

Agricultural Amendments

2025 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

Chief Sponsor: Jennifer Dailey-Provost

Senate Sponsor:

LONG TITLE**General Description:**

This bill creates a requirement for the Department of Agriculture and Food to study issues related to local food availability.

Highlighted Provisions:

This bill:

- defines "local food supply";
- requires the Department of Agriculture and Food (department) to study the barriers and gaps related to increasing the availability of local food in the state, including issues

related to:

- the intrastate food supply;
- crop production and optimization;
- the agricultural workforce; and
- the capital funding of local food production;

- requires the department to report the findings and recommendations of the study to the Natural Resources, Agriculture, and Environment Interim Committee; and

- implements a sunset date for the study.

Money Appropriated in this Bill:

None

Other Special Clauses:

None

Utah Code Sections Affected:

AMENDS:

63I-2-204, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2024, Third Special Session, Chapter 5

ENACTS:

4-2-1101, Utah Code Annotated 1953

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the state of Utah:

31 Section 1. Section **4-2-1101** is enacted to read:

32 **Part 11. Agricultural Studies**

33 **4-2-1101 . Local food study.**

34 (1) As used in this section, "local food" means an agricultural product that is:

- 35 (a) produced, processed, and distributed for sale or consumption within the state; and
36 (b) sold to an end consumer within the state.

37 (2)(a) The department shall study the barriers and gaps related to increasing local food
38 availability in the state, including analysis of:

- 39 (i) the intrastate food supply chain;
40 (ii) crop production and optimization;
41 (iii) the agricultural workforce; and
42 (iv) the capital funding of local food production.

43 (b) The department shall seek input from a wide range of stakeholders for the study
44 described in Subsection (2)(a), including a diverse group of the state's agricultural
45 producers based on geography, operation size, and operation type.

46 (3) The study described in Subsection (2) shall:

47 (a) research the production costs and economic impacts for agricultural operators to:
48 (i) voluntarily seek to implement or explore various crop types, including the
49 production costs to, and economic impacts on, agricultural operators that seek out
50 assistance to incorporate new traditional or alternative crop types into an existing
51 operation; and

52 (ii) maintain, modernize, and upgrade equipment;

53 (b) research the barriers to entry associated with careers in agriculture by reviewing:

- 54 (i) existing challenges;
55 (ii) available career development and hiring resources;
56 (iii) programs in other states that support individuals interested in pursuing careers in
57 agriculture;

58 (iv) opportunities for new agricultural producers to use the expertise and capital of
59 existing agricultural producers; and

60 (v) the potential for creating a small farm incubator program;

61 (c) research gaps in the state's food supply chain with respect to local food, including:

- 62 (i) aggregation;
63 (ii) distribution;
64 (iii) storage; and

- 65 (iv) processing; and
66 (d) propose potential funding solutions to address the issues identified by the
67 department's research under this Subsection (3), including recommendations for:
68 (i) potential grant programs;
69 (ii) potential investment by private capital; and
70 (iii) available funding from state and federal sources.

71 (4)(a) The department shall report to the Natural Resources, Agriculture, and
72 Environment Interim Committee at or before the committee's June 2026 interim
73 meeting.

- 74 (b) The report described in Subsection (4)(a) shall include:
75 (i) research findings related to each study item described in Subsection (3); and
76 (ii) policy solutions related to each study item described in Subsection (3).

77 (c) The report described in Subsection (4)(a) may include recommendations for
78 legislation and legislative appropriations.

79 Section 2. Section **63I-2-204** is amended to read:

80 **63I-2-204 . Repeal dates: Title 4.**

81 (1) Section 4-2-1101, Local food study, is repealed July 1, 2026.

82 [~~1~~] (2) Section 4-11-117, Beekeeping working group -- Development of standards, is
83 repealed May 1, 2025.

84 [~~2~~] (3) Subsection 4-41a-102(6), regarding the Cannabis Research Review Board, is
85 repealed July 1, 2026.

86 [~~3~~] (4) Section 4-46-104, Transition, is repealed July 1, 2024.

87 Section 3. **Effective date.**

88 This bill takes effect on May 7, 2025.