

SENATE FILE NO. SF0109

Cowboy state agricultural trust fund.

Sponsored by: Senator(s) Boner, Driskill and Love and
Representative(s) Banks, Davis, Fornstrom,
Strock and Winter

A BILL

for

1 AN ACT relating to the administration of the government;
2 creating the cowboy state agricultural trust fund;
3 specifying requirements and authorized expenditures for the
4 fund; creating the cowboy state agricultural trust fund
5 committee; specifying duties and oversight responsibilities
6 of the committee; requiring reporting; requiring the
7 transfer of funds; requiring rulemaking; and providing for
8 effective dates.

9

10 *Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Wyoming:*

11

12 **Section 1.** W.S. 11-53-101 and 11-53-102 are created
13 to read:

14

15

CHAPTER 53

1 COWBOY STATE AGRICULTURAL TRUST

2

3 11-53-101. Cowboy state agricultural trust fund;
4 requirements; investments; expenditures.

5

6 (a) As used in this chapter:

7

8 (i) "Committee" means the cowboy state
9 agricultural trust fund committee created in W.S.
10 11-53-102(a);

11

12 (ii) "Fund" means the cowboy state agricultural
13 trust fund created in subsection (b) of this section.

14

15 (b) There is created the cowboy state agricultural
16 trust fund. The state treasurer shall invest the fund in
17 accordance with law. Except for investment earnings from
18 the fund and other funds granted or appropriated to the
19 fund for specific purposes and expenditures, all funds
20 deposited into or within the fund are intended to be
21 inviolate and constitute a permanent or perpetual trust
22 fund. In adopting investment policy statements for the
23 fund, the state loan and investment board, in consultation

1 with the investment funds committee, shall seek to preserve
2 the balance of the fund in a manner that strives for the
3 highest possible risk-adjusted total net return consistent
4 with an appropriate level of safety and liquidity.

5

6 (c) Earnings from the investment of the fund shall be
7 deposited in the cowboy state agricultural trust income
8 account, which is hereby created. The income account shall
9 consist of those funds credited to the income account under
10 this subsection and all other monies collected from federal
11 grants and other contributions, grants, gifts, bequests and
12 donations specifically designated to the income account.
13 Funds within the income account are continuously
14 appropriated to the committee for the purposes specified in
15 this article.

16

17 (d) The committee may accept contributions, grants,
18 gifts, transfers, bequests and donations to the income
19 account created in subsection (c) of this section, unless
20 the donor expressly directs the monies to the trust fund.
21 Funds received by the committee under this subsection shall
22 be used by the committee for the purposes specified in this
23 article unless the grantor has limited the purposes or

1 terms of expenditure of the funds received under this
2 subsection.

3

4 (e) Funds within the income account shall only be
5 expended by the committee to provide grants for the
6 following purposes:

7

8 (i) Programs and initiatives related to
9 production agriculture at the University of Wyoming college
10 of agriculture, life sciences and natural resources;

11

12 (ii) Agriculture workforce development programs
13 and initiatives at the University of Wyoming and Wyoming
14 community colleges. For purposes of this paragraph,
15 workforce development programs shall provide support for
16 production agriculture, value-added agriculture or natural
17 resource personnel who are or will be employed by federal
18 and state agencies and shall incorporate practical
19 experience, work experience and internships;

20

21 (iii) Agriculture education or classroom
22 programs that provide curricula or other educational
23 resources for agriculture education in Wyoming schools;

1

2 (iv) Support or development for
3 agriculture-focused classes in Wyoming high schools that
4 offer concurrent credit with a Wyoming community college;

5

6 (v) Value-added agricultural projects;

7

8 (vi) The enhancement of business-related
9 education for agriculture, including marketing, addressing
10 regulatory burdens to new markets and business strategies
11 for growing agricultural business;

12

13 (vii) The incorporation of new technologies and
14 practices into operational practice in production
15 agriculture;

16

17 (viii) Other efforts, programs and initiatives
18 to expand the productivity, profitability or sustainability
19 of Wyoming agriculture.

20

21 (f) Subject to subsection (g) of this section, grants
22 made by the committee under this section:

23

1 (i) May be made to Wyoming government entities,
2 educational institutions and other qualified public
3 entities incorporated in Wyoming;

4

5 (ii) Shall be matched in the ratio of one dollar
6 (\$1.00) of cowboy state agricultural trust funds from the
7 income account to not less than one dollar (\$1.00) of
8 matching nonstate funds;

9

10 (iii) Shall require the recipient to report to
11 the committee not less than annually on the expenditure of
12 grant funds received under this section.

13

14 (g) No funds shall be expended under this section for
15 grants exceeding two hundred thousand dollars (\$200,000.00)
16 except upon specific legislative authorization.

17

18 **11-53-102. Cowboy state agricultural trust fund**
19 **committee.**

20

21 (a) There is created the cowboy state agricultural
22 trust fund committee consisting of the following persons:

23

1 (i) The director;

2

3 (ii) The dean of the University of Wyoming
4 college of agriculture, life sciences and natural resources
5 or the dean's designee;

6

7 (iii) The chief executive officer of the Wyoming
8 business council or the officer's designee;

9

10 (iv) A representative of the Wyoming community
11 college commission;

12

13 (v) A representative of Wyoming high schools who
14 teaches vocational or career and technical education;

15

16 (vi) A designee of a Wyoming nonprofit entity
17 that supports agriculture in the classroom or similar
18 agricultural education initiatives;

19

20 (vii) Three (3) persons actively involved in
21 production agriculture in Wyoming.

22

1 (b) The governor shall appoint to the committee the
2 persons specified in paragraphs (a)(iv) through (vii) of
3 this section with the advice and consent of the senate in
4 accordance with W.S. 28-12-101 through 28-12-103. The
5 persons appointed to the committee as specified in
6 paragraphs (a)(iv) through (vii) of this section shall be
7 appointed for three (3) year terms, except as otherwise
8 provided in this subsection. For the initial appointments
9 made under this subsection, two (2) members shall be
10 appointed for a one (1) year term, two (2) members shall be
11 appointed for a term of two (2) years and two (2) members
12 shall be appointed for a term of three (3) years. The
13 persons appointed to the committee as specified in
14 paragraphs (a)(i) through (iii) of this section shall serve
15 during the term of their appointment or employment. The
16 governor may remove any committee member as provided in
17 W.S. 9-1-202.

18

19 (c) The department shall provide staffing and
20 administrative support for the committee.

21

22 (d) The committee shall:

23

1 (i) Develop and provide an application process
2 for the awarding of grants from the income account created
3 in W.S. 11-53-101(c);
4

5 (ii) Oversee the expenditure of grant funds
6 awarded under this article to ensure compliance with this
7 article and any other requirements under law;
8

9 (iii) Report to the joint agriculture, state and
10 public lands and water resources interim committee on the
11 cowboy state agricultural trust fund and grants awarded
12 under this article not later than October 1, 2027 and each
13 October 1 thereafter.
14

15 **Section 2.**
16

17 (a) On the effective date of this act, the state
18 auditor shall transfer ten million dollars (\$10,000,000.00)
19 from the general fund to the cowboy state agricultural
20 trust fund, as created by section 1 of this act.
21

22 (b) There is appropriated forty-two thousand nine
23 hundred forty-four dollars (\$42,944.00) from the general

1 fund to the department of agriculture for purposes of
2 paying for the cowboy state agricultural trust fund
3 committee's travel and other administrative expenses
4 associated with committee activities. This appropriation
5 shall be for the period beginning with the effective date
6 of this act and ending June 30, 2028. This appropriation
7 shall not be transferred or expended for any other purpose
8 and any unexpended, unobligated funds remaining from this
9 appropriation shall revert as provided by law on June 30,
10 2028.

11

12 **Section 3.** The Wyoming department of agriculture
13 shall promulgate all rules necessary to implement this act.

14

1 **Section 4.**

2

3 (a) Except as provided in subsection (b) of this
4 section, this act is effective July 1, 2026.

5

6 (b) Sections 3 and 4 of this act are effective
7 immediately upon completion of all acts necessary for a
8 bill to become law as provided by Article 4, Section 8 of
9 the Wyoming Constitution.

10

11

(END)