

AGRICULTURE

Livestock Issues

HB 08-1129 (*Postponed Indefinitely*)
State Fair Animal Identification

HB 08-1236 (*Enacted*)
*Agriculture Department Livestock
Information Security Act*

SB 08-201 (*Enacted*)
Livestock Confinement Standards

Livestock Issues

Livestock security and confinement standards. Two bills were introduced that address livestock disease detection and responses. **House Bill 08-1236** creates the Livestock Information Security Act, and requires that information regarding livestock operations maintained by the Department of Agriculture be considered confidential commercial data. With respect to livestock health issues, the commissioner may deny access to information that would identify a person or location. The bill specifies the confidentiality requirements do not preclude a person from accessing his or her own information or prevent the department from releasing biological livestock samples for scientific testing. The confidentiality requirement does not apply when the Commissioner of Agriculture determines that disclosure is necessary to prevent an immediate health or safety threat. **House Bill 08-1129** — postponed indefinitely in Senate Committee on State, Veterans & Military Affairs — would have prohibited the Colorado State Fair Board of Commissioners from requiring animal exhibitors to participate in the National Animal Identification System (NAIS). Currently, the board requires animal exhibitors at the Colorado State Fair to hold a valid livestock premises identification number. Premises identification is part of the NAIS which was established to trace disease outbreaks and limit the spread of animal diseases. The premises identification component of the NAIS establishes a record of all places where livestock are raised, held, or boarded in the United States.

Senate Bill 08-201 prohibits the confinement of calves raised for veal or gestating sows in a structure that does not allow the animal to stand up, lie down, and turn around without touching the enclosure's sides. It also establishes a new class 2 misdemeanor for violations of the confinement standards and creates an exception for confinement during animal testing, treatment, transportation, exhibition, or slaughter. A class 2 misdemeanor carries a minimum penalty of three months in prison or a fine of \$250, or both; and a maximum penalty of 12 months in prison or a fine of \$1,000, or both.