



---

## Agriculture

---

During the 2018 legislative session, the General Assembly considered measures to: add millet to Colorado's list of agricultural commodities; allow chiropractors to practice on animals; regulate industrial hemp; promote employment opportunities for young and beginning farmers; and continue and modernize existing agricultural programs and laws.

### Agricultural Commodities

A market order allows producers of a specific commodity to work together to research, develop, and market their product to consumers. A market order is overseen by an administrative committee elected by producers and approved by the Commissioner of Agriculture. Colorado currently has market orders for corn, dry beans, milk, potatoes, sunflowers, sweet corn, and wheat. *Senate Bill 18-188* adds millet to the existing list of agricultural commodities. By defining millet as an agricultural commodity, millet producers will be able to seek a petition to establish a millet market order.

### Animal Chiropractic Requirements

Under current law, a licensed chiropractor must obtain a veterinary medical clearance from a licensed veterinarian before performing an animal chiropractic act that falls within the chiropractor's scope of practice on an animal patient. *Senate Bill 18-239* removes this requirement if certain education and training requirements are met. Specifically, the

chiropractor must complete a one-hour course concerning the laws, rules, and procedures for the identification and notification of certain contagious, infections, and zoonotic diseases, as well as completing an eight-hour course on recognizing the earlier indicators and clinical signs of various diseases in dog and horse patients.

The bill sets forth standards for the courses and specifies that a chiropractor is not required to take the courses to renew or reinstate his or her registration to practice animal chiropractic. When treating an animal patient, the chiropractor must notify the licensed veterinarian treating the animal within seven days or provide documentation of the treatment to the person bringing the animal in for treatment.

### Industrial Hemp

The General Assembly passed four bills concerning the regulation of hemp and hemp products in 2018. *Senate Concurrent Resolution 18-003* refers a measure to voters at the November 2018 general election to remove the current definition of industrial hemp from the Colorado Constitution. The measure requires that the term industrial hemp have the same definition as in federal law or state statute. *Senate Bill 18-235* creates the Colorado Industrial Hemp Research and Development Task Force to study whether to develop an industrial hemp research and development authority. If created, the authority would develop, fund, and promote

---

## Agriculture (cont'd)

---

educational, research, and development programs and collaborative efforts concerning industrial hemp.

*Senate Bill 18-205* added unprocessed industrial hemp seeds to the definition of a commodity and industrial hemp to the definition of farm products. Due to this addition, a commodity handler for unprocessed industrial hemp seeds is subject to licensing under the Commodity Handler Act, and a person acting as a dealer, small-volume dealer, or agent for industrial hemp stocks, leaves, clones, and flowers is subject to licensing under the Farm Products Act. The bill authorizes the Commissioner of Agriculture to set fees sufficient to cover the direct and indirect costs of the Industrial Hemp Program. Currently, the program is funded with industrial hemp registration application fees.

*House Bill 18-1295* established that food and cosmetics are not adulterated under the Colorado Food and Drug Act just because they contain industrial hemp. The bill also removes the term cannabis from the list of substances whose inclusion in a drug or device is deemed misbranded.

### Agricultural Workforce

The Young and Beginning Farmers Interim Study Committee was created in 2017 to study issues related to how state and local policies can better assist aspiring farmers and ranchers in the early stages of their careers. The committee recommended *Senate Bill 18-042*, which requires the Department of Agriculture to create an agricultural workforce development program to incentivize agricultural businesses to hire interns. The program must be developed by January 1, 2019, and the department must establish rules for the program, including eligibility requirements and the number of internships approved. Eligible businesses participating in the program may be reimbursed for up to 50 percent of the costs to employ an intern. The internships must

provide an intern with at least 130 hours of work experience over no more than six months.

### Other Regulatory Legislation

Anyone who sells or advertises with the intent to sell nursery stock in the state must be registered with the Department of Agriculture pursuant to the Colorado Nursery Act. *House Bill 18-1246* modifies the act by: removing the inspection exemption for a nursery that sells stock grown and sold only in Colorado; raising the nursery stock business registration fee cap to \$300 per year; authorizing the Commissioner of Agriculture to promulgate rules regarding the information to be included on labels of nursery stock; and adding new definitions and modifying the definition of nursery stock.

The bill also places protections on existing agriculture by prohibiting the sale of noxious weeds or nursery stock that has become infested with noxious weeds.

*House Bill 18-1235* continues the regulation of custom meat processing through September 1, 2023. The program inspects custom meat processing facilities that process domestic livestock and wild game animals for owners. Facilities are inspected for proper sanitation, record-keeping, and compliance with state and federal regulations. In addition to continuing the program, the bill expands the poultry processing program.

*House Bill 18-1236* continues the Colorado Food Systems Advisory Council until September 1, 2023. The council was created in 2010 to advance recommendations to state agencies and the General Assembly that increase healthy food access for residents through agriculture and local food systems and economies.