



Rotunda Roundup from Montana Farmers Union

April 21-25

Week 16

The following is a weekly update of Montana Farmers Union priority bills of the 2025 Montana Legislative Session. MFU is the state's largest and oldest grassroots family farm advocacy organization representing family farms, ranches, and rural communities for more than 100 years.

Priority Bill Status Update

SJ 25 – Joint Resolution urging Congress to support MCOOL, sponsored by Sen. Willis Curdy.

Status & Next Steps: SJ 25 passed its second reading vote on Thursday, April 24 in the House 84-16 and its third reading vote on Friday, April 25. Next it will be sent back to the Senate for enrolling, completing its journey through the Legislature.

MFU supported SJ 25 throughout the legislative session. This is a policy priority of our membership. Ranchers deserve credit for the high-quality products they raise and that consumers deserve accurate and honest labels so they can make the decisions that are best for their family and their food dollars. Pork and beef are the only products that are not subject to mandatory Country of Origin Labeling (MCOOL). In 2015, Congress repealed MCOOL only for beef and pork following lobbying from the multinational meat packing monopoly. These multinational packing companies stand to profit more without mandatory COOL because they can import foreign cheaper, lower quality products, mix or repackage it here in the USA and enjoy the USDA label which often is confusing to consumers who think it's a label of origin. This resolution will once again push the issue at the federal level, where meaningful action is possible thanks to the reintroduction of Sen. John Thune's (R-SD) American Beef Labeling Act. This resolution will send a message to Montana's Congressional Delegation, Governor Gianforte, Secretary Rollins of USDA, and the United States Trade Representative – the Montana Legislature, Montana ranchers, and consumers want this issue fixed.

The Legislature is quickly moving toward an end of the session as they work through final bill votes, amendments, and budget bills, along with many proposals related to property taxes.

We will continue to track changes in the legislature that impact family farms and ranches and rural communities and keep you informed.

A note from MFU: MFU is incredibly grateful to all our members hard work in making your voice heard this session on critical issues and bills that impact family farmers and ranchers everyday. Sending letters through the action alert system, texts, emails, and calls to your legislators – all make a major difference.

Your membership with Montana Farmers Union gives you a voice in the state legislature and it is an honor to amplify that voice through our grassroots policy positions and policy priorities at the Montana Legislature to ensure that family farmers and ranchers remain a priority for the state.

While the session approaches its end, this does not need to be the end of your advocacy journey. MFU has the Week of Action approaching – join in from your farm or ranch to help us send a message to Congress that it's time to act – For Farmer's Sake. Volatile markets, skyrocketing input costs, funding cuts, staff layoffs, a looming trade war, and the absence of a five-year farm bill are all putting family farmers and ranchers at risk. Watch for opportunities to engage with this week of action from your Farm or Ranch to continue making your voice heard. If you are ready to be part of this week of action in Montana, send an email to rprevost@montanafarmersunion.com to ensure you receive information and timely notifications.



Questions or feedback on a bill? Contact Rachel Prevost at rprevost@montanafarmersunion.com or Jasmine Krotkov at jkrotkov@montanafarmersunion.com or Erik Somerfeld riksomer@3rivers.net