Agriculture  
NCSL gratefully acknowledges Archer Daniels Midland for its support of this breakfast.                                                                                                               |
| 2 – 3:15 pm  | Music City Center 204  | What States Need to Know about the 2018 Farm Bill | The federal Farm Bill, which is reauthorized twice a decade on average, represents one of the most important pieces of federal legislation for the agriculture industry and rural communities. The bill covers everything from crop insurance to conservation practices and rural energy to hemp legalization, among other topics. Join us for a discussion with national agriculture policy experts to learn the key takeaways for states from the 2018 Farm Bill. | Britta Aasmundstad, associate director of public policy, National Association of State Departments of Agriculture  
Bette Brand, administrator, U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Rural Business Service  
Sonia Jimenez, deputy administrator, U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Agricultural Marketing Service                                                                                                   |
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<td>3:30 – 5 pm</td>
<td><strong>Rural Economies: Left Behind or Poised for Resurgence</strong></td>
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<td>Music City Center 105</td>
<td>For decades, Americans have been moving away from rural hometowns to seek jobs and opportunities in America’s cities. But can that trend be reversed? Hear experts discuss the realities that rural economies face and innovative ways that states are supporting economic growth in rural communities. (\textit{Panelists:} Sammie Arnold, assistant commissioner of community and rural development, Tennessee Department of Economic and Community Development; Kenneth Poole, president/CEO, Center for Regional Economic Competitiveness)</td>
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<td>Wednesday, August 7</td>
<td><strong>Natural Resources and Infrastructure Committee Business Meeting</strong></td>
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<th>NCSL Staff Contacts:</th>
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<td><strong>Ben Husch</strong></td>
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NCSL gratefully acknowledges the following companies & organizations for supporting the NCSL Agriculture Task Force!
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August 5, 2019

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POLICY DIRECTIVES AND RESOLUTIONS

2019 NCSL Legislative Summit
Nashville, Tennessee

Existing Policy Resolutions
BLACK VULTURE ........................................................................................................... 11
CHRONIC WASTEING DISEASE ................................................................................ 13

Proposed Amendments to Existing Policy Directives
ANIMAL AGRICULTURE PRODUCTION ........................................................................ 14

Proposed Policy Resolutions
SAVING AMERICA’S POLLINATORS .............................................................................. 17
WHEREAS, the Black Vulture is a scavenger and feeds primarily on already-dead animals; and,

WHEREAS, they also feed on living animals, often attacking birthing animals; and,

WHEREAS, the species has proliferated over the last 30 years and broadened its geographical range; and,

WHEREAS, maintenance of the species must take into consideration that the Black Vulture is protected by the Migratory Bird Treaty Act; and,

WHEREAS, the US Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS) is authorized, under certain conditions, to issue a depredation permit for Black Vultures; and,

WHEREAS, USFWS has developed pilot programs in Tennessee and Kentucky in which a single, statewide depredation permit is granted for each state; and,

WHEREAS, the holder of the statewide permit is authorized to include persons seeking relief from the damage caused by Black Vultures; and,

WHEREAS, the authorized “sub-permittees” are bound by all the terms of the primary permit.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL), calls upon USFWS to make a transition in the statewide
depredation permit process from pilot program to standard operational procedure in the management of Black Vultures; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that USFWS, in each state that is experiencing livestock predation/injury from Black Vultures, determine the appropriate state agriculture/wildlife agency or non-governmental organization (NGO) recognized for farm advocacy and award that agency/NGO the aforementioned permit.
WHEREAS, Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) affects cervids such as deer, elk, and moose and has been detected in more than twenty states; and

WHEREAS, the states currently grappling with CWD are incurring significant costs to respond to the disease, often requiring the wildlife management agencies to divert limited resources from other vital activities; and

WHEREAS, bills proposed in the United States Senate and House of Representatives would fund crucial CWD research and provide federal support to states to address and contain the spread of CWD.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the National Conference of State Legislatures urges swift enactment of federal legislation providing for research and response to emerging wildlife diseases, such as the Chronic Wasting Disease Management Act (H.R. 4454, 115) or the Chronic Wasting Disease Support for States Act (S. 2252, 115) that will provide federal resources that are crucial to effectively address this multi-state wildlife management crisis.
The National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL) believes a strong animal production agriculture capacity is imperative in maintaining domestic and international consumer confidence in the safety of the United States meat supply.

Animal Identification

NCSL believes a national animal identification program, if properly implemented in cooperation with the states and territories, could be beneficial in maintaining consumer confidence in meat from the United States, an invaluable tool in reducing and tracking future outbreaks of infectious disease, and serving as an important firewall against any attempted terrorist attack on the food production system in the United States.

Any future effort by USDA to develop a national animal identification program must be designed and implemented in full consultation with state legislatures to ensure proper attention to public interest and financial considerations. Any program must be designed and implemented in cooperation with the departments of agriculture of the states and territories. USDA must work to ensure that any animal identification system is compatible with the current inspection and enforcement systems of the state governments. Any applicable federal program should not be applied to animals involved in intrastate commerce without state consultation.

Equine Industry and USDA Inspection of Horse Meat

The processing of horses has become a controversial and emotional issue, resulting in the closure of the last horse processing facility in the United States. Without affordable and economic alternatives, unwanted horses are abandoned. The nation’s inadequate and overburdened horse rescue and adoption facilities cannot begin to handle the influx. These additional unwanted horses will compete for adoption with wild horses that
are currently fed and sheltered at a public expense. In the Western United States (US), the additional pressure on public lands from horses turned out to run wild is only intensifying the over-population, over-grazing, and ultimate destruction of the ecosystem.

NCSL urges members of Congress to:

• Recognize the need for humane horse processing facilities in the United States.
• Not to interfere with State efforts to establish facilities in the United States. State livestock programs that were once able to recoup the costs of caring and feeding for abandoned animals by marketing them, are now forced to greatly increase their budgets at the expense of taxpayers.
• Recognize the positive economic impact of willing market for the US horse industry. These, and ethnic markets inside the US would appreciate an additional source of high quality protein untainted by disease concerns of other species of livestock.
• Oppose legislation that would restrict the market, transport, processing, or export of horses. Horse processing in the United States is particularly tightly regulated, and the horse is the only animal whose transportation to processing is regulated. Horse processing facilities in the United States are required to have United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) veterinarians supervise the euthanasia, and the euthanasia method is humane, according the American Veterinary Medical Association and the United States Department of Agriculture.
• Oppose limitations under federal appropriations law prohibiting the use of federal dollars to be spent on the salaries of inspectors for ante- and post-mortem inspections.

Interstate Sale of State-Inspected Meat and Poultry

NCSL encourages USDA to continue the Cooperative Interstate Shipment Program in qualifying states as the program levels the economic playing field for small businesses, spurs more competition in the marketplace, creates a more uniform inspection system,
and enhances consumer confidence in the food supply – all of which benefit farmers, ranchers, processors, small business and consumers.
WHEREAS, farmers depend on pollinator species such as bees, ants, butterflies, birds and bats to successfully produce approximately one-third of the world's crop production; and

WHEREAS, pollinator dependent foods include many fruit, vegetable, seed, nut and oil crops, supplying important vitamins, minerals, and nutrients to humans; and

WHEREAS, pollinator loss poses a significant threat to United States agriculture and the ability of farmers to feed a growing world population; and

WHEREAS, more than 40 pollinator species have been federally listed as threatened or endangered; and

WHEREAS, scientists have linked the use of neonicotinoids, a class of systemic insecticides, to the decline of pollinators and deterioration of pollinator health; and

WHEREAS, restrictions on the use of neonicotinoid pesticides and other efforts to protect pollinators have been enacted in communities and states across the country; and

WHEREAS, the Saving America’s Pollinators Act of 2019 will provide the urgent and necessary regulatory restrictions and review of certain pesticides for their toxicity to pollinators.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the National Conference of State Legislators urges the President of the United States and Member of Congress to act to pass and sign into law the Saving America’s Pollinators Act of 2019, and
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that copies of this resolution be immediately transmitted to the President of the United States, the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and each member of Congress.