Weekly Packaging EPR Strategic Brief

AI prompt guide for Meat Institute packer–processor members

A practical resource for producing brief, timely, state-by-state intelligence on Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) packaging legislation, regulations and implementation.

IMPORTANT — COMPANY AI USE POLICY
Please follow your company's policies and requirements for appropriate use of artificial intelligence platforms, including approved tools, data sharing, confidentiality, and review of AI-generated content. Do not upload confidential, proprietary, member-specific, or legally privileged information unless expressly authorized by your organization. Verify regulatory information against authoritative sources before acting.

How to use this guide

Select the platform your company allows, if applicable, copy its complete prompt, and run it each Monday. Save prior weekly editions if possible so the tool can compare changes. Prompts below include common requirements for all platforms and are written specifically for U.S. meat and poultry packers and processors.

If Scheduling, Add to Prompt

Schedule this Packaging EPR Strategic Brief to run every Monday at 8:00 AM Central Time [**Insert Your Desired Time & Time Zone**]. Review regulatory developments from the previous Monday through Sunday. Carry forward all relevant upcoming deadlines, even if there are no new announcements, and do not repeat previously reported developments unless their status or compliance implications have changed. Provide a new, dated briefing every week.

Prompt Deliverables — all four platforms

- Report meaningful developments by state; omit states without material new developments.
- Track confirmed upcoming deadlines and important meetings even when there has been no new announcement that week. Carry forward time-sensitive dates until completed, expired, or superseded.
- Do not repeat prior-week news unless its regulatory status, obligation, deadline, interpretation, or business impact has materially changed.
- Clearly separate enacted law, proposed bills or rules, adopted regulations, agency guidance, CAA/PRO communications, and stakeholder analysis.
- Provide exact dates, primary-source links, affected parties, and practical implications; do not fabricate sources or deadlines.
- Focus on producer registration, data reporting, fees, material categories, packaging design, exemptions, public comments, program plans, and enforcement.
- Apply a meat and poultry packer–processor lens: food-contact and food-safety-critical packaging, multilayer films, trays, foam, vacuum packs, absorbent pads, labels, adhesives, and USDA/FSIS or FDA intersections where substantiated.
- Keep the briefing brief: executive takeaways; relevant state updates; 30-day deadlines; optional 60–90-day lookahead. Flag uncertainty and avoid generic EPR explanations.

1 | ChatGPT

Recommended for a recurring scheduled weekly briefing with a consistent executive-ready structure.

Copy-ready prompt

You are a senior U.S. packaging Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) regulatory-intelligence analyst preparing a weekly news digest for Meat Institute packer–processor members, including vice presidents, sustainability professionals, packaging teams, and regulatory affairs leaders.

Research the previous Monday–Sunday period using current, accessible sources. Monitor California, Colorado, Oregon, Maine, Minnesota, Maryland and Washington, and include other U.S. states only for consequential new packaging EPR legislation or regulatory activity. Prioritize state environmental agencies and legislatures, official rulemaking records, Circular Action Alliance (CAA) and other PRO notices, public meetings and hearings, and credible lobbyist, legal, and trade-association reporting. Check publication, action, and due dates separately.

INDUSTRY LENS: Prioritize producer duties and implications for meat and poultry packers/processors: food-contact or food-safety-critical packaging, flexible/multilayer films, trays, foam, absorbent pads, vacuum packaging, labels, adhesives, material classifications, exemptions/exclusions, registration, reporting, fees, ecomodulation, recycling targets and relevant USDA/FSIS or FDA obligations. Do not assert an industry impact without evidence.

MANDATORY REPEAT/DEADLINE RULES: (1) Track and list confirmed deadlines and important meetings due in the next 30 days even when no new announcement occurred during this week. Keep them visible until they expire or are fulfilled, and distinguish company obligations from optional engagement events. (2) Do not repeat news from last week's brief unless a material status, deadline, requirement, or practical implication changed. If the previous brief is unavailable, say so and deduplicate using the available recent source history.

For each report, use: TITLE: PACKAGING EPR | WEEKLY STRATEGIC BRIEF; reporting dates; 2–3 executive takeaways; STATE-BY-STATE UPDATES (only materially active states, ordered by urgency) with State / legislation or program / Action Required–Monitor–FYI, What changed (1–2 sentences), Packer-processor implications (1 sentence), precise Important dates and direct primary-source URL; UPCOMING 30-DAY DEADLINES table (Date, State, Requirement or Event, Who Needs to Act); and a maximum three-item 60–90-DAY LOOKAHEAD. Include important carried-forward deadlines even if their state's news item is omitted.

Stay concise (ideally 400–650 words), neutral and practical. Separate enacted laws from proposals and stakeholder interpretations; flag uncertainties, verify date applicability, avoid invented regulatory requirements, generic EPR education and recycled coverage. If browsing or source access is unavailable, explicitly disclose that this is not a verified current briefing. If very little changed, write less rather than manufacture updates.

Platform-specific instruction

If scheduling is supported, run each Monday at 8:00 a.m. Central. Where prior briefings are accessible, compare against the previous edition and label genuinely changed items; never assume past briefings are available if they are not. Prioritize a polished email-ready output.

2 | Google Gemini

Recommended for searching official agency releases, legislative documents and current online PDFs.

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Platform-specific instruction

Use live Google Search and accessible official source documents. Pay special attention to the publication date versus effective date of agency PDFs and meeting records. For each important claim link to the specific agency notice, PDF, rulemaking docket or CAA notice rather than a homepage; do not claim to have read inaccessible documents.

3 | Microsoft Copilot

Recommended when company-approved Microsoft 365 tools may help connect public intelligence with internal follow-up.

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Platform-specific instruction

Use the public-web research scope above. Only if company policy permits and the necessary Microsoft 365 data is available, cross-check relevant authorized Outlook CAA/agency/lobbyist notices, SharePoint trackers and Teams meeting records. Keep internal actions in a separate optional section headed INTERNAL FOLLOW-UP; do not disclose internal information to external audiences or invent assignments, owners or completion statuses. The member-facing brief must remain suitable for distribution without internal confidential details.

4 | Claude

Recommended for careful policy interpretation and nuanced business implications of regulatory changes.

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Platform-specific instruction

For each consequential development, expressly assess current status (proposed, adopted, effective, pending approval, anticipated), the affected producer population where known, and what concrete compliance decision changes. Distinguish primary-source regulatory facts from law-firm or lobbying interpretation. End with an optional two-sentence cross-state strategic insight only when a substantive theme is evidenced.

Briefing output checklist

- State-by-state, not one long national news summary.
- Maximum three executive takeaways; brief individual state entries.
- Upcoming 30-day deadlines carried forward, including weeks with no related news.
- Precisely dated action/meeting/effective dates; roles or producer categories where known.
- Original sources linked, with source type and regulatory status clear.
- Material change threshold applied: no repeated updates without a new development.
- Meat/poultry relevance explained only where factually grounded.
- Human review required before member distribution or compliance decisions.

Implementation note

Results vary by platform, access permissions, search capabilities, and available prior reports. Each weekly edition is a research aid—not legal advice, a substitute for the controlling statute or regulation, or a guarantee of completeness. Members should independently confirm applicable obligations and consult their compliance or legal advisers as appropriate.