

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 continuously appropriated to the committee for the purposes
8 specified in this article.

9

10 (d) The committee may accept contributions, grants,
11 gifts, transfers, bequests and donations to the fund. Funds
12 received by the committee under this subsection shall be
13 used by the committee for the purposes specified in this
14 article unless the grantor has limited the purposes or
15 terms of expenditure of the funds received under this
16 subsection.

17

18 (e) Earnings from the fund shall only be expended by
19 the committee to provide grants for the following purposes:

20

21 (i) Programs and initiatives related to
22 production agriculture at the University of Wyoming college
23 of agriculture, life sciences and natural resources;

1

2 (ii) Agriculture workforce development programs
3 and initiatives at the University of Wyoming and Wyoming
4 community colleges. For purposes of this paragraph,
5 workforce development programs shall provide support for
6 production agriculture, value-added agriculture or natural
7 resource personnel who are or will be employed by federal
8 and state agencies and shall incorporate practical
9 experience, work experience and internships;

10

11 (iii) Agriculture education or classroom
12 programs that provide curricula or other educational
13 resources for agriculture education in Wyoming schools;

14

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

18

19 (v) Value-added agricultural projects;

20

21 (vi) The enhancement of business-related
22 education for agriculture, including marketing, addressing

1 regulatory burdens to new markets and business strategies
2 for growing agricultural business;

3

4 (vii) The incorporation of new technologies and
5 practices into operational practice in production
6 agriculture;

7

8 (viii) Other efforts, programs and initiatives
9 to expand the productivity, profitability or sustainability
10 of Wyoming agriculture.

11

12 (f) Grants made by the committee under this section:

13

14 (i) May be made to Wyoming government entities,
15 educational institutions and other qualified public
16 entities incorporated in Wyoming;

17

18 (ii) Shall be matched in the ratio of one dollar
19 (\$1.00) of cowboy state agricultural trust funds to not
20 less than one dollar (\$1.00) of matching nonstate funds;

21

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

4

5 **11-53-102. Cowboy state agricultural trust fund**
6 **committee.**

7

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

10

11 (i) The director;

12

13 (ii) The dean of the University of Wyoming
14 college of agriculture, life sciences and natural resources
15 or the dean's designee;

16

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

19

20 (iv) A representative of the Wyoming community
21 college commission;

22

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

3

4 (vi) A designee of a Wyoming nonprofit entity
5 that supports agriculture in the classroom or similar
6 agricultural education initiatives;

7

8 (vii) Three (3) persons actively involved in
9 production agriculture in Wyoming.

10

11 (b) The governor shall appoint to the committee the
12 persons specified in paragraphs (a)(iv) through (vii) of
13 this section with the advice and consent of the senate in
14 accordance with W.S. 28-12-101 through 28-12-103. The
15 persons appointed to the committee as specified in
16 paragraphs (a)(iv) through (vii) of this section shall be
17 appointed for three (3) year terms, except as otherwise
18 provided in this subsection. For the initial appointments
19 made under this subsection, two (2) members shall be
20 appointed for a one (1) year term, two (2) members shall be
21 appointed for a term of two (2) years and two (2) members
22 shall be appointed for a term of three (3) years. The
23 persons appointed to the committee as specified in

1 paragraphs (a)(i) through (iii) of this section shall serve
2 during the term of their appointment or employment. The
3 governor may remove any committee member as provided in
4 W.S. 9-1-202.

5

6 (c) The department shall provide staffing and
7 administrative support for the committee.

8

9 (d) The committee shall:

10

11 (i) Develop and provide an application process
12 for the awarding of grants from the fund;

13

14 (ii) Oversee the expenditure of grant funds
15 awarded under this article to ensure compliance with this
16 article and any other requirements under law;

17

18 (iii) Report to the joint agriculture, state and
19 public lands and water resources interim committee on the
20 cowboy state agricultural trust fund and grants awarded
21 under this article not later than October 1, 2027 and each
22 October 1 thereafter through October 1, 2032.

23

1 **Section 2.** On the effective date of this act, the
2 state auditor shall transfer ten million dollars
3 (\$10,000,000.00) from the general fund to the cowboy state
4 agricultural trust fund, as created by section 1 of this
5 act.

6

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

9

10 **Section 4.**

11

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

14

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

19

20

(END)