Illinois Stewardship Alliance - GPAC 2013 Bill Tracker

ISA Priority Legislation:

HB 3319 Rural On-farm Composting Reforms – Sponsored by Representative Brad Halbrook: Amends the Environmental Protection Act. Authorizes a person who is operating an on-farm landscape composting facility to accept food scrap, crop residue, livestock waste, agricultural landscape waste, uncontaminated wood waste, yard waste, and landscape waste for composting and still maintain the on-farm composting permitting exemption so long as the other applicable requirements are satisfied. Prohibits a person from claiming the on-farm composting exemption from solid-waste permitting if he or she charges a tipping fee.

- **Support**
- This is an Illinois Stewardship Alliance initiative in conjunction with the Illinois Environmental Council. It will be our main legislative priority this year.
- **Passed both the House and the Senate! Next Stop the Governor’s Desk**
- To view the status and read the full text of the bill:  

HB 2335 Urban Agriculture Composting Reforms – Sponsored by Representative Robyn Gabel: Amends the Environmental Protection Act. Specifies that the one-eighth mile setback that certain composting facilities must comply with to be excluded from the definition of the term "pollution control facility" applies only in counties with less than 3,000,000 inhabitants. Provides that a solid waste permit is not required for a garden compost operation. Provides that a solid-waste permit is not required for a landscape waste composting facility at a site having 10 or more occupied non-farm residences within 1/2 mile of its boundaries if (i) the facility constitutes no more than 2% of the site's total acreage, (ii) no tipping fee is imposed at the facility, (iii) the finished compost is applied at agronomic rates on-site and is not offered for sale or sold, (iv) the owner or operator of the facility completes any training that the Agency may require, and (v) the owner or operator registers the site with the Agency. Specifies that certain performance standards for composting facilities do not apply to garden compost operations. Defines "garden compost operation". Effective immediately.

- **Support**
- This is an Illinois Stewardship Alliance initiative in conjunction with the Illinois Environmental Council. It will be our main legislative priority this year.
- **Passed both the House and the Senate! Next Stop the Governor’s Desk**
- To view the status and read the full text of the bill:  
New Legislation:

HB29 DHS-WIC FOOD VOUCHERS – Sponsored by Representative Flowers: Amends the Department of Human Services Act. In regard to the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC), requires the Department of Human Services to adopt a rule that expressly permits all WIC participants, regardless of their postal zip code, to redeem their WIC food vouchers at any grocery or retail food establishment authorized to accept WIC food vouchers or at any WIC Food Center.

- Neutral
- Lost 35-79-1
- To view the status and read the full text of the bill: http://www.ilga.gov/legislation/billstatus.asp?DocNum=29&GAID=12&GA=98&DocTypeID=HB&LegID=68255&SessionID=85

HB 77 School Food Prohibition Against Using Trans-fats – Sponsored by Representative La Shawn Ford (Senator Lightford): Provides that each school board must not make available food containing industrially produced trans fat or use food containing industrially produced trans fat in the preparation of a food item served to students from any source, including, but not limited to, school stores, school vending machines, school cafeterias, school food service establishments, and fundraising activities on school premises, whether or not school sponsored. Provides that the prohibition applies to all food and beverages sold on school grounds during the regular and extended school day, but does not apply to food provided through a United States Department of Agriculture meal program. Requires the State Board of Education to establish a procedure for monitoring compliance by school boards, and allows the State Board to establish appropriate penalties based on failure to comply.

- Neutral
- Passed the House 61-56, Senate – Referred to Assignments
- To view the status and read the full text of the bill: http://www.ilga.gov/legislation/BillStatus.asp?DocNum=77&GAID=12&DocTypeID=HB&LegID=68427&SessionID=85&GA=98

HB 133 Food Stamp Cards and Photo ID – Sponsored by Representative Cavaletto: Amends the Illinois Public Aid Code. Provides that on and after January 1, 2014, electronic benefits transfer cards ("LINK") used to obtain food stamp benefits or cash shall contain the name and photo of the primary cardholder and, at the option of the primary cardholder, the names of secondary holders who are authorized to use the card. Establishes that an individual may only use the LINK card if the photo on the card matches the user or he or she presents a current and valid photo identification that confirms he or she is a secondary user listed on the card. Provides that on the effective date of the amendatory Act the Department of Human Services shall begin the process of transitioning to the use of LINK cards which contain the name and photo of the primary cardholder and list the names of all authorized users of the card. Requires the transition to be completed no later than January 1, 2014. Effective immediately.
HB 177 Food Stamps and Child Obesity – Sponsored by Representative Bill Mitchell: Provides that in an effort to control the epidemic of childhood obesity, the Secretary of Human Services may seek a waiver from the United States Department of Agriculture to allow the State to specify certain foods that may and may not be purchased in Illinois with the benefits funded by the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) (formerly the Food Stamps Program). Requires the Secretary to consult with members of the General Assembly in developing the waiver and to obtain approval from the General Assembly before implementing the waiver.

HB 1037 The Farmland Preservation Act – Sponsored by Representative Tryon: Provides that Boone, DeKalb, DuPage, Grundy, Kane, Kankakee, Kendall, Lake, McHenry, or Will county may levy an annual tax for farmland preservation easement and green redevelopment purposes. Provides that the tax may not exceed 0.05% of the equalized assessed value of taxable property in the county. Provides that the tax must be approved by referendum. Provides that the tax may be discontinued by referendum. Provides that a referendum to levy or discontinue the tax may be initiated by a petition signed by a number of electors equal to at least 0.5% of the total number of votes cast in the county during the last preceding gubernatorial election. Provides that the proceeds of the tax shall be paid into two separate funds, the county farmland preservation easement fund and the green redevelopment fund. Sets forth the ways in which the proceeds of the funds shall be used.

HB 1070 Anaerobic Biogas Digester System Co-ops – Sponsored by Representative Jerry Costello (Senator Dave Koehler): Allows cooperatives that own and operate agriculture-based biogas (anaerobic digester) systems to organize as a non-profit. Activities of the cooperatives may include the marketing and sale of biogas system products including but not limited to methane gas, electricity, and compost.
• **Passed both the House and the Senate. Next Stop the Governor’s Desk**
  
  To view the status and read the full text of the bill:

HB 1272 Eat Local Buy Illinois Day – Sponsored by Representative Sam Yingling: Designates the first Saturday of each month Eat Local, Buy Illinois Products Day. Directs the Department of Agriculture's Illinois Product Logo Program to assist in increasing awareness and sales of Illinois food and agribusiness products. Effective immediately.

• **Support**
  
  • Passed both the House and the Senate! Next Stop the Governor’s Desk
  
  To view the status and read the full text of the bill:

HB 1339 Link Card Restricted Use – Sponsored by Representative Sosnowski: Amends the Administration Article of the Illinois Public Aid Code. Provides that subject to federal approval, on or after the effective date of this amendatory Act, the LINK card issued by the Department of Human Services for the purpose of enabling cardholders to obtain SNAP (formerly food stamps) or cash benefits shall only be used for in-state transactions. Provides that the Department shall promulgate rules and regulations necessary to implement this provision.

• **Neutral**
  
  • Re-referred to Rules Committee
  
  To view the status and read the full text of the bill:

HB 1546 Food Sanitation Managers & Handlers Certification Changes – Sponsored by Representative Kelly Burke: Provides that beginning July 1, 2014, any individual seeking a food service sanitation manager certificate or a food service sanitation manager instructor certificate must complete a minimum of 8 hours of Department of Public Health-approved training, inclusive of the examination, and receive a score of at least 75% on the examination. Provides that for purposes of certification and recertification for food service sanitation manager certification, the Department shall accept only Department-approved training and exams accredited under standards developed and adopted by the Conference for Food Protection or its successor. Provides that the Department shall award an Illinois certificate to anyone presenting a valid certificate issued by another state, so long as the holder of the certificate provides proof of having passed an examination accredited under standards developed and adopted by the Conference for Food Protection or its successor. Sets forth provisions concerning reciprocity. Provides that all food handlers, other than someone holding a food service sanitation manager certificate, must receive training in basic safe food handling principles within 30 days after
employment. Sets forth the subject matter that is to be covered in training and the requirements concerning departmental approval. Provides that food handler training is considered to be an exclusive function of the State, and local programs are prohibited. Preempts home rule.

- **Support**
- **Re-referred to Rules Committee**
- To view the status and read the full text of the bill:

**HB 2335 Urban Agriculture Composting Reforms – Sponsored by Representative Robyn Gabel:** Amends the Environmental Protection Act. Specifies that the one-eighth mile setback that certain composting facilities must comply with to be excluded from the definition of the term "pollution control facility" applies only in counties with less than 3,000,000 inhabitants. Provides that a solid waste permit is not required for a garden compost operation. Provides that a solid-waste permit is not required for a landscape waste composting facility at a site having 10 or more occupied non-farm residences within 1/2 mile of its boundaries if (i) the facility constitutes no more than 2% of the site's total acreage, (ii) no tipping fee is imposed at the facility, (iii) the finished compost is applied at agronomic rates on-site and is not offered for sale or sold, (iv) the owner or operator of the facility completes any training that the Agency may require, and (v) the owner or operator registers the site with the Agency. Specifies that certain performance standards for composting facilities do not apply to garden compost operations. Defines "garden compost operation". Effective immediately.

- **Support**
- **Passed both the House and the Senate! Next Stop the Governor’s Desk**
- To view the status and read the full text of the bill:

**HB 2407 DHS-Link Card Waiver-Fresh Foods – Sponsored by Representative Evans Jr.:** Amends the Illinois Public Aid Code. Provides that in an effort to ensure that recipients of benefits provided under the federal Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) (formerly the Food Stamp Program) have access to fresh, nutritious foods, the Secretary of the Department of Human Services shall seek a waiver from the United States Department of Agriculture to allow the State to require all retail food stores, as a condition of eligibility to accept and redeem SNAP benefits held on a LINK card, to offer for sale on a continual basis fresh, nutritious foods.

- **Neutral**
- **Re-referred to Rules Committee**
- To view the status and read the full text of the bill:
**HB 2594 Farm Lease Termination – Sponsored by Representative Meier:** Amends the Code of Civil Procedure. Provides that a written notice to terminate a year-to-year lease of farm land, unless there is a written agreement to the contrary, shall be given by September 15 of the then current year (instead of in writing by not less than 4 months prior to the end of the year of letting).

- **Support**
- **Re-referred to Rules Committee**
- To view the status and read the full text of the bill:

**HB 2651 Property Tax and Cropped Soil – Sponsored by Representative Mautino:** Amends the Property Tax Code. In a Section requiring the Department to certify to each chief county assessment officer the equalized assessed value per acre of farmland for each soil productivity index, provides that any increase or decrease in the equalized assessed value per acre by soil productivity index shall not exceed 10% from the immediate preceding year’s soil productivity index certified assessed value of the median cropped soil. Effective immediately.

- **Currently no position**
- **Re-referred to Rules Committee**
- To view the status and read the full text of the bill:

**HB 2668 Industrial Hemp Act – Sponsored by Representative Dunkin:** Creates the Industrial Hemp Act. Provides that any person desiring to grow, process, cultivate, harvest, process, possess, sell, or purchase industrial hemp or industrial hemp related products must be licensed by the Department of Agriculture. Provides that the application for a license shall include the name and address of the applicant and the legal description of the land area to be used to grow or process industrial hemp and that the license shall be valid for a period of one year. Requires an applicant to complete a statewide and nationwide criminal background check. Provides that no person with a prior felony conviction within 10 years of applying for a license shall be eligible for licensure. Preempts home rule.

- **Support**
- **Re-referred to Rules Committee**
- To view the status and read the full text of the bill:
HB 2709 Wheat Dev Act Committee Member – Sponsored by Representative Rosenthal (Senator John Sullivan): Amends the Wheat Development Act. Provides that the Director of the Department of Agriculture shall appoint a temporary wheat development program committee whose members are nominated by an association representing wheat producers. Provides that the total assessment levied on the commodity of any affected producer may (rather than shall) be up to 1.5 cents per bushel of wheat produced and sold by the producer as established by the temporary program committee. Provides that a refund owed to the producer shall be payable only if the application has been made to the board within 90 days (instead of 60 days). Effective immediately.

- Neutral
- Passed both the House and the Senate. Next Stop the Governor’s Desk

HB 2783 Egg Products Violations – Sponsored by Representative Sacia: Amends the Illinois Egg and Egg Products Act. Provides that the Department of Agriculture shall issue a license to any person upon receipt and approval of a proper application and the required nonrefundable fee (instead of the required fee). Provides that after finding that a violation has occurred, the Director of Agriculture may impose specified administrative monetary penalties against any person who sells or wholesales eggs to any person or business not licensed by the Department of Agriculture who buys, sells, trades, or traffics in eggs in this State. Provides that any person knowingly violating the Act or any rule or order of the Department issued pursuant to the Act shall be guilty of a Class C misdemeanor and that each day of violation constitutes a separate offense. Provides that in the event the person violating the Act or any rule or order issued pursuant to the Act is a corporation or partnership, any officer, director, manager, or managerial agent of the corporation or partnership who violates the Act or causes the corporation or partnership to violate the Act is guilty of a Class C misdemeanor. Sets forth provisions concerning the failure to pay any fine or fee and the termination of an application. Effective immediately.

- Neutral
- Passed both the House and the Senate. Next Stop the Governor’s Desk
- This is an Illinois Department of Agriculture initiative

HB 2826 IFA Ag Guarantee Limit Increase – Sponsored by Representative Davidsmeyer: Amends the Illinois Finance Authority Act. In Sections concerning State guarantees for loans to farmers, provides that the total amount of the guarantees shall not exceed $2,000,000 per farmer (instead of $500,000). Provides that guarantees may be made if the farmer's net worth does not exceed $2,000,000 (instead of $500,000). In a Section concerning guarantees for existing debt, provides that the Illinois Agricultural
Loan Guarantee Fund shall guarantee receipt of payment of 90% (instead of 85%) of the principal and interest owed on the State Guarantee Loan by the farmer to the guarantee holder. Effective immediately.

- **Opposed**
- **Re-referred to Rules Committee**
- To view the status and read the full text of the bill:  

**HB 2883 Property Tax Assessment-Old Barns – Sponsored by Representative Brauer:** Amends the Property Tax Code. Provides that, beginning with the 2013 taxable year, all barns that were first placed in service more than 75 years before the first day of the taxable year and are located in areas zoned for agriculture shall have an assessed value of zero. Effective immediately.

- **Support**
- **Re-referred to Rules Committee**
- To view the status and read the full text of the bill:  

**HB 2991 Lion Meat Act – Sponsored by Representative Lang:** Creates the Lion Meat Act. Provides that it is unlawful for any person to slaughter a lion or for any person to possess, breed, import or export from this State, buy, or sell lions for the purpose of slaughter. Provides that it is unlawful to commercialize lion meat. Authorizes the Department of Agriculture to adopt and enforce any rules necessary to carry out the provisions of the Act. Provides that whoever violates any provision of the Act shall be guilty of a Class A misdemeanor. Effective immediately.

- **Neutral**
- **Re-referred to Rules Committee**
- To view the status and read the full text of the bill:  

**HB 3085 Genetically Engineered Food Labeling—Sponsored by Representative Mell:** Creates the Mandatory Labeling of Genetically Modified Foods Act. Requires genetically engineered raw agricultural commodities and processed foods offered for retail sale to bear certain labels. Creates exemptions for certain classes of products. Grants the Illinois Department of Agriculture the authority to adopt rules necessary to implement the Act. Requires the Department to annually publish a list of raw agricultural commodities commonly cultivated in a genetically engineered form. Provides for enforcement of the Act.

- Support
- Re-referred to Rules Committee

**HB 3276 Synthetic Meat Labeling – Sponsored by Representative Turner:** Amends the Illinois Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act. Provides that no person shall sell, deliver, offer for sale, hold for sale, or give away any synthetic meat unless the package, container, or wrapping bears, in font of uniform size and prominence, the words "synthetic meat" so as to be readable and understood by the general public. Defines "synthetic meat" as animal flesh that is produced from progenitor cells in a bioreactor.

- Neutral
- Re-referred to Rules Committee

**HB 3315 Tax Credit for Curbside Composting Service – Sponsored by Representative Tryon:** Amends the Illinois Income Tax Act. Provides that, for taxable years beginning on or after January 1, 2014, each taxpayer is entitled to a credit in an amount equal to 50% of the costs incurred by the taxpayer during the taxable year under a contract with a commercial composting facility for the purpose of collecting the taxpayer's compostable garbage, landscape waste, and unused food, separate from the traditional garbage, for transportation to the facility for composting. Provides that the credit may not exceed $2,000 per taxpayer in any taxable year. Provides that the credit is exempt from the Act's automatic sunset provision. Effective immediately.

- Neutral
- Re-referred to Rules Committee

**HB 3319 Rural On-farm Composting Reforms – Sponsored by Representative Brad Halbrook:** Amends the Environmental Protection Act. Authorizes a person who is operating an on-farm landscape composting facility to accept food scrap, crop residue, livestock waste, agricultural landscape waste, uncontaminated wood waste, yard waste, and landscape waste for composting and still maintain the
on-farm composting permitting exemption so long as the other applicable requirements are satisfied. Prohibits a person from claiming the on-farm composting exemption from solid-waste permitting if he or she charges a tipping fee.

- **ISA Supports**
- **Passed both the House and the Senate! Next Stop the Governor’s Desk**

**HB 3329 Agriculture Income Tax Credit – Sponsored by Representative Rosenthal:** Amends the Illinois Income Tax Act. Creates an agriculture credit in an amount equal to 1.5% (for taxable years beginning on or after January 1, 2014 and prior to January 1, 2016) or 2.25% (for taxable years beginning on or after January 1, 2016) of the taxpayer's eligible qualified production activities income for the taxable year.

- **Neutral**
- **Re-referred to Rules Committee**

**HB 3332 Young Farmers Income Tax Credit – Sponsored by Representative Meier:** Amends the Illinois Income Tax Act. Provides that each taxpayer who qualifies as a young farmer is allowed a credit of $1,000 for the taxable year in which the taxpayer first purchases real property that will be used for agricultural production. Provides that the term "young farmer" means an individual who is 35 years of age or younger and who derives a minimum of 50% of his or her income from farming. Effective immediately.

- **Support**
- **Re-referred to Rules Committee**

**HB 3335 Greenhouse Income Tax Credit – Sponsored by Representative Cavaletto:** Amends the Illinois Income Tax Act. Provides that, beginning with taxable years ending on or after December 31, 2013 and ending with taxable years ending on or before December 31, 2018, an amount equal to 50% of the amount of expenses incurred by the taxpayer during a taxable year for the construction of a greenhouse or rehabilitation of a current facility to be used for greenhouse purposes may be deducted from the taxpayer's adjusted gross income. Provides that the taxpayer may elect to deduct 25% of the amount of expenses incurred.
these expenses in the taxable year in which they were incurred and to deduct the remaining 25% of the amount of these expenses in the next taxable year.

- **Support**
- **Re-referred to Rules Committee**
- To view the status and read the full text of the bill:

**HB 3344 Soldiers to Farmers – Sponsored by Representative Cavaletto:** Creates the Soldiers to Farmers Program Act. Provides that the Department of Veterans’ Affairs shall implement and administer the Soldiers to Farmers Program to provide financial and instructional assistance to Illinois veterans interested in starting a career in the farming and agriculture industries. Provides that from appropriations made for the purposes of the Act, the Department shall award a $10,000 stipend to program participants to go towards the purchase of land or farming equipment. Amends the Use Tax Act, the Service Use Tax Act, the Service Occupation Tax Act, the Retailers’ Occupation Tax Act, and the Motor Fuel Tax Law by providing up to a 5-year exemption to program participants for tangible personal property used in a farming or agricultural business operated by the veteran that is not otherwise exempt and claims for undyed diesel fuel used in a farming or agricultural business operated by the veteran for which claims may not otherwise be made.

- **Support**
- **Re-referred to Rules Committee**
- To view the status and read the full text of the bill:

**SB 1470 Meat and Poultry Inspection Changes – Sponsored by Senator John Sullivan (Representative Michael Madigan):** Provides that any establishment subject to inspection under the Act that believes, or has reason to believe, that an adulterated or misbranded meat or meat food product received by or originating from the establishment has entered into commerce shall promptly notify the Director of Agriculture. Provides that the Director shall require that each Type I establishment subject to inspection under this Act to meet minimum recall and documentation procedures.

- **Neutral**
- **Passed both the House and the Senate. Next Stop the Governor’s Desk**
- To view the status and read the full text of the bill:

**SB 1531 Food Stamps Photo ID – Sponsored by Representative Rose:** Identical to HB133
• **Neutral**
• **Re-referred to assignments**
• To view the status and read the full text of the bill:
  

**SB 1532 False Animal Complaints – Sponsored by Senator Chapin Rose (Representative Bill Mitchell):** If the Department of Agriculture determines that a complaint made under the Act against a person or entity is false or unfounded and made with the intent to harass the person or entity, the Department may waive any confidentiality of the complainant and refer the matter to the State's Attorney for consideration of criminal charges against the complainant.

• **Neutral**
• **Passed the Senate 52-0, Re-referred to Rules Committee**
• To view the status and read the full text of the bill:
  

**SB 1588 Food Sanitation Managers & Handlers Certification Changes – Sponsored by Senator John Mulroe:** Identical to HB1546 see above.

• **Support**
• **Passed out of the Public Health Committee: 7-2 – Placed on Calendar Order of 3rd Reading**
• To view the status and read the full text of the bill:
  

**SB 1666 Genetically Engineered Food Labeling – Sponsored by Senator David Koehler:** Creates the Genetically Engineered Food Labeling Act. Sets forth the General Assembly's findings and the purpose of the Act. Provides that beginning on the effective date of the Act, any food offered for retail sale in this State is misbranded if it is entirely or partially produced with genetic engineering and that fact is not disclosed in a certain manner. Provides that the Act shall not be construed to require either the listing or identification of any ingredient or ingredients that were genetically engineered, nor that the term "genetically engineered" be placed immediately preceding any common name or primary product descriptor of a food. Provides that until the effective date of the Act, any processed food that would be subject to the provision concerning the labeling of genetically engineered foods solely because it includes one or more materials produced by genetic engineering is not misbranded provided that the engineered materials in the aggregate do not account for more than a certain amount of the total weight of the processed food. Sets forth provisions concerning applicability and the right of action for violations, damages, and attorneys' fees. Provides that the Department of Public Health shall adopt rules necessary to implement the Act. Contains a severability provision.
• **Support**

• **Re-referred to Assignments**

• Senator Koehler plans to hold a series of subject matter hearing across the state to gather farmer and public input on the subject. The first hearing is scheduled for June 20th in Normal Illinois at the ISU Bone Student Center.