

## Active Bills of Interest to NJ Farm Bureau

### Labor

- **Increases the Minimum wage: A-15/S-15** (Prieto/Sweeney) the bill increases the minimum wage to \$15.00 plus CPI over the next five years beginning with an initial increase to \$10.10 an hour in 2017 The bills passed both houses the vote in the Assembly was 42-31-1 on 5/26/16 and the Senate 21-18 On 6/26/16 the bill was absolutely Vetoed by the Governor on 9/8/16 We expect the issue to be part of the 2017 election of Governor. Farm Bureau opposes
- **Increase paid family Leave benefits: A4927** (Prieto, Oliver) **S3085/A4857** (Sweeney,Diegnan/DeAngelo) the bills as proposed would increase he paid family leave benefit from 6 to 12 weeks, Increase the weekly benefit from \$633 to \$932 per week the bill also doubles the amount of Intermittent leave from 42 days to 84 and expands the definition of family member. The bill is introduced and scheduled for a vote in the assembly Regulatory Oversight and Reform committee on June 1, 2017. NJ Farm Bureau is opposed to the proposal.
- **Paid sick leave: S-799; A-1446** (Weinberg/Lampitt) The legislation to mandate that all employers provide their employees with earn sick-leave. Amendments were approved to S-799 in March that would exempt employers with fewer than 10 employees. The bill is on second reading in the senate. A1446 is different as it has a different standard of sick time for fewer than 10 employees and permits local ordinances to be more permissive than the state law. No action on the bill in the Assembly at this time. Farm Bureau opposes both bills

### Policy Topics

- **Alternate Farmer Representatives to the SADC: A4787** (Andrzejczak Houghtaling) permits the appointment of a past State Board or SADC member to attend and vote at a regular meeting of the SADC when a farmer member cannot make it or has a conflict. Introduced and assigned to the Assembly Agriculture Committee. Introduced and referred to the Assembly Agriculture Committee. NJ Farm Bureau Supports the bill
- **Alternate Farmer Members to the CADB: A4788** (Houghtaling, Taliaferro) Creates the post of alternate farmer member for a County Agricultural Development Board for when there is a conflict with a farmer member or a farmer member cannot attend. Introduced and referred to the Assembly Agriculture Committee. NJ Farm Bureau supports the bill
- **Fish and Game Council Farmer Vacancy: A4844** (Andrzejczak) Authorizes State Board of Agriculture to appoint temporary members to fill certain vacancies on Fish and Game Council.
- **Horse Boarding exemption: A3041** (Dancer) Clarifies sales tax collection responsibilities of horse boarding businesses in New Jersey. The bill has been referred to the Tourism, Gaming and the Arts Committee. Last session the bill received pushback from the sales tax review commission, their recommendations have been sent to the sponsor. Farm Bureau Supports the bill
- **Trespass and Vandalism: A4846** (Houghtaling, Taliaferro) requires restitution and damages for trespass and vandalism to agricultural and horticultural lands when then crime is prosecuted, increases penalties. Introduced and referred to the Assembly Agricultural Committee.
- **Repeal Highlands Septic Density Rule: ACR192/SCR148** (McKeon/Smith) Determines that DEP's proposal to amend septic system density standards in Highlands Water Protection and Planning Act Rules is inconsistent with legislative intent. Approved Assembly Regulatory and Oversight Committee 12/15/16 passed the General Assembly 12/19/16 the bill had a hearing in the Senate

on May 1<sup>st</sup> and on May 25<sup>th</sup> the Senate approved the resolutions putting DEP on a 30day clock to respond to the legislature. NJ Farm Bureau opposes this resolution.

- **Pinelands Commission Member Voting: A4849** (Andrzejczak) Clarifies law concerning circumstances in which members of Pinelands Commission may vote. NJ Farm Bureau supports
- **Right to Farm dispute fees: A4847** (Andrzejczak, Houghtaling) Authorizes award of reasonable costs and attorney fees to farmers prevailing in certain farm management disputes. NJ Farm Bureau supports
- **Raw Milk: A-696:** (DiMaio) The legislation to permit the sale of raw milk under certain conditions has permissibility of raw milk sales in New Jersey, provided that adequate safety and testing standards are in place. NJ Farm Bureau supports

#### **Agriculture Chemical and Native Pollinator Bills**

- **Bans Chlorpyrifos insecticide (Lorsban) : A4794** (Eustace) the bill would ban the sale and use of Chlorpyrifos trade name Lorsban for use as an insecticide in New Jersey. Introduced and passed by the Assembly environment Committee on May 18, 2017 No senate companion at this time. New Jersey Farm Bureau opposes the ban
- **Neonicotinoid Ban/Restrict use designation: S2077/A3397** (Bateman, Smith/Caride) Directs DEP to classify neonicotinoid pesticides as restricted use pesticides. This bill is still under consideration and negotiation between the Chemical Manufactures, Environmental advocates and New Jersey Farm Bureau. Currently looking at neighboring state legislation and how they address Neonicotinoids. Farm Bureau opposes an outright ban of the chemical class seeking amendments to insure proper use by the agricultural community
- **Bee and Native pollinator education for Pesticide applicators: S2078/A3400** (Bateman/Caride) requires the DEP to add a course on to the pesticide education program about pesticide application and bee and native pollination awareness. This bill is a simple expanded education program as part of the pesticide licensing program. Passed the 9/15/16 36-0 no action yet in the assembly Assigned to the Assembly Ag committee. Farm Bureau Supports
- **Bee Yard Notification Bill: S2076/A3398** (Bateman/Caride)The bill expands the regulations on bee hive/yard registration to native bees, require bee yards seeking notification of pesticide applications harmful to bees to register with DEP by March first of each year. A licensed applicator apply a pesticide harmful to bees must notify the yard owner at least 24 hours in advance of application. Passed the Senate 12/19/16 34-0 No Assembly action, assigned to the Assembly Agriculture Committee. Farm Bureau Supports

#### **Wildlife Management**

- **Multi Species Depredation Permits A-784and A-3048/S-1595:** (Andrzejczak/Van Drew) The bill creates a multi-species depredation permit option for farmers. A-784 and A-3048 were introduced and referred to the Assembly Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee. S-1595 was introduced in the Senate and referred to the Senate Economic Growth Committee. Neither bill has seen any activity since their introductions. Farm Bureau Supports
- **Prohibits deer feeding except for baiting: S-761/ A-4160** (Smith/Houghtaling) prohibits deer feeding (except for baiting) and expands depredation permits to forested lands to increase lands with depredation permits and stop supplemental feeding of deer. The bill was released by The Senate Environment Committee on 9/12/16 and referred to the Senate Budget Committee A-4160 was released by the Assembly Agricultural Committee on 10/13/16 and is poised for a floor vote. Farm Bureau Supports

- **Noise Cannons: A-773/S2204** (Andzejczak/Van Drew) The bill would clarify that noise cannons are an allowable, non-lethal tool for wildlife control on farmland. This bill was released by the Assembly Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee on 9/19/16 Farm Bureau Supports
- **Removes beaver permit limit: A-2178 (Taliferro)** removes statutory limit on beaver permits. The bill permits expansion of the program to allow for depredation permits, Approved Assembly Ag Committee 9/19/16 No senate Companion. Farm Bureau supports
- **Bear/deer baiting bill: A-4285/S3128 and S-2702/A4285** (Vainieri-Huttle/Beach) (Lesniak/Quijano) the legislation to prohibit baiting for bear or deer in areas of the state identified by DEP as "bear habitat areas" and to require the use of bear-resistant trash receptacles in these same areas. Baiting can be an essential feature of a farmer's wildlife management protocols S2702 was heard in the Senate Economic Growth Committee 10/20/16 Farm Bureau opposes
- **Removes Black Bear from Game species list A-3527/S2141** (Eustace/Allen) would remove black bear from the list of game species and place them on the non game, protected and endangered species category the bill was heard and released from the Assembly Environment Committee on 10/13/2016 Farm Bureau opposes

#### **Farmland Preservation Funding:**

- A4850/S2989:** (Taliaferro/Lesniak) Appropriates \$2,900,000 from "2009 Farmland Preservation Fund" for grants to certain nonprofit organizations for farmland preservation purposes. Passed Assembly 3/23/17 approved Senate Environment Committee 5/15/17 Farm Bureau Supports
- A4581/S2587:** (Houghtaling/Cruz-Perez) Appropriates \$22,385,743 to State Agriculture Development Committee for farmland preservation purposes. Passed Assembly 3/23/17 approved Senate Environment Committee 5/15/17 Farm Bureau Supports
- A4584/2988:** (Zwicker/Sweeney) Appropriates \$7,500,000 from constitutionally dedicated CBT revenues for planning incentive grants to municipalities for farmland preservation purposes. Passed Assembly 3/23/17 approved Senate Environment Committee 5/15/17 Farm Bureau Supports

#### **Other Topics:**

- **Prescribe Burning: A1696** (Dancer, Conaway) Authorizes prescribed burning in certain circumstances and updates current permitting and process. NJ Farm Bureau supports
- **Food Waste to energy bills: S771/A2417** (Smith/Eustace) food waste recycling bill mandates use for renewable energy the original bill established a mandatory food recycling for energy program. The bill has since been amended to leave in place on farm composting and use for animal feeds as acceptable food recycling uses. The bill is on second reading in the Senate after floor amendments on 5/25/17 NJ Farm Bureau supports
- **Tire Hauling and Recycling: S2422/A4093** licensing of tire haulers and mandating tire recycling. The bill as amended and passed by the senate creates a licensing program for tire haulers to ensure proper disposal and recycling of vehicle and equipment tires. Passed the senate Nov 21, 2016 no action yet in the Assembly.

- **Organic Industry Expansion: A4802** (Gusciora) Provides tax credits and other assistance to farmers transitioning to organic agricultural production; appropriates \$2 million to Dept. of Agriculture. No Position

**Bills that became law:**

- **Interstate Wildlife Violators Compact: A-2763/S-1933** (Mazzeo/Sweeney) NJ joining the interstate wildlife violator's compact this would prohibit persons that have hunting violations in NJ from receiving a permit in another state and do the same for those with violations in other states from hunting in NJ. Passed by both houses on 11/14/16 Signed into law 1/9/17
- **Aquaculture industry: AJR24/SJR36** aquaculture as an important state economic driver Approved 10/25/16 and became public law 12/5/2016
- **Aquaculture Permits: S316/A793** Requires Ag, DEP and the Army corp to work together on aquaculture permits and streamlining the process. 11/21/16 Passed both Houses, Signed by the Governor Jan 9, 2017
- **Aquaculture Development Process: A794/S317** aquaculture project application process requires DEP AG and Army core to work toward single/unified permit process approved in both Assembly Ag and Senate Environment Passed both Houses 11/21/16 Signed by the Governor Jan 9. 2017
- **Road Side Vegetation: S-724/A-3604** (Cruz-Perez/Eustace) vegetative management council established to look at how we manage vegetation on state roads the council includes the Department of Agriculture and a landscaper. Passed Senate 9/15/16 has been released by the Assembly Environment committee 10/13/16 later passed by the full assembly 3/13/17 and signed by the Governor May 1. 2017 Farm Bureau supported once the bill was amended to include the NJDA
- **Native plant for road work: S-227/A-963:** requires native plants be used for NJDOT, NJTA, and SJTA the bill would require those state agencies to only use native vegetation for landscaping, and management, reforestation, or habitat restoration. Passed the senate on 10/20/16 and referred to the Assembly Budget Committee A-963 was released by the Assembly committee on 10/13/16 on 2/15/17 the bill was passed by the Assembly and signed into law by the Governor on May 1, 2017