

MINUTES
HOUSE AGRICULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

DATE: Monday, January 22, 2018

TIME: 1:30 P.M.

PLACE: Room EW42

MEMBERS: Chairman Boyle, Vice Chairman Dayley, Representatives Bell, Miller, VanOrden, Burtenshaw, Kerby, Troy, Stevenson, Amador, Armstrong, Hanks, Zito, Erpelding, Toone

**ABSENT/
EXCUSED:** None

GUESTS: Pete Doornenbal, P&L Dairy; Stephanie Kulesza, Idaho Dairy Association (IDA); Megan Satterwhite, IDA; Ted Vander Schaaf, Vander Schaaf Farms- IDA; Bob Naerebout, IDA; Jonathan Oppenheimer, Idaho Conservation League; Scott Leibsle, Idaho State Department of Agriculture (ISDA); Russ Hendricks, Farm Bureau; Dennis Stevenson, Rules Coordinator; Marv Patten, MPI; Murphy Olmstead, Wittmeyer and Assoc.

Chairman Boyle called the meeting to order at 1:32 p.m.

Chairman Boyle turned the gavel over to **Vice Chairman Dayley**.

MOTION: **Rep. Miller** made a motion to approve the minutes of the Tuesday, January 16, 2018 Amador Subcommittee meeting. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

Dr. Scott Leibsle, Deputy State Veterinarian, explained plants will only absorb the nutrients they need to grow. Animals will take in more than they need and then excrete the excess through urine and manure. If not managed properly, too much nutrient will leach into groundwater or run off into surface water. He explained too much nutrient can create health and environmental concerns.

Dr. Leibsle said all grade A dairies in Idaho, regardless of size, must have an up-to-date Nutrient Management Plan (NMP) that is approved by the Idaho State Department of Agriculture. He said the approval process consists of reviewing and confirming the dairy has enough containment space available for the volume of nutrients that is being produced on the facility. He stated the second role of the ISDA is the annual NMP review scheduled with a producer to discuss crop yields, soil testing numbers and updates to the facility.

DOCKET NO. 02-0414-1702: **Bob Naerebout**, Idaho Dairymen's Association, stated in 2000 and 2001, the Idaho Legislature required dairy farms to have a NMP. This is the first proposed major revision to the Nutrient Management Standards since it was enacted. He stated phosphorus index assesses the risk of phosphorus loss rather than an arbitrary soil test value. While phosphorus indexing is widely used, each state or region has an index catered to their soil and climatic conditions. Mr. Naerebout explained how the phosphorus rating is used to determine the field Risk Rating.

Mr. Naerebout reported information had been distributed to Idaho dairy producers over the past 18 months in membership letters and the IDA Dairy Focus, electronically and through USPS. He said this year, the main topic of the four IDA District meetings was phosphorus management and introduction to phosphorous indexing. In total the authors and contributors of the Idaho Phosphorus Index Nutrient Management Standard made no fewer than 11 detailed Phosphorus Indexing presentations to at least 13 state organization, state associations and state and federal agencies who ultimately supported this effort.

Mr. Naerebout said ISDA will no longer provide a NMP to producers through the department. He said there are multiple private individuals and companies who provide nutrient management planning services to producers. It will be their prerogative to maintain or change their current pricing practices if the Phosphorus Indexing Rule is approved. He said there is a five year implementation time frame which is part of the rule. This will give the industry additional time to assess what, if any increase in cost the new rule has created and to identify avenues to reduce those costs.

Pete Doornenbal, P & L Dairyman, spoke **in support** of the rule stating it encourages Best Management Practices as well as helps him financially.

In response to a committee question, **Mr. Doornenbal** said these practices are things he has already implemented in his dairy and does not feel there is any additional burden put upon him to comply.

Ted Vander Schaaf, Vander Schaaf Dairies, spoke **in support** of the rule saying this is a positive step forward and will benefit the dairies as well as the environment.

Jonathan Oppenheimer, Idaho Conservation League, said they had been involved in the rule making process and now stand **in support** of the rule.

MOTION: **Rep. Miller** made a motion to approve **Docket No. 02-0414-1702. Motion carried by voice vote.**

Vice Chairman Dayley turned the gavel over to **Chairman Boyle**.

ADJOURN: There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting adjourned at 2:40 p.m.

Representative Dayley
Chair

Joan Majors
Secretary