

# CCGA State and National Actions During 2018

At the state-level, Colorado Corn Growers Association (CCGA) had a mild, but active year during the 2018 Colorado Legislative Session. The most noteworthy action for the committee perhaps, was the bold decision to endorse a candidate for Governor, Republican Walker Stapleton.

## State Activity Summary

In 2018, CCGA engaged in issues related to transportation funding, port of entry requirements for inspection, 811-call before you dig, water proposals, issues of animal health and veterinarian protocols, and rural broadband and economic endeavors.

### 2018 Bills Acted Upon

SB18-001 – Transportation Infrastructure Funding

Position: Support

Status: Governor signed May 2018

[https://leg.colorado.gov/bill-search?search\\_api\\_views\\_fulltext=sb18-001](https://leg.colorado.gov/bill-search?search_api_views_fulltext=sb18-001)

SB18-197 – Agriculture Motor Vehicle Port of Entry

Bill concerns an exception to the requirement that a motor vehicle clear a port of entry for vehicles transporting agricultural commodities.

Position: Support

Status: Postponed indefinitely

[https://leg.colorado.gov/bill-search?search\\_api\\_views\\_fulltext=sb18-197&field\\_chamber=All&field\\_bill\\_type=All&field\\_sessions=All&sort\\_bef\\_combine=search\\_api\\_relevance%20DESC](https://leg.colorado.gov/bill-search?search_api_views_fulltext=sb18-197&field_chamber=All&field_bill_type=All&field_sessions=All&sort_bef_combine=search_api_relevance%20DESC)

SB18-166 – Maximum Criminal Penalty One Year to 364 Days

Bill changes the maximum jail sentence for certain crimes from one year to three hundred sixty-four days.

Position: Support

Status: House Considered Senate Adherence - Result was to Adhere

[https://leg.colorado.gov/bill-search?search\\_api\\_views\\_fulltext=sb18-166&field\\_chamber=All&field\\_bill\\_type=All&field\\_sessions=All&sort\\_bef\\_combine=search\\_api\\_relevance%20DESC](https://leg.colorado.gov/bill-search?search_api_views_fulltext=sb18-166&field_chamber=All&field_bill_type=All&field_sessions=All&sort_bef_combine=search_api_relevance%20DESC)

HB18-1043 – Beef Country of Origin Recognition System

Bill concerns a requirement that a retailer indicate the country of origin of beef sold to the public.

Position: Oppose

Status: Postponed indefinitely

[https://leg.colorado.gov/bill-search?search\\_api\\_views\\_fulltext=hb18-1043&field\\_chamber=All&field\\_bill\\_type=All&field\\_sessions=All&sort\\_bef\\_combine=search\\_api\\_relevance%20DESC](https://leg.colorado.gov/bill-search?search_api_views_fulltext=hb18-1043&field_chamber=All&field_bill_type=All&field_sessions=All&sort_bef_combine=search_api_relevance%20DESC)

On the National front, 2018 was a busy and raucous year. It started with member polling at the 2017 District Meetings to assess what Colorado farmers needed from the next Farm Bill and extended right up to the end of 2018. And while passage of the 2018 Farm Bill provided a level of certainty, the Public Policy Committee was disappointed in the outcome. In the words of the committee's Chair, Dave Cure, "The only certainty in the 2018 Farm Bill is that a lot of Colorado farmers impacted by several years of drought and hail are likely going to be out of business."

While the committee was pleased with several aspects of Title I, without adequate disaster provisions in the bill, they couldn't help but have a feeling of defeat. Even so, they did not let any grass grow under their feet. Before the calendar turned from 2018 to 2019, the committee set disaster assistance as their top priority for the new year.

Aside from the 2018 Farm Bill, the industry faced several other important issues this year, and all of them will spill into 2019 and beyond. The list of issues includes trade tariffs and on-going negotiations with China, renegotiating NAFTA, GMO labeling, the Renewable Fuel Standard, RIN Waivers, and the push for year-round sales of E15.

When CCGA members take an active part in the political process, the impact a single story can have should never be underestimated! Our collective voices are certainly important too, especially when compounded by our affiliations with other ag associations in-state and with National Corn Growers Association (NCGA), and our membership with Southwest Council of Agribusiness (SWCA).

Thanks to those who engaged on the issues in 2018. To those who did or did not, be assured we'll have opportunities for you to engage in 2019 and look forward to standing with you as we focus on the future of agriculture together.

About CCGA's Public Policy Committee: The Colorado General Assembly meets for 120 days each year to conduct the business of the state. During these four months the CCGA's Public Policy Committee strives to monitor all legislation that could impact members and to directly engage in a positive or adverse position when we feel strongly about an issue. The public policy committee met every Friday morning at 7 a.m. to discuss new bills, the progression of all bills and to take positions if warranted. CCGA is in constant communication with members of the legislative body, especially the House and Senate Agriculture Committees, and the leadership of the body to make sure our opinions are known. Even during the interim period, we stay engaged with the members of the General Assembly and monitor any interim committee or situation that could impact CCGA members.