AMENDED AGENDA #2
HOUSE AGRICULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE
1:30 P.M.
Room EW42
Tuesday, January 08, 2013

Room Change

SUBJECT	DESCRIPTION	PRESENTER
	Organizational	

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Chairman Andrus
Vice Chairman Boyle
Rep Bolz
Rep McMillan
Rep Batt
Rep Bell
Rep Agidius
Rep Dayley
Rep Miller
Rep Romrell
Rep Stevenson
Rep VanOrden
Rep Pence
Rep Erpelding

COMMITTEE SECRETARY

Kim Jensen-Porter
Room: EW11
Phone: 332-1137
email: hagri@house.idaho.gov

MINUTES

HOUSE AGRICULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

DATE: Tuesday, January 08, 2013

TIME: 1:30 P.M.

PLACE: Room EW42

MEMBERS: Chairman Andrus, Vice Chairman Boyle, Representatives Bolz, McMillan, Batt, Bell, Agidius, Dayley, Miller, Romrell, Stevenson, VanOrden, Pence, Erpelding.

ABSENT/ EXCUSED: None.

GUESTS: Lisa Kauffman, HSUS; Bob Naerebout, Idaho Dairymen's Assoc; Matthew May, ISCAC; Laura Johnson, ISDA; Dar Olberding, ID Grain Producers; Monica Hopkins, ACLU; LeRoy Fescus, ACLU; Wally Butler, IFBF; Jack Lyman, IMA; and Kent Lauer, ID Farm Bureau.

Chairman Andrus called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m.

Chairman Andrus welcomed the committee members and acknowledged **Secretary Kim Jensen-Porter** and the **Page, Juritzi Enriquez.** He stated that the mission of the House Agricultural Affairs Committee should be to protect, enlarge and encourage agriculture in our state. Agriculture is the number one industry in Idaho. Chairman Andrus invited the committee members to briefly introduce themselves and tell about their backgrounds.

Chairman Andrus turned the time over to **Vice Chairman Boyle** to discuss rules, as the first upcoming order of business. She stated that there will be three subcommittees appointed: Livestock, Crop and Administrative. Vice Chairman Boyle said the committee members may express a preference for which subcommittee they would like to serve on. Subcommittees will start next week. Laura Johnson and others from the State Department of Agriculture will present the rules to the subcommittees beginning on Monday, January 14th.

Chairman Andrus pointed out that the Agricultural Affairs Committee has grown since last year and had to change committee rooms due to the need for increased seating arrangements. The committee will now meet in EW 42 on even calendar days at 1:30 p.m., unless otherwise announced. The exception would be that no meetings will be held on Friday afternoons, unless in case of emergency.

ADJOURN: There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting was adjourned at 2:25 p.m.

Representative Andrus
Chair

Kim Jensen-Porter
Secretary

AGENDA

HOUSE AGRICULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

1:30 P.M.

Room EW42

Thursday, January 10, 2013

SUBJECT	DESCRIPTION	PRESENTER
	Subcommittee Assignments	

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Chairman Andrus
Vice Chairman Boyle
Rep Bolz
Rep McMillan
Rep Batt
Rep Bell
Rep Agidius
Rep Dayley
Rep Miller
Rep Romrell
Rep Stevenson
Rep VanOrden
Rep Pence
Rep Erpelding

COMMITTEE SECRETARY

Kim Jensen-Porter
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MINUTES

HOUSE AGRICULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

DATE: Thursday, January 10, 2013

TIME: 1:30 P.M.

PLACE: Room EW42

MEMBERS: Chairman Andrus, Vice Chairman Boyle, Representatives Bolz, McMillan, Batt, Agidius, Dayley, Miller, Romrell, Stevenson, VanOrden, Pence, Erpelding.

ABSENT/ EXCUSED: Representative Bell.

GUESTS: Russell Westerberg; Holly Koole, IPAA; Brad Hunt, OARC; Dennis Stevenson, OARC; Matthew May, ISCAC; Doug Jones, GFB.

Chairman Andrus called the meeting to order at 1:33 p.m.

Chairman Andrus assigned proofreaders to review the Committee minutes for this session: **Rep. Pence** for the Minority, and **Rep. VanOrden** for the Majority.

Vice Chairman Boyle outlined the subcommittee assignments and the rules topics they will be covering. **Rep. Bell** will chair the Administrative Rules Subcommittee, with members **Rep. Batt** and **Rep. Pence**. **Vice Chairman Boyle** will chair the Livestock Rules Subcommittee, with members **Rep. McMillan**, **Rep. Romrell**, and **Rep. Miller**. **Rep. Bolz** will chair the Crops Rules Subcommittee with members **Rep. VanOrden**, **Rep. Agidius**, **Rep. Stevenson**, **Rep. Dayley**, and **Rep. Erpelding**.

Dennis Stevenson, Administrative Rules Coordinator, presented an overview of the three types of rules to be reviewed during the 2013 Legislative Session. He indicated that Pending Rules are adopted by agencies during the previous calendar year and then submitted for legislative review. They are of no force and effect. These Pending Rules can be rejected in whole or in part. If the Legislature takes no action, they will be go into effect after the 2013 session.

Pending Fee Rules are adopted during the previous calendar year and impose a fee or charge. These also are of no force and effect. If the Legislature takes no action, the Pending Fee Rules will not go into effect; they must be approved by concurrent resolution.

Regarding Temporary Rules, these are emergency rules approved by the Governor and went into effect during the past two calendar years without legislative review or public input. They are presently effective and could include fee increases as well. These Temporary Rules do not survive beyond the end of the 2013 Legislative Session unless the Legislature extends them by concurrent resolution.

Mr. Stevenson explained that any agency with authority can propose new rules when public safety and welfare are affected. If these are approved by the Governor, they become Temporary Rules. He also clarified that agencies try to collaborate, negotiate, and arrive at an acceptable rulemaking whenever feasible. They are required to publicize their intent to promulgate these rules. Many controversial issues also have public hearings, to facilitate further input and discussion before endorsement.

ADJOURN: There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting adjourned at 2:05 p.m.

Representative Andrus
Chair

Kim Jensen-Porter
Secretary

AGENDA

HOUSE AGRICULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

1:30 P.M.
Room EW42
Monday, January 14, 2013

SUBJECT	DESCRIPTION	PRESENTER
	Divide into Subcommittees to review Rules	

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Chairman Andrus
Vice Chairman Boyle
Rep Bolz
Rep McMillan
Rep Batt
Rep Bell
Rep Agidius
Rep Dayley
Rep Miller
Rep Romrell
Rep Stevenson
Rep VanOrden
Rep Pence
Rep Erpelding

COMMITTEE SECRETARY

Kim Jensen-Porter
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MINUTES

HOUSE AGRICULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

DATE:	Monday, January 14, 2013
TIME:	1:30 P.M.
PLACE:	Room EW42
MEMBERS:	Chairman Andrus, Vice Chairman Boyle, Representatives Bolz, McMillan, Batt, Bell, Agidius, Dayley, Miller, Romrell, Stevenson, VanOrden, Pence, Erpelding
ABSENT/ EXCUSED:	None.
GUESTS:	The sign-in sheet will be retained with the minutes in the committee secretary's office until the end of the session. Following the end of the session, the sign-in sheet will be filed with the minutes in the Legislative Services Library.

Chairman Andrus called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m.

MOTION: **Rep. Pence** made a motion to approve the minutes of the January 8, 2013 meeting. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

MOTION: **Rep. Romrell** made a motion to approve the minutes of the January 10, 2013 meeting. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

Vice Chairman Boyle announced the Subcommittees meeting upon adjournment.

ADJOURN: There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting adjourned at 1:35 p.m.

Representative Andrus
Chair

Kim Jensen-Porter
Secretary

AMENDED AGENDA #3

HOUSE AGRICULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE
BELL SUBCOMMITTEE

Administrative Rules

Upon Adjournment of the Full Committee

Room EW05

Monday, January 14, 2013

**** ROOM CHANGE ****

DOCKET NO.	DESCRIPTION	PRESENTER
02-0602-1201	Rules Pertaining to the Idaho Commercial Feed Law (fee rule)	Lloyd Knight
02-0214-1201	Rules for Weights and Measures (incorporation by reference) (no fee)	Kevin Merritt
02-0633-1201	Organic Food Product Rules (fee rule)	Andrew Smyth

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Chairman Bell

Rep.Batt

Rep.Pence

COMMITTEE SECRETARY

Kim Jensen-Porter

Room: EW11

Phone: 332-1137

MINUTES

HOUSE AGRICULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE
BELL SUBCOMMITTEE

Administrative Rules

DATE:	Monday, January 14, 2013
TIME:	Upon Adjournment of the Full Committee
PLACE:	Room EW05
MEMBERS:	Chairman Bell, Representatives Batt, Pence
ABSENT/ EXCUSED:	None
GUESTS:	Dennis Tanikuni, Idaho Farm Bureau; Lloyd Knight, ISDA; Jennifer Miller, NCAP; Brian Oakey, ISDA; Dough Jones, Self; Brent Olmstead, MPI; Andrew Smyth, ISDA; Jayson Ronk, IACI; Tanya Holten, Ida Ore Mining; Leland Rice, Rice Family Farms; Sean Ellis, Capital Press

Chairmen Bell called the meeting to order at 1:37 p.m.

DOCKET NO. 02-0602-1201: **Lloyd Knight**, Idaho Dept. of Agriculture, said the Department entered into negotiated rule making during the summer, he reviewed the public hearing process. Mr. Knight reviewed the list of exemptions that had been moved over from statute. He said By-products or Production Waste has been added to the exemptions and it also remained in the statute. Mr. Knight said the rule will set the per product fee at $40. He said this increase in registration fee will support a shift in program operating revenue from the termination of the previously collected tonnage fee. He said the $40 fee is a change from the Temporary Rule after consideration during the public hearing process. He said the fee per product language is in other programs and thought it would also fit here. Mr. Knight said the rule will also include the definition of labeling of statements and promotion on company web sites and other internet based consumer interfaces. He said this will keep the rules consistent with the Commercial Feed Law.

Brent Olmstead, Milk Producers of Idaho, said he participated in drafting the rules and is in support of the rule. He stated the rule will provide protections for dairies and they have no objection to the fees. He believes the fees will go down, and this will assure quality feed.

Jason Ronk, IACI, spoke in support of the rules and said he participated in the public hearings.

Doug Jones, Self, said he opposed the legislation brought forward and passed last year regarding the feed registration process. He said he did also participate in the rule making process. He said the agency holds reserves in the account for a program that operates at a lower cost than what would be brought in by the fees. He said the program could operate for three years from the reserves if no fee is collected. Mr. Jones explained the rule proposes a $1 million reserve in the fund, where most programs carry a one year operating reserve in their accounts. He said there will be a significant reserve left in the account. Mr. Jones suggested a lower fee be implemented until some of the reserve is used.

In response to committee questions, **Mr. Knight** clarified that the $1 million reserve was in the original rule but was later removed.

MOTION: **Rep. Batt** made a motion to recommend approval of **Docket No. 02-0602-1201** to the full committee. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

DOCKET NO. 02-0214-1201: **Kevin Merritt**, Section Manager, Idaho Department of Agriculture, said negotiated rule making was not conducted for this rule because of the nature of the rule. He said this rule simply adopts the current edition of the required reference materials.

MOTION: **Rep. Batt** made a motion to recommend approval of **Docket No. 02-0214-1201** to the full committee. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

DOCKET NO. 02-0633-1201: **Andrew Smyth**, Program Specialist, Organic Food Certification Program, explained the changes in the Organic Food Product Rules. He said the proposed rule will change the Idaho certified organic seal, it will have a higher resolution with fewer colors, thereby reducing the printing costs for organic operation. Mr. Smyth explained the next change to the rule is the addition of a branded materials registration list which will allow manufacturers to be a part of the organic program's review process.

In response to committee questions, **Mr. Smyth** explained the organic program has the authority to review applications and they are reviewed at the federal standards. He said the organic program will approve the third party that reviews the standards and the use of the seal. He explained the organic program will provide the service so the product is certified and the seal can be displayed. Mr. Smyth also explained that there is not a federal seal available at this time and this will allow the state to provide this service.

Jennifer Miller, NCAP, spoke in favor of the rule changes. She said the changes would enhance the promotion of the organic industry in Idaho and gives flexibility for those who have been using the old seal. She said this will also meet the needs of suppliers and makes things easier for organic farmers.

Lee Rice, Rice Family Farms, spoke in support of this material accreditation and certification. He said it has been his experience that approved materials need to be shipped from long distances and this will improve if Idaho has more local certified availability of materials. He said this would make it easier for manufacturers to use those types of materials and the logo is very modernistic and will be very attractive on labels. He added that the rule change will provide a very good service for organic producers in the state.

Tonya Holten, IDA ORE Mining, spoke in support of the rule and in favor of creating the seal. She said they are currently going out of state to do certifications and having certification in the state allows for the ability to claim they are organic.

MOTION: **Rep. Pence** made a motion to recommend approval of **Docket No. 02-0633-1201** to the full committee. **Motion carried by voice vote. Rep. Batt** requested to be recorded as voting **NAY**.

ADJOURN: There being no further business to come before the Subcommittee, the meeting adjourned at 2:25 p.m.

Representative Bell
Chair

Susan Werlinger
Secretary

AMENDED AGENDA #3

HOUSE AGRICULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE
BOLZ SUBCOMMITTEE

Crops Rules

Upon Adjournment of the Full Committee

Room EW42

Monday, January 14, 2013

DOCKET NO.	DESCRIPTION	PRESENTER
02-0303-1201	Pesticide and Chemigation Use and Application (no fee)	Ben Miller
02-0613-1201	Rapeseed Production and Establishment of Rapeseed Districts (no fee)	Mike Cooper
02-0612-1201	Idaho Fertilizer Law (no fee)	Lloyd Knight
02-0616-1201	Rules Governing Honey Standards (no fee)	Mike Cooper
02-0641-1201	Rules Pertaining to the Soil and Plant Amendment Act of 2001 (no fee)	Lloyd Knight
02-0614-1201	Rules Concerning Annual Bluegrass, (poa annua) (no fee)	Mike Cooper
02-0631-1201	Noxious Weed Free Forage and Straw Certification Rules (no fee)	Dan Safford
02-0635-1201	Rules Concerning Rough Bluegrass, (poa trivialis) (no fee)	Mike Cooper

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Chairman Bolz

Rep.Agidius

Rep.Dayley

Rep.Stevenson

Rep.VanOrden

Rep.Erpelding

COMMITTEE SECRETARY

Kim Jensen-Porter

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MINUTES

HOUSE AGRICULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE
BOLZ SUBCOMMITTEE
Crops Rules

DATE:	Monday, January 14, 2013
TIME:	Upon Adjournment of the Full Committee
PLACE:	Room EW42
MEMBERS:	Chairman Bolz, Representatives Agidius, Dayley, Stevenson, VanOrden, Erpelding
ABSENT/ EXCUSED:	None.
GUESTS:	Ben Miller, Mike Cooper, Dan Safford, Laura Johnson, ISDA;. Benjamin Kelly, Nick Noyes, Idaho Honey Industry Association; Jim Lowe, Rick Waitley, Food Producers of Idaho; Brad Hunt, OARC.

Chairman Bolz called the meeting to order at 1:37 p.m.

DOCKET NO. 02-0303-1201: **Ben Miller**, Bureau Chief, Licensing and Recertification, Idaho State Department of Agriculture, presented the Pesticide and Chemigation Use and Application Rule. Due to recent changes to soil fumigation labels by the USEPA, all private applicators will have to attend training every three years in order to purchase or use these products, unless they have the new soil fumigation category on their pesticide licenses. "Soil Fumigation" is added as a third category for private applicator licenses, so that local private applicators may meet the new federal requirements with appropriate label changes in lieu of the training required for professionals.

MOTION: **Rep. Daley** made a motion to recommend approval of **Docket No. 02-0303-1201** to the full committee. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

DOCKET NO. 02-0613-1201: **Mike Cooper**, Bureau Chief, Plant Industries Division, ISDA, explained the rule for Rapeseed Production and Establishment of Rapeseed Districts. The proposed changes update definitions and revise an outdated testing method. Some scientific names and corresponding symbols have changed. Testing requirements are updated with current industry measurements and amounts. The intent is that different varieties of rapeseed do not interfere or cross pollinate with other seeds in designated areas.

MOTION: **Rep. Dayley** made a motion to recommend approval of **Docket No. 02-0613-1201** to the full committee. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

DOCKET NO. 02-0612-1201: **Mr. Cooper** introduced the Idaho Fertilizer Law. This includes incorporation by reference to the 2013 version of Association of American Plant Food Control Officials (AAPFCO), as it pertains to the methodology and practice of conducting regulatory fertilizer registration and label review. It provides official names and consistency in labeling between states.

MOTION: **Rep. Erpelding** made a motion to recommend approval of **Docket No. 02-0612-1201** to the full committee. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

DOCKET NO. 02-0616-1201: Rules Governing Honey Standards was presented by **Mr. Cooper**. A new rule chapter is developed to mirror existing standards adopted by other states, relative to the identity, quality and labeling of honey. Private members of the honey industry and local companies met in conjunction with the Idaho Honey Industry Association and its attorneys to determine the adoption of honey standards and how to handle complaints for infringement of these. This is in accordance with last year's **HB 513**, giving the Honey Commission the authority to investigate and develop statewide regulations for honey. There is no FDA ruling and so states have had to form their own rules regarding definitions, moisture content, sugar content, ratios and exemptions. Naming conventions are outlined, as well as styles of honey, such as liquid, crystallized, filtered, strained, or raw. All those who market and advertise honey in Idaho will need to conform with these policies; this is targeted to avoid so-called honey products adulterated with sugar or corn syrup, which affect concentration and purity, and thus do not conform with industry standards.

Nick Noyes and **Rick Waitley**, Idaho Honey Industry Association, explained that pure honey cannot compete with other blends that use inferior ingredients, which do not meet acceptable percentages of real honey in their product. This also protects consumers who want a guarantee of pure local honey. One non-substantive typo will be corrected before the end of this Legislative Session when these rules would go into effect.

MOTION: **Rep. Agidius** made a motion to recommend approval of **Docket No. 02-0616-1201** to the full committee. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

DOCKET NO. 02-0641-1201: **Mr. Cooper** stated that the Rules Pertaining to the Soil and Plant Amendment Act of 2001 seek to incorporate by reference the above-mentioned fertilization manual (AAPFCO) as published in 2013.

MOTION: **Rep. Erpelding** made a motion to recommend approval of **Docket No. 02-0641-1201** to the full committee. **Motion carried by voice vote**.

DOCKET NO. 02-0614-1201: The Rules Concerning Annual Bluegrass (poa annua) were clarified by **Mr. Cooper**. This rulemaking allows for the use of a certificate of analysis, in lieu of tags, and for inspection by the Idaho Crop Improvement Association. Old rules are made relevant in this area, to ensure there is no contamination within the same genus. Comments from the bluegrass production industry supported these standard rules for growing areas. It was noted that the University of Idaho concurred with the Idaho Crop Improvement Association, who has authority to do inspections, regarding this seed certification.

MOTION: **Rep. Stevenson** made a motion to recommend approval of **Docket No. 02-0614-1201** to the full committee. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

DOCKET NO. 02-0631-1201: The Noxious Weed Free Forage and Straw Certification Rules were addressed by **Dan Safford**, Program Manager and Noxious Weed Specialist, ISDA. The purpose of this program is to limit introduction of noxious weed seeds onto Idaho public lands, primarily through hay or straw bales. Penalties are assessed for violations. Only certified forage and straw products are allowed. This rulemaking changes the scope and purpose to clarify and address all possible activities of free forage and straw. Also the year and date on forage tags must accurately reflect the year in which the bale was produced. Mr. Safford noted that certain colors of certification twine no longer used have been deleted from the rules.

MOTION: **Rep. VanOrden** made a motion to recommend approval of **Docket No. 02-0631-1201** to the full committee. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

DOCKET NO. 02-0635-1201: **Mr. Cooper** announced the same changes for Rough Bluegrass (poa trivialis) as those concerning Annual Bluegrass. This allows for the use of a certificate of analysis in lieu of tags and provides for inspection by the Idaho Crop Improvement Association. He commented that rough bluegrass has some uses in niche markets with small quantities.

MOTION: **Rep. VanOrden** made a motion to recommend approval of **Docket No. 02-0635-1201** to the full committee. **Motion carried by voice vote**.

ADJOURN: There being no further business to come before the subcommittee, the meeting adjourned at 2:21 p.m.

Representative Bolz
Chair

Kim Jensen-Porter
Secretary

AMENDED AGENDA #2

HOUSE AGRICULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE
BOYLE SUBCOMMITTEE

Livestock Rules

Upon Adjournment of the Full Committee

Room EW20

Monday, January 14, 2013

DOCKET NO.	DESCRIPTION	PRESENTER
02-0408-1201	Rules Governing Grade A Milk and Milk Products (no fee)	Marv Patten
02-0419-1201	Rules Governing Domestic Cervidae (no fee)	Scott Leibsle
02-0421-1201	Rules Governing Importation of Animals (no fee)	Scott Leibsle
46-0101-1201	State of Idaho Board of Veterinary Medicine (no fee)	Carol Youtz

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Chairman Boyle

Rep.McMillan

Rep.Miller

Rep.Romrell

COMMITTEE SECRETARY

Kim Jensen-Porter

Room: EW11

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MINUTES

HOUSE AGRICULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE
BOYLE SUBCOMMITTEE

Livestock Rules

DATE: Monday, January 14, 2013

TIME: Upon Adjournment of the Full Committee

PLACE: Room EW20

MEMBERS: Chairman Boyle, Representatives McMillan, Miller, Romrell

ABSENT/ EXCUSED: None

GUESTS: Stan Boyd, ICA/IWGA/ELK; Roger Gabel, Board of Veterinary Medicine; Cindy Hedge, Board of Veterinary Medicine; Barbara Hunt, OARC; Laura Johnson, ISDA; Dr. Scott Leibsle, Deputy Administrator of the Division of Animal Industry and Deputy State Veterinarian; Marv Patten, Bureau Chief ISDA; Carol Youtz, Board of Veterinary Medicine

Chairman Boyle called the meeting to order at 1:38 p.m.

DOCKET NO. 02-0408-1201: **Marv Patten**, ISDA Bureau Chief introduced himself and briefly went over the rule changes for this docket. He mentioned the four documents to incorporate the newest publication of, being 2011; Pasteurized Milk Ordinance, Methods of Making Sanitation ratings of Milk Shipper, Evaluation of Milk Laboratories and Procedures Governing the Cooperative State Public Health Service/Food and Drug Administration Program of the National Conference on Interstate Milk Shipments. He emphasized these are the latest edition of those documents and we must stay current with this state standard. In addition to these documents he mentioned the change for the somatic cell count to lower the standard from 500,000 to 400,000mL. In essence this creates a higher standard and it makes Idaho milk eligible for worldwide commerce.

In response to questions regarding the economic impact, **Mr. Patten,** explained it could be tremendous based on how milk is marketed in the State of Idaho. Without approving the documents and meeting the standard for international export it cannot go very far outside the state. It could be catastrophic if not amended.

In response to questioning regarding how these rule changes came into being, **Mr. Patten** explained the need for marketability of products and meeting the European Union regulations and standards. He mentioned when comparing the change from 500,000 mL to 400,000 mL they had less dairymen violate the tougher standard. In his opinion, this rule change will require dairymen to become better dairymen and for cows to become more healthy. **Chairmen Boyle** made mention of the support of these rule changes from the Idaho Dairymen's Association (IDA).

MOTION: **Rep. Romrell** made a motion to recommend approval of **Docket No. 02-0408-1201** to the full committee. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

DOCKET NO. 02-0419-1201: **Dr. Scott Liebsle**; Deputy Administrator of the Division of Animal Industry and Deputy State Veterinarian, stated negotiated rule making was conducted on this docket and no comments/input was received. These rule changes amend some housekeeping on abbreviations. Other proposed changes will allow administrators to grant exemption on a case by case basis when domestic cervidae change hands in regards to having them tested for TB. The existing rule requires to retest the whole herd with each change of hands. Also the change would allow the test results to stay with the animals and not the owners.

In response to any possible downside, **Dr. Liebsle** stated this allows the department to conduct business easier. He sees no downside.

MOTION: **Rep. Miller** made a motion to recommend approval of **Docket No. 02-0419-1201** to the full committee. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

DOCKET NO. 02-0421-1201: **Dr. Leibsle,** Deputy Administrator of the Division of Animal Industry, presented this docket stating that negotiated rule making was conducted with no comments/inputs received. These rule changes amend some housekeeping and acronym changes. Domestic Bison has been relocated in the rule. No changes were made to the import requirements of bison. In regards to brucellosis testing, it was not clear whether to take one or two blood samples. This clears it to one sample and two tests. Testing exemptions for Red Deer Gene Factor is amended to be any state with an approved RDGF program. It provides an exemption to retesting for TB in cervidae when changing between AZA and USDA. The rule includes invasive fish species on the list of illegal transport/import into the State of Idaho.

Dr. Leibsle responded to questions regarding why two tests are carried out on the brucellosis testing by stating there are a series of different tests to confirm brucellosis. He gave some examples of invasive species of fish; listing certain types of mussels, including Zebra Mussels, as we do not want them to enter into the state.

MOTION: **Rep. McMillan** made a motion to recommend approval of **Docket No. 02-0421-1201** to the full committee. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

DOCKET NO. 46-0101-1201: **Carol Youtz**, acting Executive Director of the Idaho Board of Veterinary Medicine introduced herself. Their board regulates veterinarian medicine and technical training to practice humane euthanasia. They have 1,400 active licensees and a full time staff of two. Negotiated rule making was not conducted with this docket. The highlights include the addition of the boards E-mail address, web site, and convenient methods for filing documents. Adopting updated version of American Veterinary Medical Associations principles and ethics. All application fees will be nonrefundable to allow the board to recover expenses. This will streamline euthanasia practices and discipline. Currently, each of the 19 euthanasia agencies are inspected once a year.

In response to questioning whether some of this docket is a rewrite, **Ms. Youtz** stated some of it is reorganizing. When asked about the language being eliminated regarding reusing needles, she explained that reusing needles makes them dull and they try not to put the animals through any additional pain or frighten them.

MOTION: **Rep. Romrell** made a motion to recommend approval of **Docket No. 46-0101-1201** to the full committee. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

ADJOURN: There being no further business to come before the Subcommittee the meeting adjourned at 2:08 p.m.

Representative Boyle
Chair

Jackie Wright
Secretary

AGENDA

HOUSE AGRICULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

1:30 P.M.

Room EW42

Wednesday, January 16, 2013

SUBJECT	DESCRIPTION	PRESENTER
	Reports from Subcommittees on Rules	

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Chairman Andrus
Vice Chairman Boyle
Rep Bolz
Rep McMillan
Rep Batt
Rep Bell
Rep Agidius
Rep Dayley
Rep Miller
Rep Romrell
Rep Stevenson
Rep VanOrden
Rep Pence
Rep Erpelding

COMMITTEE SECRETARY

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MINUTES

HOUSE AGRICULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

DATE: Wednesday, January 16, 2013

TIME: 1:30 P.M.

PLACE: Room EW42

MEMBERS: Chairman Andrus, Vice Chairman Boyle, Representatives Bolz, McMillan, Batt, Bell, Agidius, Dayley, Miller, Romrell, Stevenson, VanOrden, Pence, Erpelding

ABSENT/ EXCUSED: None

GUESTS: Lloyd Knight, Brian Oakey, Laura Johnson, ISDA; Sean Ellis, Capitol Press; Elizabeth Criner, FWAA, NWFPA; Bob Naerebout, IDA

Chairman Andrus called the meeting to order at 1:34 p.m.

MOTION: **Rep. Erpelding** made a motion to approve the minutes of the Monday, January 14, 2013 meeting. **Motion carried by voice vote**.

Chairman Andrus requested that each Chairman of the Subcommittees make appropriate motions to approve their Subcommittee minutes, and what action they recommend on the Docket Numbers to the full committee.

MOTION: **Rep. Batt** made a motion to approve the minutes of the Administrative Rules Subcommittee meeting on Monday, January 14, 2013, with the following correction: Jennifer Miller represents the NCAP, not NOAP. **Motion carried by voice vote**.

MOTION: **Rep. Bell** made a motion to accept the report of the Administrative Rules Subcommittee. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

Rep. Bolz placed the minutes of the Crops Rules Subcommittee meeting on Monday, January 14, 2013 before the Subcommittee for approval.

MOTION: **Rep. Dayley** made a motion to approve the minutes of the Crops Rules Subcommittee with the following correction: Rep. "Daley" should be spelled Dayley. **Motion carried by voice vote**.

Rep. Bolz summarized each Docket No. reviewed by the Crops Rules Subcommittee.

MOTION: **Rep. Bolz** made a motion to approve **Docket Nos. 02-0303-1201, 02-0613-1201, 02-0612-1201, 02-0616-1201, 02-0641-1201, 02-0614-1201, 02-0631-1201** and **02-0635-1201**. **Motion carried by voice vote**.

MOTION: **Rep. McMillan** made a motion to approve the minutes of the Livestock Rules Subcommittee meeting on Monday, January 14, 2013. **Motion carried by voice vote**.

Rep. Boyle explained the Docket Nos. reviewed by the Livestock Rules Subcommittee.

MOTION: **Rep. Boyle** made a motion to accept the report of the Livestock Rules Subcommittee and to approve **Docket Nos. 02-0408-1201, 02-0419-1201, 02-0421-1201** and **46-0101-1201**.

Rep. Bolz questioned if fee rules require a separate motion to approve them. Laura Johnson, ISDA, clarified that the fee rules should indeed be voted on separately.

Rep. Bell proceeded to outline the Docket Nos. before the Administrative Subcommittee.

MOTION: **Rep. Bell** made a motion to approve **Docket No. 02-0602-1201** as a fee rule. **Motion carried by voice vote**.

MOTION: **Rep. Bell** made a motion to approve **Docket No. 02-0633-1201** as a fee rule. **Motion carried by voice vote**. **Rep. Batt** requested to be recorded as voting **NAY**.

Chairman Andrus commented on the Organic Food Product Rules and how organic foods is a growing industry with higher prices and required organic certification. Thus far, Idaho producers have sent their food products to neighboring states for certification. This can be cumbersome and time consuming. It was proposed that the ISDA develop certification procedures to provide this service locally. There is currently no private enterprise offering organic certification; this is why the above fee rule was being considered, to cover such costs for the State to provide it.

ADJOURN: There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting adjourned at 2:02 p.m.

Representative Andrus
Chair

Kim Jensen-Porter
Secretary

AGENDA

HOUSE AGRICULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

1:30 P.M.
Room EW42
Tuesday, January 22, 2013

SUBJECT	DESCRIPTION	PRESENTER
	Report from Idaho Apple Commission	Candi Fitch, Executive Director
	Report from Idaho Cherry Commission	Candi Fitch, Executive Director
	Report from Idaho-Oregon Fruit & Vegetable Commission	Candi Fitch, Executive Director
	Report from Idaho-Eastern Oregon Onion Committee	Candi Fitch, Executive Director
	Idaho Farm Bureau, Range Management Update	Wally Butler, Range & Livestock Specialist

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Chairman Andrus
Vice Chairman Boyle
Rep Bolz
Rep McMillan
Rep Batt
Rep Bell
Rep Agidius
Rep Dayley
Rep Miller
Rep Romrell
Rep Stevenson
Rep VanOrden
Rep Pence
Rep Erpelding

COMMITTEE SECRETARY

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MINUTES

HOUSE AGRICULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

DATE: Tuesday, January 22, 2013

TIME: 1:30 P.M.

PLACE: Room EW42

MEMBERS: Chairman Andrus, Vice Chairman Boyle, Representatives Bolz, McMillan, Batt, Bell, Agidius, Dayley, Miller, Romrell, Stevenson, VanOrden, Pence, Erpelding.

ABSENT/ EXCUSED: None.

GUESTS: Candi Fitch, Executive Director of Idaho Apple Commission, Idaho Cherry Commission, Idaho-Oregon Fruit and Vegetable Association, Idaho-Eastern Oregon Onion Committee; Wally Butler, Range and Livestock Specialist, Idaho Farm Bureau Federation (IFBF); Jayson Ronk, Idaho Association of Commerce and Industry (IACI); Nate Fischer.

Chairman Andrus called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m.

MOTION: **Rep. Erpelding** made a motion to approve the minutes of the January 16, 2013 meeting. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

Candi Fitch, Executive Director, Idaho Apple Commission, explained that all four organizations she represents operate out of one office in Parma, Idaho. She outlined the Commissioners and various national, regional, and local memberships that the Apple Commission is associated with. This year's crop was positive overall and prices were up from last year. The Apple Commission works on a small budget to promote awareness, primarily with local schools. Ms. Fitch spoke about grants from the University of Idaho, which facilitate research projects that are essential to stay competitive in the market. The Cool School Cafe grant helps schools receive points and rewards brand loyalty, in coordination with school chefs and nutritionists. The Apple Commission participated in the Buy Idaho Capitol show last year and the Farm to School Conference, which were successful. They also sent out mailings to other states and Idaho schools. Other activities include the Canyon County Fair, Ag Pavilion with Expo Idaho, Twin Falls County Fair, and St. Luke's Women's Fitness Celebration, at which they pass out thousands of boxes of Idaho apples. They also work with the Idaho Preferred and Farm to School Programs. The Apple Commission budgets for administrative expenses, promotional programs, research projects, and Ms. Fitch added that although grant money may be added into their budgets, these monies must be used in specific ways. They receive some federal money, which each state decides how to allocate. Ms. Fitch offered that success is difficult to measure, in meeting objectives with the grants. The Onion Committee has a 'fair' report every year that measures productivity on their promotions, education and research. The last three years have shown a positive impact on the dollars invested. She expressed enthusiasm about funding apple projects, keeping research viable, and making meaningful contributions to the combined Parma office.

Candi Fitch, Executive Director, Idaho Cherry Commission, presented information on the Cherry Commissioners and partnerships with Idaho Preferred, Northwest Cherry Growers, and Ag in the Classroom. She indicated that the weather, volume and quality of this last year's crop was good, although prices were not as high as last year. One Commissioner passed away recently and another appointment will be filled in this year's elections. The cherry budget stays about the same each year and is fortunate to share the office with the other commissions.

The Idaho-Oregon Fruit and Vegetable Association report was given by **Candi Fitch**, Executive Director. This year was the 50th anniversary of the Association. They deal primarily with matters relating to the shipment of fresh or frozen fruit and vegetables. Many of the same labor and transportation issues have remained the same, with the exception of newer food safety laws. They are fortunate to have a strong voice, in conjunction with numerous similar fruit and vegetable associations and coalitions. The ID-OR Fruit and Vegetable Association keeps current with research, which is vital for our area to stay relevant and survive in the global marketplace.

Ms. Fitch also presented information on the Idaho-Eastern Oregon Onion Committee, as their Executive Director. This region is one of the largest onion areas, generating a billion pounds of onions each year. Washington State is higher in acreage, but the Idaho-Eastern Oregon Onion Committee, also known as USA Onions, is higher in yield. The logo has changed and they currently have a promotion with Weber Grills. The Onion Committee employs a full time marketing director. There is also an export group and a research group. In response to questioning, Ms. Fitch explained that Vitalia onions from Georgia have a higher onion weight and value per hundred, based on their name recognition and size of their crop. The Idaho-Eastern Oregon region tends to be lower in value for onions, partly due to a large crop, and taking in the forces of supply and demand.

In response to questions regarding the number of orchards decreasing in Idaho and Utah, and if this area will be able to keep up with demand, **Ms. Fitch** said that although previous fruit and vegetable production levels had dropped locally, they have stayed the same in recent years. An example referenced was that of apple juice being imported from China in 1999, but local crops since then seem to have stabilized regarding production and pricing. Also, regulations may always be a factor, when commodities become more expensive to grow, but the Commissioners are not overly worried and remain optimistic about the future production and demand of local crops.

Idaho Farm Bureau's Range Management Update was provided by **Wally Butler**, Range and Livestock Specialist. He commented that during the Legislative session, he works on many endangered species issues. Throughout the rest of the year, he attends Farm Bureau meetings and spends the balance of his time on ATV or horseback, checking on ranchlands around the state. He is able to take pictures before and after grazing. He serves on the Sage Grouse Task Force and assists the BLM with environmental assessments, leading to the formulation of guidelines and helping to determine whether sage grouse may need to be listed as an endangered species. He noted that recovery efforts in riparian wetland areas are being studied and documented as to how they affect grazing patterns. Most agencies and ranchers listen to and comply with the suggested, progressive changes. Also, the Governor has requested funds to form local fire districts to help ranchers protect their own rural areas, since they know them best. Mr. Butler is involved with the Society for Ranch Management at the national level and will soon represent them as their President. They publish the premiere science journal for ranchland ecology, management, and applications. This Society includes ranchers, consultants, professors, and many more resources. They provide awareness of issues at the federal level, including a strong policy on feral horses and hogs.

Regarding the possibility of the sage grouse being listed as an endangered species, **Mr. Butler** answered that the primary threats to the sage grouse are the loss of habitat by wildfire and invasive plant species, such as cheat grass, juniper and medusa head. He stated that urban expansion, energy development, conversion to farming lands, predators, and improper grazing are secondary threats in most areas. Grazing can be regulated, invasive plants can be removed, and human-caused fires can be reduced, but there is still great concern for potential listing, despite these efforts. With respect to predators, Mr. Butler said that collared animals and tracking are helpful. They have found that some sage grouse migrate to the desert, where nesting under brush is key. The sage grouse babies live on insects and small soft plants in the spring.

Concerning the use of controlled grazing and firebricks as preventative measures, **Mr. Butler** responded that the BLM has initiated pilot projects of this nature, involving more intensive winter grazing on annual grasses, with attention to controlling livestock numbers and timing to get them off the land when perennials begin to grow in the spring time, but some avenues are limited by litigation. He stated that it would be nearly impossible to correct the entire cheat grass problem, except on roadsides and with targeted grazing.

Following the mention of cheat grass that emerges after a fire, **Mr. Butler** explained that the BLM has a multitude of standards, but as long as perennials are available or seedlings have appeared, livestock can graze off the land after two growing seasons. Other fire damaged areas can take up to five years before grazing is allowed. He gave his opinion that on rangelands dominated with annual grasses, it is appropriate for the livestock to be grazing there the first year after a fire.

The Committee was interested in how to be more effective with decision making agencies on the above issues. **Mr. Butler** observed that the Rangeland Resource Center has a good reputation, works on valuable projects, and over the years has developed positive relationships with those involved; however, a disgruntled group may still choose to file a lawsuit. Sometimes a settlement can be reached. Meanwhile, agencies continue to work on monitoring and building rapport with ranchers. The objective is to look after the resources and make recommendations for affected riparian-wetland areas.

In response to questions about the feral pig problem, as well as the invasive species of tamarisk and salt cedars, **Mr. Butler** verified that the feral hog situation is confined to Owyhee county and the Bruneau area along the river. The salt cedar and tamarisk issues are mostly localized and there are projects in place to research them further.

Referring to the scientific basis of the projects and research being done, specifically the fire and cheat grass issues, **Mr. Butler** acknowledged that these are still key issues, along with targeted grazing. He verified that relevant research continues, and in time more findings will be certain. Other projects are emerging and moving forward, but solid information takes longer to gather and discern the findings.

ADJOURN: There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting adjourned at 2:45 p.m.

Representative Andrus
Chair

Kim Jensen-Porter
Secretary

AGENDA

HOUSE AGRICULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

1:30 P.M.
Room EW42
Thursday, January 24, 2013

SUBJECT	DESCRIPTION	PRESENTER
	Idaho Barley Commission Presentation	Kelly Olson, Administrator
RS21667	Addition of Fish and Aquatic Animals to List of Production Animals	Rep. Donna Pence

If you have written testimony, please provide a copy of it to the committee secretary to ensure accuracy of records.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Chairman Andrus
Vice Chairman Boyle
Rep Bolz
Rep McMillan
Rep Batt
Rep Bell
Rep Agidius
Rep Dayley
Rep Miller
Rep Romrell
Rep Stevenson
Rep VanOrden
Rep Pence
Rep Erpelding

COMMITTEE SECRETARY

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MINUTES

HOUSE AGRICULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

DATE: Thursday, January 24, 2013

TIME: 1:30 P.M.

PLACE: Room EW42

MEMBERS: Chairman Andrus, Vice Chairman Boyle, Representatives Bolz, McMillan, Batt, Bell, Agidius, Dayley, Miller (Barron), Romrell, Stevenson, VanOrden, Pence, Erpelding

ABSENT/ EXCUSED: Representatives Bolz, Boyle, Romrell

GUESTS: Sean Ellis, Capital Press; Dar Olberding, Idaho Grain Producers; Kent Lauer, Wally Butler, Idaho Farm Bureau; Kelly Olson, Pat Purdy, Idaho Barley Commission.

Chairman Andrus called the meeting to order at 1:31 p.m.

MOTION: **Chairman Andrus** welcomed **Lee Barron** to the Committee, filling in for **Rep. Miller**. He also reminded the Committee that this is the last day to introduce personal bills, then February 11th is the last day for non-privileged committees to introduce RS's.

Kelly Olson, Administrator, Idaho Barley Commission, presented information to the Committee. She introduced **Pat Purdy**, the newest member of the Barley Commission. **Ms. Olson** detailed their fiscal report. She noted that last year Idaho was the top barley producer in the United States, due to a downturn in North Dakota's production. This year Idaho returns to the second spot. She indicated that 77% of Idaho's 590,000 barley acres were designated for malting and 23% allocated to feed. Idaho saw an increase in farm-gate receipts, up 32% from 2011. Most of Idaho's barley production occurs in eastern Idaho, with some in the south central area, and only 8% in the north. Top producing counties were Bonneville, Jefferson, Cassia and Minidoka. Anheuser Busch has a large malting barley plant in Idaho Falls, Great Western has a malt plant in Pocatello, Coors Brewing Company has a large storage facility in Buhl, Idaho, and Grupo Modelo has a processing plant in Idaho Falls, which sells to Corona.

Ms. Olson said The barley industry has challenges with funding and fluctuations in production. Peak production was in 1995. The Barley Commission does have a reserve fund to address strategic needs, but may need to increase the barley tax by a one cent per hundred weight assessment, due to lost state and federal investments in barley research. The majority of their budget goes toward Administrative Costs, Research, Market Development, Industrial Partnerships, and Education/Information. The highest priority is given to barley research, which is supported in part by taxpayer monies. The USDA has its only barley breeding program in Aberdeen, Idaho. This is a collaborated effort with Anheuser Busch, American Malting Association and Brewers Association, and Oregon State University. The Barley Commission also cost-shares funding for the University of Idaho's Tetonia Research Farm. One of the concerns is to develop more winter hardiness; another is disease resistance. The IBC is currently investigating the possibility of making a one million dollar research endowment with the University of Idaho to aid agronomics and soil fertility. Many discussions have been held with key industry players and a decision will be forthcoming toward the end of February.

Regarding market diversification, domestic malting barley contributes mostly to beer sales and also a small portion to craft, meaning specialized beers and micro-breweries. There are also opportunities to export malting barley to Central America, with duty free access to these markets. Food barley represents about 1% of production, but has excellent growth opportunities. There is continuing research on new varieties with heart healthy fiber. Asia and Latin America are testing products suitable for their food markets with varying levels of barley. The project for Barley Food in School has recipe development and pilot work in schools. Another market possibility showing promise is the use of barley protein in fish feed to replace a portion of other fish meal ingredients. The IBC presently offers grower services in grain marketing and risk management education. Short courses, webinars, workshops and reports are available.

The Committee expressed concern for the possible upcoming million dollar endowment to the U of I, with the potential of becoming a pay to play enterprise. They wondered what will happen to smaller specialty crop farmers. **Ms. Olson** agreed it is a challenge to allocate scarce resources amidst declining state revenue. However endowments may be better than closing research centers. The effort to partnership with the College of Agriculture is seizing an opportunity to address a need. There is no scientist dedicated entirely to barley research. The funding dilemma is to do nothing or invest where they can with a strategic plan and philosophy of moving forward.

On the topic of gluten, **Ms. Olson** explained that barley has some gluten in it and thus cannot be marketed as a gluten free product.

With reference to the barley market in northern Idaho, **Ms. Olson** answered that the route to export from Portland is favorable for freight to go by rail or down the river. P&W Grain Cooperative in that area also intends to use barley for food in their program and is a good trading company partner. Other partnership and awareness opportunities for the Barley Commission include attending the US Grains Council or traveling with the Governor's Mission, when funds are available.

Pertaining to barley and other cereal schools, the U of I extension holds annual workshops around the state. Other grain marketing workshops and short courses are offered several times per year, in cooperation with the IBC, many featuring prominent guest speakers.

Concerning genetically modified barley, **Ms. Olson** noted that there is pioneering research to modify barley for water use efficiency and improved drought tolerance. Their hope is that better efficiency and tolerance will lead to higher yields. This research is being conducted by a small company in Seattle; however there is no such testing or discussion of such occurring in Idaho. This type of endeavor requires huge investments and is usually conducted through the public sector. It takes many years before products are approved and commercialized.

RS 21667: **Rep. Pence** presented **RS 21667** on the addition of fish and aquatic animals to the list of production animals for the animal cruelty bill. This corrects an omission in the animal cruelty bill, which clarifies definitions and species involved. She quipped that frogs and alligators need be included, along with salmon, tilapia, catfish, trout, and sturgeon. In this way, aquaculture would be recognized as an industry.

The Committee questioned why this issue would be re-opened so quickly after the animal cruelty bill passed at the end of last session. **Chairman Andrus** clarified that the aquatic people had requested to be included in the bill last year, but complications arose and the inclusion was not provided for. If the Committee approves the RS to be introduced and printed, there will be a hearing where more evidence will be outlined and can be voted upon at that point.

MOTION: **Rep. Erpelding** made a motion to introduce **RS 21667**. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

ADJOURN: There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting adjourned at 2:33 p.m.

Representative Andrus
Chair

Kim Jensen-Porter
Secretary

AGENDA

HOUSE AGRICULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

1:30 P.M.
Room EW42
Monday, January 28, 2013

SUBJECT	DESCRIPTION	PRESENTER
	Approval of Minutes	
	Impact of Agriculture on Idaho's Economy	Garth Taylor, University of Idaho Ben Eborn, University of Idaho Paul Patterson, University of Idaho
	Update on Potato Cyst Nematode	Lloyd Knight, ISDA Brian Marschman, USDA Patrick Kole, Idaho Potato Commission

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Chairman Andrus
Vice Chairman Boyle
Rep Bolz
Rep McMillan
Rep Batt
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Rep Agidius
Rep Dayley
Rep Miller
Rep Romrell
Rep Stevenson
Rep VanOrden
Rep Pence
Rep Erpelding

COMMITTEE SECRETARY

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MINUTES

HOUSE AGRICULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

DATE: Monday, January 28, 2013

TIME: 1:30 P.M.

PLACE: Room EW42

MEMBERS: Chairman Andrus, Vice Chairman Boyle, Representatives Bolz, McMillan, Batt, Bell, Agidius, Dayley, Miller, Romrell, Stevenson, VanOrden, Pence, Erpelding

ABSENT/ EXCUSED: None.

GUESTS: Garth Taylor, Paul Patterson, Cathy Roheim, John Foltz, Rich Garber, University of Idaho; Brian Marschman, USDA; Lloyd Knight, ISDA; Wyatt Prescott, ICA; Sean Ellis, Capital Press; Kent Lauer, Idaho Farm Bureau; Patrick Kole, Idaho Potato Commission; Bob Naerebout, Idaho Dairymen's Association.

Chairman Andrus called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m.

MOTION: **Rep. VanOrden** made a motion to approve the minutes of the January 22 and 24, 2013 meetings. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

Rich Garber, Director of Industry and Government Relations, University of Idaho, introduced **Dr. John Foltz**, who will act as the Interim Dean for the University's College of Agriculture and Life Sciences until a permanent replacement is found.

Paul Patterson, Agricultural Economist, U of I, excused **Ben Eborn**, U of I Extension in Eastern Idaho, who could not attend the Committee meeting due to snow. **Mr. Patterson** outlined three parts to the presentation on "The Impact of Agriculture on Idaho's Economy": the financial condition of Idaho agriculture, outlook for 2013 and beyond, and the macro perspective for Idaho agriculture. The financial condition is based on a calendar year instead of a crop year. Values are discussed in terms of cash receipts and net farm income, which were a record high in 2012. Idaho's cash receipts came mainly from milk, then beef and other livestock, grain, potatoes, sugar beets, onions, beans, hay, and nursery crops. The dairy industry contended with higher feed costs, but reported increased productivity per head. Mr. Patterson attributed this increased productivity to important research findings, which also applies to potatoes and livestock (producing more beef with less animals). Overall, major commodities in Idaho have experienced a fairly steady increase over the last 33 years. Somewhat lower prices have recently benefitted consumers. Government payments have declined with the economy, with more money being put into conservation payments and less direct agriculture payments to producers. The safety net for farmers at this point is through crop insurance. Net farm income is up for the third consecutive year, which is a rare phenomenon. Also, farm revenue and expenses were at their highest peak this last year. Volatility for net farm income has been extreme in the last ten years and may continue to be unpredictable, due to weather changes, varying crop yields, uncertainty in the markets, and shipping issues with other countries. Corn conversion to ethanol has greatly affected commodity markets. Bankers may tighten their lending requirements, making it more difficult for farmers to secure loans. Taxes are also a variable. When possible, spending money locally on products to raise crops helps local communities. Farmers are feeling the cost-price squeeze with less equity gain and land values fluctuating, but on average they carry less debt than 50 years ago. Farm profitability has improved with a better rate of return on assets in the last three to four years. The dairy industry is more leveraged, however, with the price to feed cost ratio declining to historic lows. It is hoped that herd size will rise and that milk and cheese markets will remain strong for the upcoming year.

Mr. Patterson next presented the "Outlook for 2013 and Beyond" in Idaho. He projects that the effects of the drought in the Midwest will continue this year. For the next year, crop cash receipts are expected to go down 5-8%, livestock cash receipts may be up 2-3%, overall expenses may be up 2-4%, and net farm income is expected to be down 10-15%.

Garth Taylor, Agricultural Economist, University of Idaho, focused on Idaho's "Macro perspective", how agriculture fits in with the state's economy. Farm unemployment remains stable and has become increasingly labor efficient. Farming is a growing portion of Idaho's gross state product and agricultural exports are up as well, with dairy and potatoes going to Canada, Mexico and China. Mr. Taylor indicated that farms are linked to suppliers and processors, creating "Ag Business". The contribution of this business is measured by accounting and base economy. He also explained how multipliers work. Mr. Taylor mentioned that 11% of Idaho jobs are Ag related, although other sectors of the economy are larger for employment. Agricultural business leads the state in sales, followed by government transfers, services, social security dividends, and high tech manufacturing. Agriculture in Idaho ranks high among other states in the western U.S. Also, Idaho Agriculture's Net Value Added continues to climb. **Mr. Patterson** stated that the U of I College of Agriculture is working on supplemental information to broaden understanding of key sectors, including a "SWAT" analysis of Strengths, Weaknesses and Threats. He noted that the Simplot plant in Heyburn had closed a decade ago and built another plant in Manitoba. The best investment Idaho can make is to keep the jobs it already has, instead of outsourcing.

When asked about a prediction for next year, **Mr. Patterson** answered that he anticipates average rainfall in Idaho. He also expects worldwide production to be less volatile in the grain markets from last year. He hopes that grain prices will be reasonable for the dairy industry to balance prices and that consumers will not substantially alter their eating habits due to market fluctuations. **Mr. Taylor** expects the dairy industry to get back on track and expand herd sizes to bring in more revenue. He is also optimistic for beef and hay prices. **Mr. Patterson** concurred about forecasting an increase in livestock. He stated that potato process growers should be protected by contract, but have been selling for less than it takes to grow. Sugar prices are declining, as well as dry beans; onions are an unpredictable crop.

Regarding a question about the proposed, reformed Farm Bill at the national level, **Mr. Taylor** advised that direct government program payments to farmers may go away, although he expects the Conservation Reserve Program to stay. He emphasized the importance of an insurance program, with subsidized premiums, and predicts reliance on the ACRE program (Average Crop Revenue Election), which is an alternative to the current price counter-cyclical program. **Mr. Patterson** agreed that payments to crops, livestock, and dairy will be significantly less than the past and that environmental or conservation programs will likely not experience those same deep cuts. As for disaster programs, they may be eliminated or put into insurance programs. Many agricultural commodity groups are designing programs to keep the American agriculture healthy for the future. Tax incentives have been used in the past, but supply and demand will dictate much of the production and also the level of aid to food programs in the upcoming Farm Bill.

Patrick Kole, Vice President of Legal and Government Affairs, Idaho Potato Commission, presented an update on the Pale Cyst Nematode (PCN). He remarked that the Idaho Potato Commission was created 75 years ago, is funded by the potato tax, and is charged with promoting and protecting Idaho's potatoes. These potatoes contribute over four billion dollars to the state's economy and 30,000 jobs. Consumers worldwide associate Idaho potatoes with quality, good taste, and freshness. Idaho ships many of its potatoes to Mexico, Asia and Central America. In 2006 when PCN was first detected in Idaho, the potato industry reported their findings to the U.S. Department of Agriculture and informed its customers. They worked cooperatively to sample and trace this PCN population. They found that the infestation covered less than a five mile radius in Bonneville and Bingham counties. It was a fairly new population and eradication seemed possible with an aggressive regulatory approach to prevent further spread. However, markets were greatly affected as potato exports were then closed. (Eventually all markets except Japan were reopened). These nematodes are microscopic worms that reside in the soil. Testing commenced on every potato field before potatoes were allowed to leave Idaho. This included over 475,000 samples taken to date, and regulating potato fields and equipment, releasing only those with consistent, clean findings. A five year review took place (which ended up taking seven years) and $52 million has been spent trying to eradicate this pest from Idaho. One portion of the eradication process is bioassay. Five of the original nine fields in Idaho have no viable PCN and one has cleared bioassay. Mr. Kole detailed an outbreak of the golden nematode in Long Island that was not contained after federal funding dried up, and subsequently spread to upstate New York. Over one million acres ended up being regulated there. It has been difficult to contain due to the nematodes being transmitted with the dirt on farm equipment, which crosses numerous fields. Methyl Bromide has been effective in Idaho against the PCN, which the U of I worked to develop. A trap crop can be planted or substances can be injected into the soil to cause the PCN to hatch and die if there is nothing to feed on, like potato roots. Another fungal material is available that attacks and kills PCN. Good protocol to date has kept the quarantine in check. Increasingly, growers have been allowed to certify themselves to do their own equipment sanitation. The main dilemma is that funding is running out to contain the PCN in Idaho, despite grants, and there is an urgent need to protect the progress made so far.

Brian Marschman, State Plant Health Director, USDA, also representing Animal and Plant Health Inspection Services (APHIS), and Plant Protection and Quarantine (PPQ), presented further information on the Pale Cyst Nematode. He detailed the PPQ's response to the 2006 detection of the PCN. There was concern for spread to Canada and the closing of foreign potato markets. U.S./Canada Guidelines were put into place. A technical working group of nematologists around the world convened to discuss and research the issue further. A similar problem was seen previously in Europe and an aggressive approach was determined for Idaho. Dialog was opened for state rule to mirror federal rule and to regulate a block of land around the infested fields. The Cooperative PCN Program objectives were: to prevent the spread of PCN, limit the infestation, eradicate PCN, restore lost foreign markets, and preserve current markets. 14,000 acres became regulated in Bingham and Bonneville counties. Millions of dollars of PCN funds were expended in Idaho. The eradication costs comprised 40-60% of their budget toward: Spring Methyl Bromide treatment, Fall Telone II application, Grower Agreements (handled through the ISDA), and before and after sampling, processing and testing of soil and equipment. It was determined that trap crops were not needed right away. Bio fumigants had some success, but there was complaint about the stench, which also attracted flies. After much negative feedback, this was halted. Further deliberation ensued and ISDA was called upon to enforce a quarantine to contain the risk within Idaho. Regulations were also needed concerning how to move farming equipment between fields. The intrastate rule was that equipment steaming is required when

moving from infested fields, and equipment washing is required when moving from associated fields. 13,000 sanitation jobs have been completed since 2006 and 8,000 movement certificates were issued. The Movement Certification was also needed for transferring of potatoes, hay, and straw to another location. After one treatment of the Methyl Bromide or Telone, fields showed 95% viability reduction. After two treatments, 99% showed viability reduction. Staining assessments with zero viability were also completed in accordance with the Canada agreement. Of the original nine fields, five are in bioassay, and one has cleared bioassay. With three consecutive cycles of PCN-free crops, the field can go back into potato production. A survey was conducted with 475,000 samples collected and processed over the last seven years, for all but three potato producing counties. 36,381 acres have been released from regulation thus far, 4,000 acres are still being regulated, and 2,000 of those are still considered infested. These infected fields have higher safety requirements and are not allowed to grow potatoes. The eradication program is costly, between $4-9 million per year. The survey requirements and Canada Agreement have undergone some revisions. Mr. Marschman says that growers are frustrated that the rules keep changing. For now, anyone who wants to export must have their ground surveyed for infestation. This export survey, which the ISDA performed, was expensive and growers incurred costs to get the restrictions released. The Idaho Potato Commission funded this Export Survey with additional federal dollars, namely the Technical Assistance to Specialty Crop (TASC) funds. Discussions with Congress are ongoing. Unfortunately, growers are not reimbursed for the loss of their fields, but with improved transparency and communication, they have become more supportive of the PCN Program. Necessary budget reduction realities include discontinuing the Telone treatment, even though the Methyl Bromide is a harsh chemical process that the land may not be able to withstand indefinitely. Fumigation is no longer funded at the same rate. The survey protocol could change or be eliminated; also farmers can self-certify to sanitize their own equipment, which is quicker for them to do it themselves and more cost-effective than paying for the state to certify with each transfer. Also pertaining to budget reductions, there may be reduced numbers of grower agreements, and elimination of additional treatments on fields that have not yet cleared bioassay. The award-winning Cooperative PCN Program is doing its best to stay afloat and prioritize with limited resources. They say eradication is still possible if appropriate resources can be generated to continue the program.

Regarding the symptoms of PCN, **Mr. Marschman** answered that at high populations, they reduce crop yield. The dirt around the crop is the problem. Washing and application of sprout inhibitors does help.

Concerning mustard seeds planted in former potato fields, **Mr. Marschman** acknowledged that this is not related to the nematode problem, but mustard is a natural fumigant and cash crops may be favored that suppress other nematodes.

Upon questioning, **Mr. Marschman** indicated that both a dollar amount and time frame are difficult to project. Further fumigation is desired, which costs $3500 per acre, including contracting costs. This would mean millions of dollars. If Spring Methyl Bromide and Fall Telone treatments could be continued as recommended, a high degree of success would result in healthy fields. This could be another seven year window to achieve.

With reference to the origin of the PCN, **Mr. Marschman** clarified that this is largely unknown. Investigators had their theories, but may never know for sure. When a new infestation is detected, the owner/operator is notified and samples are obtained. Their field status may change to infested and then the State rule does not allow for growing potatoes. Another non-host crop may be planted for profit or treatments may be applied. Generally, the potato growers have put in as much money as they were able to, but cannot afford the necessary treatments toward eradication. Without federal funding, the PCN would spread as it did in Europe, across many countries and the entire combined market was gravely affected. This threat must be managed or farmers will go out of business trying to implement a five or seven year rotation. When considering how much potatoes produce for the State's general fund, the State and the potato industry cannot afford to languish. It would take a minimum of $500,000 toward export testing alone to sustain the progress that has been made thus far. Research is promising to provide other tools and techniques that are less harsh on the environment. One natural technique involves planting root structures into soil crevices below gravel layers that will stimulate hatching of the PCN, which will die. Crushed potato leaves and other plants and liquid injections are also being tested. So far, some industry and grower money has been put into developing these techniques. As far as the Legislature is concerned, only emergency monies have been requested to date, so the PCN Program is now asking for additional funding for these types of research to continue and protect Idaho's potato future.

Lloyd Knight, Administrator, Plant Industries Division, ISDA, delineated the State's authority to govern PCN issues. This includes the Idaho Plant Pest Act, found in Idaho Code. Also in code are the Rules Governing the Pale Cyst Nematode. The primary ISDA regulatory activities include the initial response, survey, lab set up and lab shut down. They also perform post regulatory monitoring and Mexico export surveys. Intrastate quarantine enforcement is ongoing, and the ISDA handles pass-through of federal funds to landowners for infested field treatment prep. For funding and infrastructure, a federal grant was obtained to cover lab testing costs. A deficiency warrant came from the general fund, and staffing for the PCN Program was provided by existing management and inspectors from the Department of Agriculture, plus temporary seasonal employees. In connection with questions about estimates for funding needed, Mr. Knight stated that would depend on federal funding, which is unknown, and the state funding is contingent upon the federal funding. If, for instance, sanitation or quarantine enforcement services were no longer provided, that would determine, to a degree, the amount of funding needed. If the PCN Program went away altogether, that would propose an even higher total required to maintain current efforts.

ADJOURN: There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting adjourned at 3:40 p.m.

Representative Andrus	Kim Jensen-Porter
Chair	Secretary

AGENDA

HOUSE AGRICULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

1:30 P.M.
Room EW42
Wednesday, January 30, 2013

SUBJECT	DESCRIPTION	PRESENTER
	International Trade Report	Eddie Yen, Idaho Asia Trade Office Manager, ISDA Xu Fang, Idaho China Trade Office Manager, ISDA

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Chairman Andrus
Vice Chairman Boyle
Rep Bolz
Rep McMillan
Rep Batt
Rep Bell
Rep Agidius
Rep Dayley
Rep Miller
Rep Romrell
Rep Stevenson
Rep VanOrden
Rep Pence
Rep Erpelding

COMMITTEE SECRETARY

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MINUTES

HOUSE AGRICULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

DATE: Wednesday, January 30, 2013

TIME: 1:30 P.M.

PLACE: Room EW42

MEMBERS: Chairman Andrus, Vice Chairman Boyle, Representatives Bolz, McMillan, Batt, Bell, Agidius, Dayley, Miller, Romrell, Stevenson, VanOrden, Pence, Erpelding

ABSENT/ EXCUSED: None.

GUESTS: Kerry Ellen Elliott, IAC; Laura Johnson, ISDA; Eddie Yen, Taiwan Trade Office; Xu Fang, China Trade Office.

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

MOTION: **Laura Johnson**, Bureau Chief, Marketing Section, ISDA, introduced Idaho Asia Trade Office Managers **Eddie Yen**, Taiwan Trade Office, and **Xu Fang**, China Trade Office. **Ms. Johnson** explained how important exports are to Idaho's economy and how trade in the past couple years has surpassed previous sales records. Unfortunately the Trade Office Manager for Mexico was unable to be at the Committee meeting.

Eddie Yen, Idaho Asia Trade Office Manager, presented an overview of the last year, for Idaho's trade activity with Taiwan. He stated that this last year brought many changes which have turned into many opportunities for growth. Taiwan is about one sixth the size of Idaho, but their population is 23 million, with a Gross Domestic Product (GDP) of $474 billion in trade with the U.S. This indicates growth up 1.13% in 2012 and +3.15% in 2013. Their foreign reserve is fourth in the world. Bilateral trade with the U.S. is close to $60 billion for 2012. Reporting on trade and new successes, Idaho's exports to Taiwan in 2011 totaled $760 million. This is 15% of Idaho's total exports for that year, placing Taiwan as the second largest export market for Idaho. Idaho companies include: Ray Core, a manufacturer of polyurethane panels; Outdoor Gourmet, which makes cedar planks for high-end chefs; Koenig and Snyder wineries, from the Sunnyslope and Twin Falls areas; Wild Touch Taxidermy; Dynamite Marketing, specializing in animal and pet feed products; and Boise Cascade, who recently employed a BSU graduate as their new sales person for China and Taiwan.

Supporting Project 60, **Mr. Yen** explained how investment seminars have promoted Idaho trade and investment opportunities to overseas investors, helped more companies participate in trade shows, and boosted tourism and education with press events, trade shows and presentations. Bilingual industry specific brochures have featured Idaho companies and three trade delegations have visited Idaho to explore investment opportunities. Last November, 11 states with more than 150 companies and over 200 people attended the Select USA Investment Seminar. This was a large event and was successful in getting Idaho's name out to other companies who may consider trade and investment opportunities or recruiting new companies to Idaho.

Mr. Yen detailed big changes with the Visa Waiver Program. Effective November 1, 2012, foreigners may spend five minutes online to obtain travel authorization to visit the U.S. This was in conjunction with Secretary Sanchez's visit. The old visa form took considerably longer to complete and the fee was dropped from $140 to $14 to attract more individual travelers and tour groups. They expect a 25% growth rate, which will positively affect Idaho as travelers come to spend money and in turn boost the state's economy. Other tourism promotions include an annual Taipei International Travel Fair; the My Dream Vacation USA Program, which offers travel themes of national parks, theme parks, sports and shopping; and Dennis Chin's photos exhibition. It is hoped that the Grand Tetons and Yellowstone National Parks will spark more interest in Idaho.

Mr. Yen submitted names of six new Idaho companies to join the Building Materials Show this past December: Boise Cascade, Ray Core, Wild Touch Taxidermy, Panhandle Forest Products, Idaho Timber Corporation, and PFB Custom Homes, which manufactures structural insulated panels in Meridian, Idaho.

Mr. Yen specified that Taiwan's previous policy banned the feed additive Ractopamine in beef. However, this was negotiated and legalized in 2012, so imports resumed in September. Demand for U.S. beef is high and Idaho stands to sell $3.5 to 5 million, if supplies can increase to meet demand. This would benefit Idaho companies such as AB Foods and many cattle farmers. Pork is another hot commodity. Twin Falls' Snake River Farm ships black skin pork, which has a good market in Taiwan of $1.5 to 3 million per year.

Mr. Yen commented that a special seminar for plank cooking was held in December 2012 and many chefs from high-end hotels and restaurants in Taiwan attended, showing strong interest in using planks from Idaho's Outdoor Gourmet Company. Another promotion held was at the Taipei International Food Show, showcasing Idaho's wine, beef, potato and huckleberry exports, which were well received.

Mr. Yen addressed the high growth of tourism and other Idaho opportunities, which have risen from $4 million in 2008, to $7 million in 2012, and a projected $10 million in 2015. Idaho's meat products are a valuable commodity. Also one million tons of wheat have been shipped from Idaho to Taiwan, partly due to the popularity of their national pineapple cake, made from wheat and pineapple paste; wheat is also used there for noodles and bakery items. Fresh fruit and vegetables are greatly needed on their island, as well as dairy ingredients. Cell phone and computer components are additionally favorable markets, including HTC's purchasing of computer chips from Idaho's Micron.

Regarding industry specific marketing, **Mr. Yen** described the first ever bilingual, industry-specific brochure for both Chinese and non-Chinese speaking markets in Asia. Some of Idaho's natural, organic health and beauty products were featured on each page, as well as dairy products and wineries. New additions include brochures for forest products and Idaho agriculture. These are utilized at trade shows and in direct mailings.

For new opportunities in Idaho exports, **Mr. Yen** is optimistic for new technology in biomass and geothermal energy, as well as technology and equipment for "mega-fab" (ironworker tools), which could generate $45 billion in the next three years. Other opportunities include green building materials, products and services for a rising senior population, pet related products, and health and beauty items. Higher end meat products will do well and EB-5 RC projects are also favorable. (EB-5 RC refers to Regional Center building projects in the U.S., drawing potential investors).

Mr. Yen outlined upcoming promotional programs for 2013. These include: the Governor Otter's trade mission to Korea, Taiwan and Vietnam in April; investment seminars, education and travel fairs throughout the year; food, bio-tech and SenCare (Senior Home Care Agency) shows in July; a furniture materials show in Vietnam in October; a building materials show Taipei in December; and buying missions to Idaho in the fall.

In answer to questions, **Mr. Yen** responded that Taiwan is a small, mountainous island with limited space. They grow plenty of rice, but need to import vegetables and fruit. In some specific products they are self-sufficient, but they do import many products from around the world. Idaho is a big source for agricultural products in Taiwan.

Xu Fang, Idaho China Trade Office Manager, presented an overview for Idaho's trade opportunities with China. China's GDP growth in 2012 was +7.8%. Bilateral trading with the U.S. was over $500 billion in 2011. The U.S. is China's second largest trade partner and China is the first export market for U.S. agricultural products. China is also the fastest growing market for U.S. exports over the past decade. The main Idaho exports to China are: whey, hay, dehydrated potatoes, lactose, wheat, pork, and dairy. China had banned U.S. beef, but it continues to carry a high reputation among Chinese consumers, and may be repacked or imitated at times with U.S. beef branding. In last April's Idaho trade mission, Governor Otter visited Shanghai, Chengdu and Beijing, promoted 17 Idaho companies, attended two receptions with 400 participants total, and was engaged at over 50 business meetings. The Governor also witnessed the signing ceremony for a Moscow dairy company to provide research for prednazone testing in dairy and other animals to China. Mr. Fang also announced the first and recent shipment of 35,000 bottles of Idaho's "Rocks" brand water to China. Packaging was designed for the Chinese market and more orders may be forthcoming.

Mr. Fang said that China also held a dairy expo in 2012, in which Idaho products were showcased. Like Taiwan, China is publishing brochures to market and introduce Idaho's agricultural crops. Other upcoming events this coming year include SIAL, an outbound trade mission and huge food and beverage exhibition, including booths from Idaho. There is a proposed inbound mission as well, and horse shows are scheduled for Beijing and Shanghai. Lastly, the State of Idaho China office employs three full time staff members and one part time staff. They have spent a cumulative 18 years working with U.S. companies and industry groups, with relevant experience in marketing and market access.

Mr. Fang answered questions from the Committee, explaining that English is not an official language in China, but many people do speak it there. Regarding cell phone coverage and communications infrastructure, Mr. Fang believes that coverage in China is over 95%. Concerning China's population growth, he affirmed that this has slowed and is comparable to a decade ago. Experts are anticipating aging problems due to a rising average age.

ADJOURN: There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting adjourned at 2:13 p.m.

Representative Andrus
Chair

Kim Jensen-Porter
Secretary

AMENDED AGENDA #1
HOUSE AGRICULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE
1:30 P.M.
Room EW42
Monday, February 04, 2013

SUBJECT	DESCRIPTION	PRESENTER
RS21857	Turkish Trademark Application Resolution	Patrick Kole, Idaho Potato Commission
RS21610	Idaho Veterinary Practice Act, Definitions Revised	Carol Youtz, Idaho Board of Veterinary Medicine
RS21611	Idaho Board of Veterinary Medicine, Licensing Fees	Carol Youtz, Idaho Board of Veterinary Medicine
	Immigration Issues Update	Brent Olmstead, Idaho Business Coalition for Immigration Reform

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Chairman Andrus
Vice Chairman Boyle
Rep Bolz
Rep McMillan
Rep Batt
Rep Bell
Rep Agidius
Rep Dayley
Rep Miller
Rep Romrell
Rep Stevenson
Rep VanOrden
Rep Pence
Rep Erpelding

COMMITTEE SECRETARY

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MINUTES

HOUSE AGRICULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

DATE: Monday, February 04, 2013

TIME: 1:30 P.M.

PLACE: Room EW42

MEMBERS: Chairman Andrus, Vice Chairman Boyle, Representatives Bolz, McMillan, Batt, Bell, Agidius, Dayley, Miller, Romrell, Stevenson, VanOrden, Pence, Erpelding

ABSENT/ EXCUSED: None.

GUESTS: Carol Youtz, Cindy Hedge, Idaho Board of Veterinary Medicine; Dar Olberding, Grain Producers of Idaho; Brent Olmstead, IBCIR; Dave Goins, Idaho News Service; David Lincoln, Wilder Housing Authority; Sean Ellis, Capital Press; Jane Wittmeyer, Whittmeyer and Associates; Dennis Tanikuni, Idaho Farm Bureau; Jim Clark, JC & Associates.

Chairman Andrus called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m.

MOTION: **Rep. Pence** made a motion to approve the minutes of the January 28, 2013 meeting. **Motion carried by voice vote**.

MOTION: **Rep. Agidius** made a motion to approve the minutes of the January 30, 2013 meeting. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

SCR 102: **Patrick Kole**, Vice President, Legal and Government Affairs, Idaho Potato Commission, presented information on the Turkish Trademark Application Resolution, via conference call to the Committee. He spoke of Turkey's recent trademark application to register Idaho's name for agricultural products, which do not originate from Idaho. Mr. Kole claimed that this refers to intellectual property and is analogous to identity theft. He explained that trademarks do not expire, like patents. This exclusivity would preclude the people from Idaho using the Idaho name when selling agricultural products that actually originate from Idaho. Although Turkey's initial intention is to market sugar beet seeds, their application covers all types of agricultural products. Mr. Kole expressed concern that allowing this trademark may lead to the Idaho name becoming generic. He contended that Idaho would eventually lose the ability to protect its name on any or all agricultural products originating from Idaho. This resolution urges the Turkish Patent Institute to reject the application to use the Idaho trademark in Turkey.

MOTION: **Rep. VanOrden** made a motion to send SCR 102 to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation. **Motion carried by voice vote**.

Chairman Andrus signified that **Mr. Kole** had previously asked him, as the Chair, to be the floor sponsor for this legislation. Chairman Andrus will sponsor the bill on the floor.

RS 21610: **Carol Youtz**, Acting Director, Idaho Board of Veterinary Medicine, presented **RS 21610**, on the Idaho Veterinary Practice Act, Definitions Revised. This proposed legislation addresses housekeeping issues for definitions, including "certified euthanasia technician" for clarity purposes. It also removes an archaic and dangerous provision authorizing persons trained in euthanasia methods prior to 1992 to become certified. This provides that only technicians with ongoing training can perform euthanasia. Also, the definition for "veterinary technician" is a non-substantive correction that reflects a name change in keeping with an affiliated national association.

MOTION: **Rep. Dayley** made a motion to introduce **RS 21610**. **Motion carried by voice vote**.

RS 21611: **Carol Youtz**, Acting Director, Idaho Board of Veterinary Medicine presented **RS 21611**, regarding the Idaho Board of Veterinary Medicine, Licensing Fees. She explained that each licensing application filed requires about ten hours of staff time to process and can take up to ten months of work. This proposed legislation would make all licensing fees nonrefundable, allowing the Veterinary Board to recover their time and staff expenses invested in the licensing process.

Concerning the costs for fees, **Ms. Youtz** affirmed that $34 is for a criminal background check, $75 is for the exam, and $200 is for the original application fee, for a total of $309. In the past, the $200 application fee has been refunded if the license was denied or the application was voluntarily withdrawn. In answer to what percent of applications this would apply to, Ms. Youtz estimated less than one percent, with a possible positive fiscal impact around $1000 per year to recoup costs incurred.

MOTION: **Rep. Romrell** made a motion to introduce **RS 21611**. **Motion carried by voice vote**.

Brent Olmstead, Idaho Business Coalition for Immigration Reform (IBCIR), presented an Immigration Issues Update. He indicated that there has been national talk of immigration reform this last year, related to the agricultural industry's need for foreign workers, to fill agricultural jobs that few U.S. citizens are willing to perform. There are many visas available for workers to come to the U.S. and Mr. Olmstead focused on H2A, which specifically deals with agriculture. The problem has been that temporary work visas allow for 10 months of work, but the agricultural industry needs workers year round. This is something Congress would need to fix. The application process involves employers first advertising and attempting to fill these agricultural jobs locally, but less than one percent of the local citizen population end up satisfying this need. Thus, the need for foreign labor arises and an employer can then petition for alien workers. There is paperwork, an application and interview process, and admission is also needed into the U.S. This cycle takes about 45 days. If this is not completed in time, the planting or harvesting seasons may be well underway, with a shortage of workers. In most cases, farmers do not use the H2A visas because of the time lag involved, or they join an organization that does the paperwork for them.

Mr. Olmstead said there are 11 million illegal immigrants currently living in the U.S. He described the E-Verify system, which is like an electronic version of the I-9 hiring form. This is one way to screen employees to verify their work eligibility status, however E-Verify is used after hiring and can be problematic. It does not screen for identity theft, and if the employee's results show that they are not eligible for work in the U.S., then there is an appeals process which may take up to two weeks, wherein the employer must continue to pay the employee, their benefits, and paid time off to handle the appeal. At the end of this process, the employer must start again, looking for immigrant workers and facing the paperwork cycle again.

Regarding recent action in Congress on this issue, **Mr. Olmstead** stated he was encouraged that **Senator Rubio** had assembled a Coalition to discuss comprehensive immigration reform. They have already formulated a bill and put a framework in place. This includes a bipartisan group of eight Senators that have met with **President Obama** and all agree on the basic tenets of a Comprehensive Immigration Reform Plan. Also Idaho **Congressman Labrador** held a local town hall meeting this past week with discussion on immigration as well. The four basic legislative pillars of this immigration plan are: 1) Creating a path to citizenship for unauthorized immigrants already here, that is contingent upon securing the border and combating visa overstays. 2) Improving our legal immigration system and attracting the world's best and brightest. 3) Strong employment verification. 4) Admitting new workers and protecting workers' rights.

Mr. Olmstead explained that not all immigrant workers want to become citizens; some just want gainful employment and then return to their country. He also mentioned the high cost of deportation for those who overstay their visa time period. The first pillar above focuses first on securing the border with patrol and increased technology, then implementing a new immigration and guest worker program. The Head of Homeland Security will determine the time frames for this to be accomplished. There is also a proposed bill to create a commission that will monitor success and make suggestions for improvements. Registration of unauthorized immigrants would be necessary. Other components of the immigration program may include: a background check for criminal activity, a fine, back taxes must be paid, and viable employment.

Concerning the second pillar, to improve legal immigration and attract the world's best and brightest, **Mr. Olmstead** referenced science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) visas. When immigrants are educated in the U.S. and certain fields need their expertise, they should be allowed to stay and have provisions made for this. Also with the many visa categories and time lines for expiration, improvements should be made so that families will not be split up.

On the topic of the third pillar, strong employment verification, **Mr. Olmstead** described that the new immigration reform plan would mandate that employers be held accountable, if they knowingly hire undocumented workers. Mr. Olmstead said there is a need for fast and reliable verification, perhaps better than the current E-Verify system. Also, pre-employment screening would be better than post-employment. Additional safeguards like preventing identity theft, or a picture or fingerprint would be preferable. An appeals process would need to be implemented as well.

Concerning the fourth pillar on hiring more skilled workers in a timely manner, **Mr. Olmstead** stated that the objective would be to stabilize a constant work force year round. For those who have succeeded in the workplace and contributed to their communities over many years, an avenue is needed to help them earn green cards. For those working in agriculture especially, a better method is needed to streamline obtaining their green cards, since agriculture is such a vital part of our economy. This may be a different pathway to citizenship or worker status than other industries. The above points illustrate the need to create a workable program that will meet the needs of the agricultural industry, including dairy. Mr. Olmstead closed expressing his concern that "crops are rotting for lack of harvesters", quoting former President Ronald Reagan.

Regarding questions about the phrase "pathway to citizenship", **Mr. Olmstead** answered that this is the only phrase they have to work with at this point. Specifics will be outlined at a later date. In response to other questions, he asserted that the agricultural immigration program may end up looking different than the STEM program. Also, the Head of Homeland Security would determine when border security is at a sufficient level to then begin the immigration and reform steps needed. Advances in technology may help speed up an online registration process and eliminate many hang-ups due to excessive paperwork. Mr. Olmstead affirmed that the internet can be used to register a potential employee's area of specialty. This would help employers to go online and find workers in the registry. Relating to the possibility of states having oversight of some of these processes, Mr. Olmstead stated he has heard talk of this, but it would be conjecture at this point to relay any details. Other states have made a compact with the three B's: bibles, badges, and business. These refer to religious groups, law enforcers, and businesses that seek to get involved and have been generally well received. However, communication with State legislators is also key. When asked about the IBCIR's affiliations, Mr. Olmstead replied that they work with local and national groups who are pushing for solutions to immigration problems.

ADJOURN: There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting adjourned at 2:38 p.m.

Representative Andrus
Chair

Kim Jensen-Porter
Secretary

AMENDED AGENDA #1
HOUSE AGRICULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE
1:30 P.M.
Room EW42
Wednesday, February 06, 2013

SUBJECT	DESCRIPTION	PRESENTER
RS21799	Dairy Products Commission	Rep. Vander Woude
RS21907	Grape Growers and Wine Commission	Roger Batt, Legislative Educator
RS21848	Honey Advertising Commission	Rep. Bolz
RS21899	Idaho Agritourism Promotion Act	Rep. Bolz
RS21830	Animal Care	Chairman Andrus

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Chairman Andrus
Vice Chairman Boyle
Rep Bolz
Rep McMillan
Rep Batt
Rep Bell
Rep Agidius
Rep Dayley
Rep Miller
Rep Romrell
Rep Stevenson
Rep VanOrden
Rep Pence
Rep Erpelding

COMMITTEE SECRETARY

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MINUTES

HOUSE AGRICULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

DATE: Wednesday, February 06, 2013

TIME: 1:30 P.M.

PLACE: Room EW42

MEMBERS: Chairman Andrus, Vice Chairman Boyle, Representatives Bolz, McMillan, Batt, Bell, Agidius, Dayley, Miller, Romrell, Stevenson, VanOrden, Pence, Erpelding

ABSENT/ EXCUSED: None.

GUESTS: Roger Batt, Idaho Grape and Wine Commission; Suzanne Budge, SBS Associates LLC; Jill Holinka, Moore Smith Buxton and Turcke; Susan Buxton, Dairy Products Commission; Jim Lowe, Farmstead Cornmaze; Brent Olmstead, MPI; Benjamin Kelly, Food Producers; Elizabeth Criner, NWFPA.

Chairman Andrus called the meeting to order at 1:31 p.m.

Chairman Andrus announced that **Allie Phillips**, Director of the National Center for Prosecution of Animal Abuse, will be speaking at 4:00 p.m. today in Room EW42, regarding the correlation between animal abuse and violence to humans and animal protection issues, for those interested in attending.

RS 21799: **Rep. Vander Woude** presented **RS 21799** regarding the Dairy Products Commission. He advised that this legislation will update Idaho Code with current dairy practices. In response to questions, Rep. Vander Woude explained that the definition for 'director', as the Director of the Department of Agriculture, was stricken to avoid confusion when directors of other commissions were referenced in the document.

MOTION: **Rep. Batt** made a motion to introduce **RS 21799**. **Motion carried by voice vote**.

RS 21907: **Roger Batt**, Legislative Educator, presented information on **RS 21907**, concerning the Grape Growers and Wine Commission. He indicated that small amendments were made to allow an out-of-state producer to serve on the commission. A CEO of a large winery in Idaho had expressed interest in serving on the commission, but currently resides out of the state. Also this legislation would allow for three year terms, since staggered terms of different lengths are no longer needed. In response to questions, Mr. Batt confirmed that after the commission had met with constituents, no one in the industry had expressed opposition to these changes; they were supportive. Regarding speculation that this may set a new precedent for out-of-state members, Mr. Batt submitted that he would gather more information on this before the next hearing.

MOTION: **Rep. VanOrden** made a motion to introduce **RS 21907**. **Rep. Batt** cited Rule 38, disclosing that she is married to **Mr. Batt**, and she also represents many wine growers in her district; however, she intends to vote. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

RS 21848: **Rick Waitley**, Executive Director, Idaho Honey Industry Association, presented **RS 21848** on the Honey Advertising Commission. This commission has three members who travel some distance to their meetings. He remarked that it has been difficult to recruit members to serve on the commission with only a $15 honorarium per day. Other smaller, similar commissions have higher compensation rates, so they are asking to increase this amount to $50 per day, for actual and necessary expenses.

With reference to another honey commission or association, **Mr. Waitley** explained that there is only one honey advertising commission, but **Mr. Mike Cooper** is with the Department of Agriculture's Idaho Honey Association, which is different and is appointed by the Governor. Concerning larger commissions with higher demands, those members do receive a greater compensation, but with smaller commissions, the $50 is more in line with a lower level of responsibilities. Regarding the fund balance and revenue stream, Mr. Waitley remarked that the Honey Advertising Commission does not have a significant fund balance, but not many members actually request reimbursement; no fees would have to be raised to cover this increase.

MOTION: **Rep. Romrell** made a motion to introduce **RS 21848**. **Motion carried by voice vote**.

RS 21899: **Jim Lowe**, Owner, Farmstead Cornmaze, presented **RS 21899**, the Idaho Agritourism Promotion Act. Mr. Lowe testified that he runs an agritourism operation in Meridian, Idaho with a pumpkin festival in the fall. Agritourism is a young and growing industry in Idaho, which is not addressed in Idaho Code. He submitted that this legislation would define agritourism, provide limited liability for providers when warnings are posted, and clarify the lack of effect on property status.

Regarding the effect on taxation, **Mr. Lowe** further explained that the classification for land actively devoted to agriculture will not be affected by an assessment, if agritourism happens along with production of agriculture. He noted that there was speculation this may be a conflict. However, **Rep. Bolz** mentioned that he had consulted with the Deputy Attorney General and that agricultural land would not be taxed as tourism. He would provide a copy of that ruling if desired. Mr. Lowe added that there was concern of possible negative pressure on individuals who had interest in setting up agritourism, due to a potentially different tax categorization. But as long as the farm in question meets the requirements for production of commodities and products, they maintain their agricultural status. If there was agritourism occurring without farming practices, or if activities shifted from agriculture production to only agritourism, then the tax assessment would change.

In relation to the liability section, **Mr. Lowe** asserted there is precedent for similar immunity, including the Equine Activities Immunity Act, wherein the provider must post a sign saying there are risks inherent in this activity. However, this does not offer protection for negligence on the part of the agritourism provider. Also, he noted that there are similar statues in 15-20 other states, as long as the professional follows certain procedures, posts warnings, and in some cases, has the participants sign a release of liability. This is in accordance with the required warning notice and signage contained in Idaho Code 63-005. Rep. Bolz mentioned that the Attorney General's opinion given on the liability issue can be provided to the committee as well, and said these provisions also pertain to outfitters and guides.

MOTION: **Rep. Dayley** made a motion to introduce **RS 21899**. **Motion carried by voice vote**.

At this point, **Chairman Andrus** turned the gavel over to **Vice Chairman Boyle**.

RS 21830: **Chairman Andrus** presented **RS 21830** on the topic of Animal Care. He noted that the treatment and torture of animals is a controversial issue. He has listened to animal welfare groups and the public. Chairman Andrus believes a reasonable approach is set forth in this proposed legislation. Legislation last year provided a felony penalty for organized cock fighting if drugs, gambling, spurs or gaffs were involved in planning or hosting the event. This was due to the cruel and intentional infliction of pain or death to animals in this sport. The above legislation passed last year. This year's proposed legislation includes a definition for 'torture' as the knowing and willful infliction of unjustifiable and extreme or prolonged pain with the intent to cause suffering. This does not apply to accidents or normal, legal agricultural practices or production animals, only to companion animals. Chairman Andrus offered that companion animals are usually cats, dogs, or perhaps horses, if used for companionship only and not for production. The penalty for torture of a companion animal would be a misdemeanor for the first or second offense, then a felony charge if convicted of a third violation. With past legislation, it has been difficult to prove malicious intent. Thus, Chairman Andrus noted that there is a need for clarification and penalties on companion animal torture. He described resistance and potential threats from outside organizations if no provision is made on this issue. It could be problematic if others come forward, pressing their interpretation of animal neglect, or try to apply this to agricultural practices or production animals. He believes this is a reasonable stand that satisfies various groups involved.

In answer to questions, **Chairman Andrus** responded that steps need to be taken to satisfy animal rights advocates and show a good effort to protect companion animals from cruel and unnecessary abuse. Otherwise, he indicated that stronger measures would be taken by these groups, with bolder advertising and influence on the ballot to push for animal neglect as a felony. Chairman Andrus expressed trepidation that there are different degrees and interpretations of neglect. He is more comfortable putting forth a third offense of animal torture of companion animals as a felony, which is a compromise to satisfy the groups involved. He asserted that if other organizations spur a movement to get neglect on the books as a felony for a first or second time offense, it will greatly affect the agricultural industry, as it relates to the treatment of production animals. The Chairman admitted that the agricultural industry does not want to torture animals. When it comes to branding time, for instance, he answered that normal agricultural practices are excluded in this proposed legislation. Concerning resistance to similar legislation last year, Chairman Andrus conceded that the Senate refused to give it a hearing, due to amendments needed on cock fighting and the term 'torture'. He hopes that a hearing will allow for further discussion, in order to reach an acceptable resolution for all parties on animal care.

MOTION: **Rep. Erpelding** made a motion to introduce **RS 21830**. **Motion carried by voice vote**.

ADJOURN: There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting adjourned at 2:25 p.m.

Representative Andrus
Chair

Kim Jensen-Porter
Secretary

AGENDA

HOUSE AGRICULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

1:30 P.M.
Room EW42
Tuesday, February 12, 2013

SUBJECT	DESCRIPTION	PRESENTER
	Soil and Water Conservation Commission Update	Teri Murrison
	Idaho Association of Soil Conservation Districts	Bret Rumbeck
H 111	Animal Care	Chairman Andrus

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Chairman Andrus
Vice Chairman Boyle
Rep Bolz
Rep McMillan
Rep Batt
Rep Bell
Rep Agidius
Rep Dayley
Rep Miller
Rep Romrell
Rep Stevenson
Rep VanOrden
Rep Pence
Rep Erpelding

COMMITTEE SECRETARY

Kim Jensen-Porter
Room: EW11
Phone: 332-1137
email: hagri@house.idaho.gov

MINUTES

HOUSE AGRICULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

DATE: Tuesday, February 12, 2013

TIME: 1:30 P.M.

PLACE: Room EW42

MEMBERS: Chairman Andrus, Vice Chairman Boyle, Representatives Bolz, McMillan, Batt, Bell, Agidius, Dayley, Miller, Romrell, Stevenson, VanOrden, Pence, Erpelding

ABSENT/ EXCUSED: None.

GUESTS: Steve Becker, Bret Rumbeck, IASCD; Teri Murrison, Dick Bronson, SWCC; Wyoma Clouss, self, Idaho Dog Coalition; Lisa Kauffman, HSUS; Sean Ellis, Capital Press; Brent Olmstead, Milk Producers; Dar Olberding, IGPA; Jim Lowe, Food Producers of Idaho; Christina Marfice, Boise Weekly.

Chairman Andrus called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m.

Teri Murrison, Administrator, Idaho Soil and Water Conservation Commission (ISWCC), presented an update from her Commission. She outlined their staff and commissioners, who work in partnership with Idaho's Soil and Water Conservation Districts, Natural Resource Conservation Service, Idaho District Employees Association, and Idaho Association of Soil Conservation Districts. Together they function to conserve soil, water, air, plant, and animal resources in Idaho. This encompasses more than dust and erosion issues. Ms. Murrison stated that they also work in tandem with farmers, ranchers, local groups, the public, and other states to address problems, as well as voluntary and cooperative projects. Their goal is to benefit Idahoans and maintain natural resources in the same or better condition, with respect for landowner confidentiality and private property rights. The intent is to keep Idaho beautiful and productive with intelligent use of natural resources. She conveyed their continuing efforts to do more with less, along with prioritizing, recommending, reviewing, and streamlining, as they pertain to the Commission's funding and staff workload. Ms. Murrison recognized the individual districts around the state and the progress they've made.

Bret Rumbeck, Executive Director, Idaho Association of Soil Conservation Districts (IASCD), presented an update. He commented that there are 50 soil conservation districts in Idaho which provide assistance to landowners and land users in sustaining, improving, and enhancing Idaho's natural resources. He recognized various association officers and expressed the vision and mission of the districts: to lead voluntary, local, non-regulatory conservation efforts throughout the state. Mr. Rumbeck described both urban and rural conservation, primarily regarding water and soil. He represents the unified voice of the districts. He mentioned noteworthy projects involving river bank stabilization, water quality improvement, and irrigation service. Mr. Rumbeck remarked that many Idahoans work the land and depend on it to make a living. They must conserve resources for their lifestyle and businesses to be sustainable. He recommends a balanced approach that is also committed to production agriculture. Much effort goes into district planning and providing vital information statewide to prevent soil degradation and erosion, and keeping water quality clear. The IASCD also partners with the ISWCC, Natural Resources Conservation Service, and Idaho District Employees Association, including the coordination and implementation of state and national conservation and training programs.

Chairman Andrus handed the gavel over to **Vice Chairman Boyle**.

H 111: **Chairman Andrus** presented information on **H 111**, Animal Care. He spoke to the purpose of the amendment crafted this morning. He received notification last night that the bill may be in conflict with Idaho Code. An amendment was drafted that will change the code to provide a felony penalty. (Idaho Code 25-3502 currently specifies a misdemeanor charge for animal cruelty). He explained that if the amendment is approved, it will go to General Orders with amendments attached.

Chairman Andrus described the history of the bill from last year, **H 650**, which was amended with**S 1303**. This legislation added a felony charge on the third offense for animal cruelty with 'malicious intent'. However, Chairman Andrus expressed concern that this is difficult to prove in a courtroom, so animal welfare groups are pushing strongly for legislation that deals with animal 'torture'. In meeting with various groups, he was continually told that torture needed to be defined or this topic would come up on a ballot initiative. Chairman Andrus explained that **H 111** specifically addresses torture to a companion animal. This bill adds the definition of torture as the knowing and willful infliction of unjustifiable and extreme or prolonged pain with the intent to cause suffering. He stated this would not apply to accidents or lawful, normal agricultural practices, or unintentional suffering of animals. With this legislation, the first and second offenses would be misdemeanors and the third would be a felony, if convicted.

In response to concerns, **Chairman Andrus** asserted that there is an organization called "One of Three" that wants a first offense for animal torture to be considered as a felony. Last summer, they collected signatures for a ballot initiative, which included 8,000 more names than needed. However, some of these were rejected for inaccuracy or were not presented on correct paper to be recognized. Chairman Andrus believes they will pursue this again and legislation is needed to avoid such an initiative possibly being passed, which would set a felony penalty for a first offense of animal cruelty.

Wyoma Clouss, Idaho Dog Coalition, **testified in favor of the bill**. She indicated that their coalition advocates responsible ownership, communication, education and sound public policy. She believes that addressing animal torture and providing a definition is necessary, and that this is different from neglect or other mistreatment. Ms. Clouss said torture is a more serious, problem behavior. She would like to see immediate consequences for animal torture, if convicted. She emphasized the importance of animal welfare as it relates to this bill and stressed the need for this legislation. She added that her coalition would prefer felony as a first offense for torture of companion or production animals.

Lisa Kauffman, Idaho Director, Humane Society, **testified in favor of the bill**. She addressed the overlap between animal abuse, child abuse, elder abuse, and domestic violence. She referenced a presentation made last week by Allie Phillips, Deputy Director of the National Center for Prosecution of Animal Abuse, and affirmed that 110 prosecutors attended this seminar, in consideration of animal cruelty, abuse, torture, and the link to domestic violence. Ms. Kauffman gave statistics that most adult abusers and batterers began first abusing animals in their adolescent years, before abusing people. She claims this is a control issue, to intimidate and punish their victims. She shared multiple stories of people who had severely beaten and sadistically tortured animals.

Ms. Kauffman disclosed that many times an abuser will threaten to hurt a family pet to keep their partner from leaving the relationship. Also individuals or children who witness animal cruelty are more likely to be perpetrators. She indicated that there is also a link between animal cruelty and bullying or antisocial behaviors. Most inmates in prisons had hurt or killed a pet, or been exposed to that as a child. Ms. Kauffman maintained that animal abusers need psychological evaluations and intense counseling to prevent further abuse or incarceration for other violent crimes that are likely to follow. She testified that this bill would not affect livestock or livestock practices. She would prefer addressing these issues through the proposed legislation, as opposed to the ballot initiative that she believes will be instigated by "One of Three" if this bill does not pass.

In response to letters and emails regarding the distinction between production animals versus companion animals on this bill, **Ms. Kauffman** said she would support a felony offense for any type of animal torture, but recognizes that the agricultural industry is not supportive of this applying to production animals. Regarding a definition for companion animals, she offered that this is contained on page one, line 22 of the bill. Relating to the lack of a felony offense for child abuse on the books, Ms. Kauffman answered that she wishes someone would come forth with this type of legislation. She expects that the legal system will need stronger standards and definitions for the various aspects of abuse, like cruelty, torture, and neglect. This will aid in successful prosecution of these offenses. Pertaining to sentencing, she noted that animal abuse currently carries a misdemeanor charge. Prosecutors have had to become creative to press stiffer charges on the worst cases. She claimed that judges need the ability to sentence those responsible for these crimes and get them some mental help. On the topic of young children torturing animals for amusement, Ms. Kauffman suggested that young children would not be charged with a felony penalty.

Brent Olmstead, Executive Director, Milk Producers of Idaho, commented that he does not support or oppose **H 111**. However, he expressed concern for possible ramifications down the road if legislation would be crafted involving abuse or torture of production animals. He believes the current legislation is well-intentioned, but poses some consternation for milk producers, as things tend to happen in small pieces, i.e. death by a thousand cuts. He mentioned that many people raised in urban areas do not understand normal agricultural procedures, such as dehorning calves. Their interpretation of torture would be different from generations of those raised on farms. He is confident that these issues will come up on ballot measures. He referenced the new formation of an animal law section with the State Bar Association. Mr. Olmstead stated he does not condone animal torture; he represents many dairymen who love their pets. In response to doubts of production animals being included in future legislation for animal torture, he pointed out that many more urban districts have recently been created, resulting in fewer legislators with knowledge of normal and acceptable agricultural practices. He also submitted that the state of Ohio has been targeted for stricter animal cruelty laws, as they pertain to production animals, so others have already started down this slippery slope.

Chairman Andrus concluded his remarks by addressing the specific concerns brought up surrounding **H 111**. He expressed anxiety over threats made by animal welfare groups and a probable ballot initiative if this legislation does not pass. He emphasized the necessary addition of a definition for torture, meaning intent to cause suffering. He implored the Committee to consider the promises that have been made and weigh them. He also signified the need to protect normal animal production practices. He clarified that a ballot initiative will focus on a felony charge for a first offense of animal neglect, which could lead to problems with interpretation.

Chairman Andrus gave an example of allegations of animal neglect, where a veterinarian was called upon to inspect some horses, which were declared to be fine and not suffering. The Humane Society disagreed; this was a difference of opinion and interpretation involving neglect. Chairman Andrus related another incident of sheep in a pasture with a frozen water hydrant. A sheriff had filed a complaint for cruelty that the sheep were not being watered, although it was later determined that water from a nearby river was available and the sheep were not suffering. Another example he gave involved animals in a pasture without a direct water source, where the owner was turned in. It was subsequently proven though that the animals were being taken out and watered everyday. He pointed out that however well-intentioned these allegations were, the facts were subject to misinterpretation, which adversely affected the animal's owners. He observed how tragic it would be for felony charges to be applied in these situations. He remarked that if the ballots secure neglect as a felony, it will similarly affect pet owners too.

Chairman Andrus recounted another story about a load of cows that was being transported to California for slaughtering and processing. On the way, a calf was unexpectedly born. The processor could not handle the calf, so it was necessary to transport the calf back home to Idaho. The driver was on his way back, with the intention to purchase milk along the way to feed the calf, when the trailer broke down. He left the trailer temporarily for help. Meanwhile, a highway patrol came along and had the calf taken to a shelter, assuming it was not being cared for. The driver was charged with three felonies in Nevada during this process. It was subsequently determined that the calf was not doing well at the shelter and the owner discovered it was being fed dog food. He stressed that unintended consequences will happen.

Chairman Andrus stated that this bill is as far as he will go with a felony penalty charge, if someone is convicted of torture to a companion animal for a third time. He wants to be able to say that the legislature has acted to protect companion animals, instead of letting a ballot initiative determine a first time felony for perceived cruelty, as opposed to intentional torture of companion or production animals.

Responding to questions regarding common pets, **Chairman Andrus** indicated that research animals are different from companionship animals. Surely a judge would differentiate between torture of traditional companion animals versus animals with other express research or production purposes, which were not intended in this legislation. In connection with questions on animal welfare and curbing animal abuse, he noted that **H 111** may not stop some of the tragedies we hear about, but he believes it is better than doing nothing. He again affirmed that, if approved by the Committee, this bill would go to General Orders with the amendment attached.

MOTION: **Rep. Erpelding** made a motion to send **H 111** to General Orders with amendments attached. **Motion carried by voice vote**. **Reps. Batt, Bell, Bolz, and Van Orden** requested to be recorded as voting **NAY**. **Chairman Andrus** will sponsor the bill on the floor.

MOTION: **Rep. Pence** made a motion to approve the minutes of the February 4, 2013 meeting. **Motion carried by voice vote**.

MOTION: **Rep. Pence** made a motion to approve the minutes of the February 6, 2013 meeting. **Motion carried by voice vote**.

ADJOURN: There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting adjourned at 2:55 p.m.

Representative Andrus
Chair

Kim Jensen-Porter
Secretary

AGENDA

HOUSE AGRICULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

1:30 P.M.
Room EW42
Thursday, February 14, 2013

SUBJECT	DESCRIPTION	PRESENTER
	U of I Rangeland Resource Center Update	Dr. Karen Launchbaugh, Director
	Idaho Grain Producers Association Report	Dar Olberding, Legislative Advisor
H 113	Agritourism Promotion Act	Jim Lowe, Owner Farmstead Cornmaze
H 110	Dairy Products Commission	Rep. Vander Woude
H 112	Honey Advertising Commission	Benjamin Kelly, Legislative Advisor

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Chairman Andrus
Vice Chairman Boyle
Rep Bolz
Rep McMillan
Rep Batt
Rep Bell
Rep Agidius
Rep Dayley
Rep Miller
Rep Romrell
Rep Stevenson
Rep VanOrden
Rep Pence
Rep Erpelding

COMMITTEE SECRETARY

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MINUTES

HOUSE AGRICULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

DATE: Thursday, February 14, 2013

TIME: 1:30 P.M.

PLACE: Room EW42

MEMBERS: Chairman Andrus, Vice Chairman Boyle, Representatives Bolz, McMillan, Batt, Bell, Agidius, Dayley, Miller, Romrell, Stevenson, VanOrden, Pence, Erpelding

ABSENT/ EXCUSED: Vice Chairman Boyle

GUESTS: Dennis Tanikuni, Idaho Farm Bureau; Dar Olberding, Idaho Grain Producers; Benjamin Kelly, Idaho Honey Industry Association; Rick Waitley, Food Producers of Idaho; Jennifer Allmeier, Boys and Girls Clubs of Idaho; Kristen Thompson, Idaho Ag in the Classroom; Barbara Jorden, Idaho Trial Lawyers Association; Laura Johnson, Katlin Davis, ISDA; Sean Ellis, Capital Press; Jim Lowe, Farmstead Cornmaze; Lee Rice, Rice Family Farms; Bob Naerebout, Idaho Dairymen's Association; Mike Gilmore, Attorney General's Office; Deana Sessions, Susan Buxton, Jill Holinka, Idaho Dairy Products Commission; Suzanne Budge, SBS Associates.

Chairman Andrus called the meeting to order at 1:33 p.m.

Chairman Andrus expressed his appreciation for this session's page, **Juritzi Enriquez**. He thanked her for her diligent service.

Chairman Andrus mentioned to the committee that he would be making agricultural budget recommendations to JFAC tomorrow morning. He commented that he intends to request funding for agricultural research, which benefits our state.

Dr. Karen Launchbaugh, Director, University of Idaho, Rangeland Resource Center, presented an update to the Committee. She indicated that she grew up on a ranch and has enjoyed studying rangelands. She pointed out that most of Idaho is made up of various types of rangelands, including farmlands and resources for grazing. Dr. Launchbaugh explained the challenges facing Idaho, including unsustainable grazing practices, wildland fires, invasive species, concerns for sage-grouse, climate change, and human developments. She described the formation of the Rangeland Resource Center, with experts getting together from various science disciplines to address these issues. Their center is now part of the state code, striving to keep Idaho's rangelands healthy. They have commenced projects and partnerships, including an information system, rangeland science guide, and scientific journal of rangeland applications. Dr. Launchbaugh pointed out their strong undergraduate program, educating and training the next generation of rangeland managers. She also described her help on the Governor's task force to understand the dilemmas facing Idaho's sage-grouse.

Dr. Beth Newingham, Assistant Professor, U of I, mentioned several projects she is involved with at the Rangeland Resource Center. She noted post-fire rehabilitation efforts and the birds of prey conservation area. She also stressed the importance of sharing what they've learned across multiple science disciplines.

Dr. Launchbaugh commented on an ongoing, long-term project to study how spring livestock grazing influences sage-grouse populations. Three sites will document the survival and demographics of sage-grouse, how many chicks they hatch, if they survive to adulthood, how fire affects their population, and their habitat characteristics. However, more funding is needed for research. Regarding questions about the challenges facing Idaho's rangelands, Dr. Launchbaugh answered that the biggest concern for lower elevation sagebrush habitat is annual grasses, which fuel wildfire. Certain types come on sooner and dry out sooner. She countered that grazing can reduce and manage cheatgrass in the spring, to reduce fuel for potential wildfires. In relation to more funding for research, she maintained those monies could help cover staff or summer salaries, finding partners, and gas to reach the study areas. Pertaining to Dr. Launchbaugh's staff positions with the U of I, she clarified that she is the Department Chair for the U of I's Department of Rangeland Ecology & Management, and that the Rangeland Resource Center is a separate group, which she also directs.

Dar Olberding, Legislative Advisor, Idaho Grain Producers Association, presented an update to the Committee. He recognized the attendance of various members of this association. He indicated that they travel to different growers and communities around the state. He expressed that some of his time is spent working on field burning, lien laws, depredation of animals, and consulting with the Idaho Department of Fish and Game. He explained the term "falling numbers" and how test scores less than 300 could indicate farmers losing up to 45% of their grain. He referenced an endowment of two million dollars to the U of I to aid in important research. He also described the magazines that his association distributes to wheat growers in Idaho. They additionally direct seed workshops and webinars. Mr. Olberding related that one of the highlights of this past year was attending the Ag Summit, wherein the grain industry received a Governor's Award.

H 113:

Jim Lowe, Farmstead Cornmaze, presented **H 113**, Idaho Agritourism Promotion Act. He stated that he farms real crops in Kuna and runs a pumpkin festival with a cornmaze in the fall in Meridian. This secondary endeavor is referred to as agritourism, which has gained popularity in recent years. Mr. Lowe maintained that agritourism is an opportunity for agriculture to tell its story to an increasingly urban population. It provides hands on farm experience and reconnects the public with the producers of their food supply. He maintained that agritourism connects and educates generations, many times with grandparents starting to reminisce with their children or grandchildren about life on the farm. Mr. Lowe also commented that agritourism is a means of diversification and supplemental income for farms. It can be a point of entry for young people starting out in agriculture, with a desire to farm, but little capital to get started. Mr. Lowe observed that there is a need to define and clarify some features unique to the growing agritourism industry. **H 113** would address agritourism as it pertains to Idaho by providing definitions, specifying risks and liability issues (inherent to participating in a farm activity), and defining tax status.

Mr. Lowe proceeded to outline these provisions in the bill. He defined agritourism as activities that take place on a farm or ranch for recreational, entertainment, or educational purposes, like a farm festival, dude ranch, you pick fruit or vegetables, vineyard tours, etc. Potential agritourism operators have concerns for safety and liability for injury to participants. Mr. Lowe claimed this is not a new concept in Idaho, since there are limited liability clauses for outfitters and guides, equine activities, sport shooting, and others. This legislation would stipulate that providers must post signage with specified language, warning participants that risks exist and that by participating, they assume those risks. However, this does not include protection for operator negligence or disregard for safety. Mr. Lowe explained that the final provision in the bill spells out the presence of agritourism activities will not impact the property tax status for that farm, so long as the land is still considered actively

devoted to agriculture. He maintained this was included because agritourism often occurs along with production agriculture. He wants potential agritourism operators to proceed with confidence that liability concerns and tax implications are clarified, and that appropriate protections are in place for all involved.

Concerning the requirement for signage, **Mr. Lowe** commented that with the sign in place, the operator is afforded the protection of the Idaho Code, as long as the guidelines are followed. He also believes that establishing a bureaucracy to handle agritourism is not needed for Idaho at this time.

Dennis Tanikuni, Lobbyist for Idaho Farm Bureau, **testified in support of H 113**. He has many members that supplement their income with agritourism and believes this bill will make it easier for agricultural producers to enhance their opportunities by attracting city folks to the country.

Jennifer Allmeier, Nutrition Director, Boys and Girls Club of Ada County, **testified in support of H 113**. She indicated that the Boys and Girls Club provides snacks and dinners to local children, while educating them on nutrition and introducing them to locally sourced, healthy meals. They have taken the children on field trips to local farms, including orchards and ranches, where the children have picked fruit and berries, to encourage their appreciation of food and how it is grown. Ms. Allmeier said she is grateful for agritourism opportunities that support local communities and promote locally grown food.

Barbara Jorden, with the Idaho Trial Lawyers Association, appealed to the committee on the liability portion of **H 113**. She submitted that they support and encourage this bill, but would recommend a couple of changes to the warning sign that states the risks to the public and the business. She commented that if more wording is added to the sign, the letter size could be reduced to one half inch tall, so that the overall warning sign size could be reduced. Upon questioning, Ms. Jorden stated that this warning is a benefit to the public and also to attorneys, if representing someone injured at an agritourism event. She wanted to ensure that people attending the event understand the law. She answered further that the law could be referenced on the sign, instead of putting on additional wording, as previously mentioned.

Jim Lowe responded that he would not be opposed to referencing the law on the warning sign. He acknowledged that if more wording was added, it may become cumbersome and less effective. Regarding the Attorney General's opinion on the liability section, **Rep. Bolz** confirmed that the language on the sign was sufficient. Concerning the possibility of a written contract or waiver, Mr. Lowe made clear that this is not practical for all types of agritourism with larger crowds in seasonal windows of time. Rep. Bolz suggested that referencing the applicable code on the warning sign was preferable to adding more language to the sign. Ms. Jorden confirmed that this would satisfy the Trial Lawyers as well, although they would favor the extended wording.

Lee Rice, Rice Family Farms, **testified in favor of H 113**. He stated he operates a small organic farm by Kuna and Meridian. He realized that third party organizations, such as school children and teachers or farming associations, had come to tour his farm in the past, and believes that these educational opportunities are important. He wants to encourage farmers to participate in hosting these types of events, whether for education or entertainment. He believes this legislation will help those touring and the farmers too.

Rick Waitley, Food Producers of Idaho, and Idaho Ag in the Classroom, also **testified in favor of H 113**. He said he had approached an attorney about creating a waiver of liability statement for teachers who bring children onto farms for field trips. His organization sponsors workshops, tours, graduation credits, and represents many farmers and ranchers throughout the state. He believes this is vitally important legislation, to uphold and encourage agritourism experiences in Idaho.

MOTION: **Rep. Dayley** made a motion to send **H 113** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation.

Chairman Andrus clarified that this motion would send the bill as written, without any amendments. He pointed out that for the Committee to incorporate a reference to the statute on the warning sign, it would necessitate adding an amendment to the bill.

SUBSTITUTE MOTION: **Rep. Pence** made a substitute motion to send **H 113** to General Orders with amendments attached.

Chairman Andrus affirmed that the amendment would need to be defined.

MOTION WITHDRAWN: **Rep. Pence** withdrew her substitute motion.

SUBSTITUTE MOTION: **Rep. Pence** made a substitute motion to **HOLD H 113** for time certain, until Monday, February 18, 2013. **Motion carried by voice vote**.

H 110: **Rep. Vander Woude** presented **H 110**, on the Idaho Dairy Products Commission. He indicated that he works in the dairy industry and brought advisors from the Dairy Commission. He remarked that the purpose of this legislation is to amend Idaho Code, Title 25, Chapter 31, to make technical corrections, revise antiquated verbiage, and to align a section of the code with similar language for other commodity commissions in the state. Some of these changes include amending the title of 'Administrator' to 'Director', which helps with marketing, hiring, and public relations. This creates uniformity and avoids confusion with other similar commodity commissions. It also aligns bond requirements and clarifies liability for the State of Idaho, in line with the language of other similar commission statutes.

MOTION: **Rep. Batt** made a motion to send **H 110** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation. **Motion carried by voice vote**. **Rep. Vander Woude** will sponsor the bill on the floor.

H 112: **Benjamin Kelly**, Executive Assistant, Honey Advertising Commission, presented **H 112**. He stated he represents commercial and hobby beekeepers throughout Idaho. This commission is housed and managed by the Department of Agriculture. He explained the commission has three members appointed for three year terms, and they meet once every fiscal year. He defined that this legislation will adjust the compensation for members of the commission, from $15 per day to $50 per day. This is an honorarium to reimburse for actual and necessary expenses. He noted that recent legislation regarding the adulteration of honey has increased the duties of the commission. The proposed increase is in accordance with various other commissions in the state and would prevent frequent future adjustments through the legislative process.

MOTION: **Rep. VanOrden** made a motion to send **H 112** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation. **Motion carried by voice vote**. **Rep. Bolz** will sponsor the bill on the floor.

ADJOURN: There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting adjourned at 2:57 p.m.

Representative Andrus
Chair

Kim Jensen-Porter
Secretary

AGENDA

HOUSE AGRICULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

1:30 P.M.
Room EW42
Monday, February 18, 2013

SUBJECT	DESCRIPTION	PRESENTER
	Idaho Sheep Commission Update	Stan Boyd, Executive Secretary
	Genetically Modified Seed Update	Trent Clark, Director of Public & Government Affairs, Monsanto
H 96	Idaho Veterinary Board	Carol Youtz, Acting Director
H 97	Idaho Veterinary Board, licenses	Carol Youtz, Acting Director
H 113	Agritourism Promotion Act	Jim Lowe, Farmstead Cornmaze

If you have written testimony, please provide a copy of it to the committee secretary to ensure accuracy of records.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Chairman Andrus
Vice Chairman Boyle
Rep Bolz
Rep McMillan
Rep Batt
Rep Bell
Rep Agidius
Rep Dayley
Rep Miller
Rep Romrell
Rep Stevenson
Rep VanOrden
Rep Pence
Rep Erpelding

COMMITTEE SECRETARY

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MINUTES

HOUSE AGRICULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

DATE: Monday, February 18, 2013

TIME: 1:30 P.M.

PLACE: Room EW42

MEMBERS: Chairman Andrus, Vice Chairman Boyle, Representatives Bolz, McMillan, Batt, Bell, Agidius, Dayley, Miller, Romrell, Stevenson, VanOrden, Pence, Erpelding

ABSENT/ EXCUSED: None.

GUESTS: Elli Brown, Veritas Advisors LLP; Carol Youtz, Board of Veterinary Medicine; Sean Ellis, Capital Press; Brent Olmstead, Milk Producers; Stan Boyd, Wool Growers; Dennis Tanikuni, Frank Priestley, Idaho Farm Bureau; Jim Lowe, Farmstead Cornmaze; Rachael Raue; Christina Rutledge, GMO Idaho; Douglas Jones.

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

Chairman Andrus introduced the committee's new page, **Esther Frederick**, from Meridian, Idaho.

Stan Boyd, Idaho Sheep Commission, presented an update. He noted that legislation last year changed the board's name to Idaho Sheep and Goat Health Board. He affirmed they are self-governing under the Idaho Department of Agriculture, Division of Animal Industries, with five commissioners. He explained that the board can assess wool at eight cents per pound. This goes to animal damage control and research and promotion. He claimed that there are about 60 sheep operations in Idaho, which utilize public lands and their own grounds. He remarked that Idaho ranks 7th in the U.S. for wool production.

Mr. Boyd disclosed that monies from the commission are used for services to wool growers; they underwrite a bulletin to educate on lamb practices, bring in speakers and specialists to visit with wool growers, conduct a wool and lamb quality improvement program, address new and proper aspects of animal care, and best harvesting practices. He submitted statistics of last year's lamb prices being too high, then crashing; they have slowly come back up this year.

In regards to questioning, **Mr. Boyd** replied that alpaca producers may join the Sheep Commission, but there are currently so few in Idaho that he is not aware of any present members. Concerning the number of goats in Idaho, he believes there are about 16,000. Relating to those who do not pay the wool assessment, Mr. Boyd confirmed that some producers in north Idaho go to Spokane, out of state, and are difficult to collect. Most of the larger flocks in the state do pay; he estimated about 80% of growers pay the assessment.

Trent Clark, Director of Public and Government Affairs, Monsanto (Idaho), introduced **George Gough**, Director of Government Affairs, Monsanto (California), who presented an update on genetically modified seeds. Mr. Gough stated his expertise in agricultural biotechnology. He commented Monsanto has Idaho locations in Filer, Nampa, Payette, and Soda Springs. He remarked that they sell Round Up brand weed killer to worldwide markets. The division in Nampa grows vegetable seeds for worldwide distribution.

Mr. Gough mentioned four platforms: seed and genomics, technology (including breeding, research and development), agricultural productivity, and other crops like wheat and sugarcane. He asserted that biotechnology offers advantages over traditional plant breeding. He explained that with biotechnology, they insert key genes for strength and yield. They can also insert genes that stop pests from feeding, which cannot be done with conventional breeding. He said Monsanto wants to make sure their food or feed is safe or nutritionally equivalent for humans and animals, their plants are safe for the environment, and that they are not creating a new crop pest.

Mr. Gough defined that other countries grow genetically modified crops with their own regulations. He conveyed that growers have found real benefits in productivity, pesticide reduction, good economic return, and less greenhouse gas or CO2 emissions. Mr. Gough expressed concerns that global population is increasing and farmers will need to produce more with less available arable land. He maintained that current Monsanto objectives include improved weed management, pest and disease protection, stress tolerance, and yield. He submitted that the biggest challenge for growers is weed control, which robs crops of yield and moisture.

Mr. Gough pointed out other Monsanto projects, including improvements in canola, wheat and vegetables. He noted that pests, fungi and viruses are other challenges. He described how the U.S. is losing ability to compete globally due to low yield in the wheat industry. Mr. Gough indicated that fruits and vegetables also face problems with diseases which affect yield and natural plant defenses. Innovations are on the horizon to improve taste, nutrition, health and shelf life.

With reference to questions on an increased value to producers, **Mr. Gough** claimed that if a grower can produce more at less cost, his value is greater and also passes benefits on to the consumer.

H 96: **Carol Youtz**, Acting Director, Idaho Veterinary Board, presented **H 96**. She explained that this bill addresses housekeeping changes for certified veterinary and euthanasia technicians. It also ensures that technicians graduate from an accredited program. She specified that a name change is included for a national veterinary medical association.

In response to questions on training, **Ms. Youtz** clarified that two years must be completed for a certified veterinarian technician; however, euthanasia is different and requires one day of intense training for proper certification.

MOTION: **Rep. Erpelding** made a motion to send **H 96** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation. **Motion carried by voice vote**. **Rep. Erpelding** will sponsor the bill on the floor.

H 97: **Carol Youtz**, Acting Director, Idaho Veterinary Board, presented **H 97**. She indicated that all original application fees will be made nonrefundable. This will enable the office to recover substantial expenses in processing applications and requesting documents from other states, which may take about ten hours total. Also she remarked that the positive fiscal impact is less than originally reported, showing after further research, these numbers are closer to $200 or $300 per year, instead of $1000-2000.

Concerning the cost of application fees, **Ms. Youtz** answered that the application fee is $275, plus a $34 criminal background check.

MOTION; **Rep. Agidius** make a motion to send **H 97** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation. **Motion carried by voice vote**. **Rep. Agidius** will sponsor the bill on the floor.

H 113: **Rep. Bolz** updated the committee on the amendment for **H 113**. He stated that they had come to an agreement on the language and would have the amendment ready for the next meeting.

MOTION: **Rep. Bolz** made a motion to **HOLD H 113** for time certain **February 20, 2013**. **Motion carried by voice vote**.

ADJOURN: There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting adjourned at 2:35 p.m.

Representative Andrus
Chair

Kim Jensen-Porter
Secretary

AGENDA

HOUSE AGRICULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

1:30 P.M.
Room EW42
Wednesday, February 20, 2013

SUBJECT	DESCRIPTION	PRESENTER
H 175	Livestock Liens	Larry Hayhurst, State Brand Inspector
H 113	Agritourism Promotion Act	Jim Lowe, Farmstead Cornmaze
	The Value of An Education in Agriculture	Seth Pratt, FFA, U of I student
	Idaho Department of Water Resources Update	Gary Spackman, Director Brian Patton, Bureau Planning Chief
	Idaho Potato Commission Update	Frank Muir, President

If you have written testimony, please provide a copy of it to the committee secretary to ensure accuracy of records.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Chairman Andrus
Vice Chairman Boyle
Rep Bolz
Rep McMillan
Rep Batt
Rep Bell
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Rep Dayley
Rep Miller
Rep Romrell
Rep Stevenson
Rep VanOrden
Rep Pence
Rep Erpelding

COMMITTEE SECRETARY

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MINUTES

HOUSE AGRICULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

DATE: Wednesday, February 20, 2013

TIME: 1:30 P.M.

PLACE: Room EW42

MEMBERS: Chairman Andrus, Vice Chairman Boyle, Representatives Bolz, McMillan, Batt, Bell, Agidius, Dayley, Miller, Romrell, Stevenson, VanOrden, Pence, Erpelding

ABSENT/ EXCUSED: None.

GUESTS: Gary Spackman, Brian Patton, IDWR; Dennis Tanikuni, Kent Lauer, Idaho Farm Bureau; Sean Ellis, Capital Press; Jim Lowe, The Farmstead; Barbara Jorden, ITLA; Benjamin Kelly, Food Producers of Idaho; Dar Olberding, Idaho Grain Producers.

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

MOTION: **Rep. Pence** made a motion to approve the minutes of the February 12, 2013 meeting. **Motion carried by voice vote**.

MOTION: **Rep. Pence** made a motion to approve the minutes of the February 14, 2013 meeting with the following correction: on page two, paragraph two, change how many chicks they "lay" to how many chicks they "hatch". **Motion carried by voice vote**.

H 175: **Larry Hayhurst**, State Brand Inspector, presented **H 175**, Livestock Liens. He stated this bill is a clean up from last year, which was to help the horse industry with horse sales to the public and liens when necessary. He noted that the cattle portion was missed and was an oversight last year, to separate bovine from equine. This legislation would allow cattle to be sold at a public auction, but horses could be sold at auction, other than through a public auction. He said the Idaho Auction Association, Idaho Farm Bureau, Idaho Horse Council, and other affiliated parties are in agreement and support this legislation.

MOTION: **Rep. Bolz** made a motion to send **H 175** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation. **Motion carried by voice vote**. **Rep. McMillan** will sponsor the bill on the floor.

H 113: **Jim Lowe**, Farmstead Cornmaze, presented **H 113**, Agritourism Promotion Act. He explained that this bill was presented to the committee last week with wide support; however, they heard testimony with recommendations on the warning sign for liability. An amendment has been drafted to simplify the warning sign and include reference to Idaho Code. Members of the industry and the Trial Lawyers Association are pleased with the changes. In answer to questions, Mr. Lowe clarified that wording from the amendment would be on the sign.

MOTION: **Rep. Bolz** made a motion to send **H 113** to General Orders with amendments attached. **Motion carried by voice vote**. **Rep. Bolz** will sponsor the bill on the floor.

Seth Pratt, FFA, U of I student, presented on the value of an education in agriculture. He believes the individual experience of each student and the knowledge they gain are invaluable. He related many stories of fellow students in the College of Agriculture who excel and want to contribute to the industry. His experience in FFA began as the Idaho President, traveling, conducting workshops, teaching about agricultural careers, and expounding on the diversity of agriculture in Idaho. He spoke about training, visiting campuses, and the importance of human interaction.

Mr. Pratt noted that he felt drawn back to Idaho to finish his agricultural education, as an intern at the U of I, College of Agriculture. He has enjoyed attending the Ag Summit and activities at the Capitol this last week. He submitted that the U of I provides these opportunities for their students, who then go out and make a difference.

Gary Spackman, Director, Idaho Department of Water Resources, presented an update. He explained the recent effort to rewrite the State Water Plan, which was last updated in 1996. He then introduced **Bryan Patton**, Bureau Planning Chief, IDWR, who presented more information.

Mr. Patton addressed the recent rewrite of the State Water Plan and changes needed. He said the new version was adopted on November 28th, 2012 and submitted to the Legislature for consideration. He stated that this plan for the state's use of water resources was directed by the Idaho Constitution and statute. One responsibility is to provide funding for canal districts. He mentioned recent projects funded by their board and the recent purchase of trout farms in the Thousand Springs area, involving pumping water from the aquifer. He detailed how ground water users entered a voluntary purchase agreement.

Mr. Patton talked about the Eastern Snake River Plain Aquifer (ESPA). He explained that water loss from this important aquifer has decreased water storage to the point that in 2006, the Legislature asked the Idaho Water Resource Board to develop a plan for aquifer recharge. They developed a Comprehensive Aquifer Management Plan (CAMP), using the best available science and methods. He outlined one strategy to capture and deliver water, to offset groundwater pumping. Another area of concern is the Upper Salmon River Basin. He defined potential conflicts between agricultural water users and water needs for listed fish species. He discussed drilling operations by Weiser and the potential to raise Arrowrock Dam by Boise. He specified other areas for aquifer planning and management. Funding has been reduced, but facilities and monitoring must continue. He suggested a new priority for funding and projects in the Wood River Basin as well.

Mr. Spackman commended department accomplishments, highlighting the Snake River Valley Adjudication process, which has spanned nearly 30 years. This has involved working through complicated water rights and decrees. He maintained that there are now less than 100 claims for the court to address, and the process is nearly complete.

Mr. Spackman spelled out department efforts to reduce the pending number of transfer applications, for transfer of water rights to another user. He noted that there has been a backlog of water permits and licenses to be issued. He has assigned additional resources to address this backlog, which is significantly reduced since last year. He said the department has also sought to address a backlog with brokering water rights in the Water Supply Bank. Progress is being made on these fronts.

Regarding technical services, **Mr. Spackman** detailed sites with continuous measuring and monitoring equipment. He indicated that large amounts of data have been gathered to successfully manage various water resources.

In regards to questioning, **Mr. Spackman** explained that some monitoring wells in other parts of the state for surface water sources are separate from the ESPA. With reference to concerns of water leaving our state unused, he answered that the board is looking at additional storage sites and dams, plus ongoing studies.

On the topic of the State Water Plan and permanent easements, **Mr. Spackman** indicated that permanent easements have been struck from the new plan, so these are now executed voluntarily by users, during short periods of time when flow is necessary. In relation to using unappropriated water for these easements, he remarked that it would not be feasible to transport this resource to other parts of the state.

Mr. Patton responded to questions on the reference to water quality in the state's water plan from 1996. He submitted that this was a generic policy to support efforts to maintain good water quality in the state, but did not impair water quality for other purposes. Concerning the subject of climate change, he agreed that they are starting to see some impacts of this with wetter wet years and dryer dry years.

Pertaining to questions on impact litigation and legal tools, **Mr. Patton** suggested that this goes back to the flood control rules and how to move forward with federal agencies. In connection to queries on a time line for the water plan and the Legislature, **Chairman Andrus** maintained that this will go through the House Resources and Conservation Committee.

With reference to the management of riparian and wetlands zones in the 1996 plan, **Mr. Patton** affirmed the policy now is similar to the 1996 plan. However, he mentioned that the existing plan is structured very differently.

Relating to opportunities for further input on the State Water Plan, **Chairman Andrus** confirmed that suggestions can be directed to members of the House Resources and Conservation Committee. Concerning the time line for the Legislature to act on the State Water Plan, **Mr. Patton** clarified the Idaho Constitution requires the Legislature to approve, amend or reject the plan within 60 days of it being presented, which window of time he believes started on the first day of this legislative session.

Frank Muir, President, Idaho Potato Commission, presented an update. In response to a question on the status of protecting the Idaho trademark from agricultural use on products originating from the country of Turkey, he stated that the necessary objections were filed on time. They included the recent legislative resolution, a letter from the Governor, further documentation, and other materials. He noted it may be several weeks or months before they receive a response. He discussed the IPC's financial report. He stated that a higher yield crop this last year resulted in additional revenue ahead of budget. He explained that the national Idaho potato truck tour was successful this past year and has been requested to go on tour again next year, which may affect using some of their reserve fund. He indicated the budget for their next fiscal year should be right on target.

With regard to questions on the IPC's staff, **Mr. Muir** indicated that they have less than 20 employees.

ADJOURN: There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting adjourned at 3:08 p.m.

Representative Andrus
Chair

Kim Jensen-Porter
Secretary

AGENDA

HOUSE AGRICULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

1:30 P.M.
Room EW42
Tuesday, February 26, 2013

SUBJECT	DESCRIPTION	PRESENTER
	Idaho Bean Commission Update	Lacey Menasco, Administrator
	Idaho Beef Council Update	Traci Bracco, Executive Director
	Idaho Wheat Commission Update	Blaine Jacobson, Executive Director
	Idaho Oilseed Commission Update	Wes Hubbard, Commissioner

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

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COMMITTEE SECRETARY

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MINUTES

HOUSE AGRICULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

DATE: Tuesday, February 26, 2013

TIME: 1:30 P.M.

PLACE: Room EW42

MEMBERS: Chairman Andrus, Vice Chairman Boyle, Representatives Bolz, McMillan, Batt, Bell, Agidius, Dayley, Miller, Romrell, Stevenson, VanOrden, Pence, Erpelding

ABSENT/ EXCUSED: None

GUESTS: Wesley Hubbard and Benjamin Kelly, Idaho Oilseed Commission; Jim Lowe, Food Producers of Idaho; Traci Bracco, Idaho Beef Council; Lori Shafer, Kent Lauer, Mark Frei and Wally Butler, Farm Bureau

Chairman Andrus called the meeting to order at 1:31 p.m.

MOTION: **Rep. Pence** made a motion to approve the minutes of February 18, 2013. **Motion carried by voice vote**.

MOTION: **Rep. Pence** made a motion to approve the minutes of February 20, 2013. **Motion carried by voice vote**.

Lacey Menasco, Idaho Bean Commission, provided an annual update. She said the Commission promotes Idaho's premier reputation as a consistent, top-quality, disease-free, dry and green bean seed producer. They also support research on disease, pests, cultural practices, and breeding. Ms. Menasco reported on the Commission's reserves, income, receipts and projected expenditures for the coming fiscal year, noting that bean tax revenue and acreage both fluctuate.

Ms. Menasco explained that over 50% of Idaho's bean production last year was dry, edible beans, with the remaining production being dry bean seed and garden bean seed. In 2010, a Specialty Block Grant allowed Idaho to have trials in Chihuahua, Mexico that included a field day, a trade show, and Spanish literature. In 2011, a Specialty Block Grant focused on Bean Common Mosaic Virus resistance in Yellow Beans for the Sinaloa, Mexico market, building on the 2009 grant. The 2010 Specialty Block Grant involved trials of Pinto Beans in Durango, Mexico, and trials of Black Beans in Zacatecas, Mexico. Additional areas of focus have recently included virus research through the University of Idaho, agriculture pavilions at the Western Idaho Fair and the Twin Falls County Fair, bean grower schools in Magic Valley and the Treasure Valley, the Governor's Trade Mission to Mexico, the Agri-Action and Western Idaho Agriculture Show, and a grower survey. Currently the Idaho Bean Commission is discussing a possible endowment with the University of Idaho for bean breeding and/or continued research. They are also continuing efforts in Mexico and are evaluating the possibility of working with the Dominican Republic.

In response to questions, **Ms. Menasco** stated the Commission has not looked at decreasing assessments. Research has been funded project by project on an individual basis for reasonable prices. The Commission would like an endowment of between $1 million and $2 million to ensure that bean breeding continues. Currently Idaho is the top bean seed producer in the world.

Traci Bracco, Idaho Beef Council, provided an annual update. She said the Idaho Beef Council is the marketing arm for the beef producers of Idaho. Its mission is to build consumer demand for beef through integrated state, national and international programs and to increase the opportunity for producer profitability. She said the efficient use of beef checkoff dollars is paramount. Currently in Idaho, beef checkoff is at $1.50 per head. Recently more than 500,000 Idahoans were reached through advertising, media and public relations including Facebook, radio, newspaper, other print and television ads. Over 197,000 Idahoans were reached through consumer events and promotions, while the Council also built relationships with food service and retail partners to increase the sales of, and focus on, Idaho's beef.

Ms. Bracco explained that money is voluntarily invested outside Idaho for nationwide programs with the National Cattlemen's Beef Association, the Federation Fund, and export marketing. The Federation Initiative Fund allows funding for high population states. Idaho is one of five states that contribute.

Ms. Bracco said each year, the Council develops strategic action plans to address challenges. Currently, challenges include keeping pace with consumers as food prices rise and the economy is difficult. Education plays a key role, as consumers can be taught how to stretch their grocery dollars and creatively cook with beef. Obesity and health problems are on the rise and consumers are searching for things that can help them with feeling better and being healthier; it is important for the Council to educate people about beef as a healthy choice. Consumers have concerns about the treatment of animals and the safety of the food they eat, so reassuring consumers and emphasizing benefits are crucial.

In response to questions, **Ms. Bracco** stated the National Cattlemen's Beef Association receives money from state checkoffs. That money goes to the Cattlemen's Beef Board and is then passed to the Association. Monies that are sent are highly regulated and can only be spent in certain ways.

Blaine Jacobson, Idaho Wheat Commission (IWC), provided an annual update. He said Idaho is the biggest producer of Hard White Wheat, which represents 10% of Idaho's State harvest. Most spring wheat acreage goes into Hard White. Future yield increases in wheat production will be driven by research. Each dollar spent on agricultural research returns $10 of financial benefit back to the economy. Last year, two $1 million endowments were created. Just over half the IWC's budget is spent on research, with the rest going to market development, information and education, office operations, and capital outlay. New expenditures in FY2013 include a cookie/cracker line at Wheat Marketing Center, a growth chamber in Aberdeen, a dwarf bunt seeder with Utah State, and an agriculture scholarship at Brigham Young University (BYU) Idaho.

Mr. Jacobson said The IWC has a public-private partnership with Liberty Idaho involving Limagrain Cereal Seeds. Access to global resources and technology is one benefit of the partnership with Limagrain. Wheat acreage is declining as corn and soybean acreage is rising, due to lower returns for wheat. As wheat cereal sales decline, sales of cereals with corn as the main ingredient are on the rise. This is a trend that is happening across the board. The primary focus of the IWC is to maintain what has already been built, to bring the best new wheat technology to Idaho growers, to build on Idaho's strategic advantages with Hard White wheat, and to recognize that Soft White has potential to replace Soft Red in many places. Building a relationship with China will pay dividends to Idaho. Transgenic wheat is needed to hold acres.

In response to questions, **Mr. Jacobson** said there are around 4,000 wheat growers on the IWC's mailing list. More money has been invested in research and development for corn than for wheat. Drought resistant varieties of corn have been developed, but there is not drought resistant wheat. Currently $100 million is being spent on wheat research. Mr. Jacobson believes wheat will change more in the next five years than it has changed in the last twenty years. The United States is the largest supplier of wheat to Korea. Idaho wheat goes to Korea, Japan, Taiwan, Singapore, and to Peru to make noodles.

Benjamin Kelly, Idaho Oilseed Commission, introduced **Wes Hubbard**, also with the Idaho Oilseed Commission. Mr. Hubbard provided an annual update. He said the Commission represents and tries to develop all oilseeds, however the main oilseed crops in Idaho are canola, mustard, and rapeseed. Idaho Code requires three growers to make up the voting members of the Commission. They are appointed by the Governor for three terms. The Commission's ex-officio member is Steve Vernon from the J.R. Simplot Company and the appointee by the **Dean of Agriculture** at the University of Idaho is **Dr. Donn Thill**. The Commission participated in two research projects during FY2012. They has participated in industry meetings and educational efforts that include the University of Idaho Field Day, the First Annual Tri-State Oilseed Meeting in Kennewick, Washington, the University of Idaho Pacific Northwest Canola Research Program Review, and the Food Producers of Idaho Agriculture Pavilion at the Western Idaho Fair and the Twin Falls County Fair.

In response to questions, **Mr. Hubbard** stated that biofuels being made from grain are struggling because of costs.

ADJOURN: There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting was adjourned at 2:56 p.m.

Representative Andrus
Chair

Mary Tipps
Secretary

AGENDA

HOUSE AGRICULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

1:30 P.M.
Room EW42
Thursday, February 28, 2013

SUBJECT	DESCRIPTION	PRESENTER
S1024	Idaho Sheep and Goat Health Board	Stan Boyd, Executive Secretary, Idaho Sheep Commission
	Federal Farm Program Update	Dick Rush, State Director, USDA, Farm Service Agency
	Idaho Foodbank Presentation	Julie Pipal, Food Resource Manager, Idaho Foodbank

If you have written testimony, please provide a copy of it to the committee secretary to ensure accuracy of records.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Chairman Andrus
Vice Chairman Boyle
Rep Bolz
Rep McMillan
Rep Batt
Rep Bell
Rep Agidius
Rep Dayley
Rep Miller
Rep Romrell
Rep Stevenson
Rep VanOrden
Rep Pence
Rep Erpelding

COMMITTEE SECRETARY

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MINUTES

HOUSE AGRICULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

DATE: Thursday, February 28, 2013

TIME: 1:30 P.M.

PLACE: Room EW42

MEMBERS: Chairman Andrus, Vice Chairman Boyle, Representatives Bolz, McMillan, Batt, Bell, Agidius, Dayley, Miller, Romrell, Stevenson, VanOrden, Pence, Erpelding

ABSENT/ EXCUSED: None.

GUESTS: Candy Moore, Rob Abbott, Terry Pobst-Martin, Dick Rush, Matt Gellings, USDA Farm Service Agency; Karen Vauk, Julie Pipal, Idaho Foodbank; Britnay Hurst, Wyatt Prescott, Idaho Cattle Association; David Bodine; Stan Boyd, Idaho Wool Growers Association; Wally Butler, Idaho Farm Bureau Federation.

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

S 1024: **Stan Boyd**, Executive Director, Idaho Wool Growers Association, presented **S 1024**. He explained that this bill is a follow up to **H 512** from last year, which was signed into law. This was a lengthy bill and a couple items were neglected. One was to give the Idaho Sheep and Goat Health Board the authority to administer their goat program and make assessments. The other was to allow goat producers to serve on the board. This legislation also gives the State of Idaho the right to audit the funds of the Board at any time, in accordance with Governor Otter's request.

MOTION: **Rep. McMillan** made a motion to send **S 1024** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation. **Motion carried by voice vote**. **Rep. McMillan** will sponsor the bill on the floor.

Dick Rush, State Executive Director, USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA), provided an update. He stated that farm net income continues to rise and set records. In fiscal year 2012, the FSA paid over $457 million in federal program payments and loans to Idaho farmers and ranchers. Many of these are low interest loans. Top commodities in Idaho are dairy, beef, potatoes and wheat. He related that other items make up the bulk of federal budgets, and farm programs have a shrinking constituency. The FSA staff in Idaho has been considerably reduced and many offices closed in the last four years.

Mr. Rush remarked that FSA payments provide stability to Idaho agriculture, including writing checks with federal dollars and supplying low interest loans for farm ownership, farm operating, and marketing assistance loans, which are paid back with interest. He asserted that many loans are made to beginning and minority farmers. Those occur in conjunction with financial counseling, which aids in keeping the delinquency rate at less than one percent.

Mr. Rush detailed that the FSA helps with many types of loans, including guaranteed loans, where the farmer can work directly with the lender of their choice. They also offer a new Microloan program, which was just announced, for loans on a smaller scale and with less risk. Idaho had some of the first Microloans in the nation under this program. He also mentioned Farm Storage Facility loans, which provide funding to build or upgrade farm storage and handling facilities.

Relating to the delay of the national Farm Bill, **Mr. Rush** declared that many farm programs have been extended through September 30, 2013. This includes marketing assistance loans, mainly used by the Idaho sugar industry, and direct payments of income support to producers of eligible commodities, based on production history. He acknowledged that direct payments have steadily declined since 1986, indicating less dependence on the government, and are used as a safety net. Also affected by extensions are counter cyclical loans, primarily used in years with low prices or low production. Another program affected is the conservation reserve program, which is declining and voluntary. Other extended programs are the milk income loss program and non-insured crop assistance program, for crops not insured by a federal agency.

Mr. Rush commented on the State Acres for Wildlife Enhancement (SAFE), in partnership with the Idaho Department of Fish and Game. This grant takes land out of production and farmers must plant species that wild game prefer. Idaho has the largest SAFE program in the nation. He mentioned the FSA's disaster assistance program, which is no longer offered. Other programs which no longer offer assistance are supplemental revenue assistance, emergency livestock, and the emergency forest restoration program. However, a one year extension was granted for their non-insured crop disaster assistance program, and emergency conservation program.

Mr. Rush explained the claims process for discrimination lawsuits against women or Hispanics. The end date for submitting claims is March 25, 2013. He reported that Idaho has not received any complaints so far. He also referenced the 2012 Census of Agriculture, which he encourages farmers to participate in, so that the numbers for farm programs and rural services in Idaho can be boosted to help ensure the future growth of farming in our state.

Pertaining to questions on sequestration, **Mr. Rush** indicated that it will mostly impact the budget for their employees and necessitate a few days of furlough. Some payments to producers may be cut as well. Regarding questions on federal assistance programs, he stated that this support helps to keep overall commodity prices lower and more consistent.

Julie Pipal, Food Resource Manager, Idaho Foodbank, presented an update. She addressed how Idaho agriculture has helped the Foodbank meet a growing need of hunger. Many associations have been instrumental in coordinating regular donations from various agricultural industries. She introduced **Karen Vauk**, President and CEO. Ms. Vauk related that the Idaho Foodbank is the largest hunger relief organization in the state. They serve 39 counties through 200 partners. Last year, they supplied over 11 million pounds of food to over 100,000 people per month.

Wyatt Prescott, Vice President, Idaho Cattle Association, noted that the beef industry aids the Foodbank. In conjunction with the Idaho Beef Council and Agribeef, they have launched the Beef Counts program and matched beef donations to the Foodbank. **Candi Fitch**, Idaho-Eastern Oregon Fruits and Vegetable Association, commented how their industry has contributed to the Foodbank with regular, monthly delivery trucks of onions. **Ms. Pipal** also commended the support of the potato industry, which has delivered truckloads of potatoes from local growers to help feed Idaho's hungry.

ADJOURN: There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting adjourned at 2:27 p.m.

Representative Andrus
Chair

Kim Jensen-Porter
Secretary

AGENDA

HOUSE AGRICULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

1:30 pm or Upon Adjournment
Room EW42
Monday, March 04, 2013

SUBJECT	DESCRIPTION	PRESENTER
H 208	Animal Damage Control	Stan Boyd, Legislative Advisor, Idaho Cattle Association
	Idaho Rangeland Resource Commission	Gretchen Hyde, Executive Director
	Idaho Horse Board	Forrest Hymas, Executive Director

If you have written testimony, please provide a copy of it to the committee secretary to ensure accuracy of records.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Chairman Andrus
Vice Chairman Boyle
Rep Bolz
Rep McMillan
Rep Batt
Rep Bell
Rep Agidius
Rep Dayley
Rep Miller
Rep Romrell
Rep Stevenson
Rep VanOrden
Rep Pence
Rep Erpelding

COMMITTEE SECRETARY

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MINUTES

HOUSE AGRICULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

DATE: Monday, March 04, 2013

TIME: 1:30 pm or Upon Adjournment

PLACE: Room EW42

MEMBERS: Chairman Andrus, Vice Chairman Boyle, Representatives Bolz, McMillan, Batt, Bell, Agidius, Dayley, Miller, Romrell, Stevenson, VanOrden, Pence, Erpelding

ABSENT/ EXCUSED: Rep. Bolz

GUESTS: Gretchen Hyde, Idaho Rangeland Resource Center; Forrest Hymas, Idaho Horse Board; Wally Butler, Idaho Farm Bureau Federation; Stan Boyd, Idaho Cattle Association; Dar Olberding; Bret Rumbeck, Idaho Association of Soil Conservation Districts

Chairman Andrus called the meeting to order at 3:35 p.m.

MOTION: **Rep. Pence** made a motion to approve the minutes of the February 26, 2013 meeting. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

Gretchen Hyde, Executive Director, Idaho Rangeland Resource Commission (IRRC), presented an update. She commended the IRRC's newly expanded website as a valuable tool for ranchers. She explained the recent formation of rangeland fire protection associations, consisting of ranchers who can respond quickly to rural wildfires on a volunteer basis. These associations worked with forest protection districts to receive wildfire training and resources. These additional fire suppression services will help to keep Idaho ranchland productive; they benefit ranchers and game and prevent loss of wildlife habitat so that natural resources are not unnecessarily devastated.

Ms. Hyde discussed the Forest Service's agreement to send invoices for their commission, which saves them money. She indicated that the commission received additional grants and other unexpected funding this past year. She mentioned annual assessments from ranchers have been steady. She acknowledged that she is the sole full time employee and now has one part time employee. She stated that most of her time is spent traveling throughout the state, promoting public relations and conducting educational programs. She noted that the commission provides funding for student field trips to rangeland areas and for research on grazing. Ms. Hyde related that other services provided by the commission include teacher workshops, partnerships with 4-H programs, Idaho history and rangeland textbooks, and career development events.

Forrest Hymas, Executive Director, Idaho Horse Board, presented an update. He outlined that the horse industry in Idaho consists mainly of the Idaho Horse Council and the Idaho Horse Board. The Board was created with seven members appointed by the Governor, as a self-funding program with dollars collected from branding. It was the first of its kind in the nation. These monies are then awarded in the form of grants, to further promotion, research and education of diverse equine interests. He indicated that various horse groups and categories are aided through their donations.

Chairman Andrus put the committee at ease.

Chairman Andrus called the committee back to order.

H 208: **Stan Boyd**, Legislative Advisor, Idaho Cattle Association (ICA), presented **H 208**, Animal Damage Control. He described the federal government's introduction of wolves to Idaho, which have rapidly multiplied and preyed on livestock and game. Ranchers especially have been hard hit and wolf depredation complaints have risen sharply. Recent funding is significantly reduced and no other wildlife resources are currently available to combat the damage being done.

Mr. Boyd stated this legislation would allow the ICA to assess up to 25 cents per head on cattle for use in Idaho's Animal Damage Control (ADC) program. The current ceiling for this assessment is five cents per head. This increase would apply only to cow and calf operations; dairy and feedlot cattle would be exempt. He commented that cow and calf operators support this bill, to aid with the severe wolf depredation problems they are experiencing.

In response to concerns that ranchers would have to pay for damage inflicted on them, **Mr. Boyd** replied that he understands this is a difficult position. He related that they have looked at many other funding options, and other animal industries have been recently granted authority to raise their assessments for rising costs. This would be a tool for the cattle industry to use if needed and it would likely take years before assessments climbed toward the new ceiling.

Pertaining to the range of ADC services, **Mr. Boyd** specified they also deal with birds, marmots, coyotes, beavers, bears, etc., but wolves are the number one predator in the state, and 40% of the ADC's workload is dealing with wolves. He clarified that other programs also contribute to the ADC, such as airports, the state's General Fund, district grazing boards, counties, other animal industry assessments, and the Department of Fish and Game. He pointed out there is no longer federal money offered for predator control; cuts have dictated that claims are also no longer available. Any USDA monies are strictly for monitoring. Relating to how much funding has been lost, he shared that previously $125,000 was issued for responding to depredations and another $100,000 for ranchers that applied for losses. He expressed concern that monies are needed to replace this $225,000 in lost funding for heavy cattle losses, due to wolves.

Wally Butler, Range and Livestock Specialist, Idaho Farm Bureau, **testified in opposition** to **H 208**. He opposes any assessment increase from brand inspections. He conveyed that not all of the cattle industry supports this measure. He suggested looking at funding from wolf or other tags, or assembling a task force to look at broader funding sources to bear this burden.

Wyatt Prescott, Executive Vice President, Idaho Cattle Association, **testified in favor** of **H 208**. He explained that this issue has been weighing heavily on cattle operators and their consensus was that they cannot afford to lose wildlife services predator control. He stated that a working group was put together and the 25 cent assessment ceiling was a compromise among the industry. They approached other entities, but budgets were tight there as well. Regarding concerns over what percentage of money collected would go to predator control, he responded that monies are transferred monthly, straight from the Idaho State Brand Department to the ADC. **Mr. Boyd** concurred with this.

MOTION: **Rep. Pence** made a motion to send **H 208** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation.

Rep. Pence spoke in support of the motion that although she feels it is not the responsibility of the cow and calf operators, if they voted to support this, they are willing to make the best of a bad situation, and will continue to look for other funding sources.

Rep. Boyle spoke in opposition to the motion. She justified that her constituents, although suffering from wolf depredation, are frustrated that the Fish and Wildlife Services will not allow the wolves to be killed. She believes this bill is not the answer to the problem.

VOTE ON THE MOTION: **Motion carried by voice vote**. **Chairman Andrus** will sponsor the bill on the floor.

ADJOURN: There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting adjourned at 4:47 p.m.

Representative Andrus
Chair

Kim Jensen-Porter
Secretary

AGENDA

HOUSE AGRICULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

1:30 or Upon Adjournment
Room EW42
Wednesday, March 06, 2013

SUBJECT	DESCRIPTION	PRESENTER
	Idaho State Brand Board Update	Larry Hayhurst, State Brand Inspector

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Chairman Andrus
Vice Chairman Boyle
Rep Bolz
Rep McMillan
Rep Batt
Rep Bell
Rep Agidius
Rep Dayley
Rep Miller
Rep Romrell
Rep Stevenson
Rep VanOrden
Rep Pence
Rep Erpelding

COMMITTEE SECRETARY

Kim Jensen-Porter
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Phone: 332-1137
email: hagri@house.idaho.gov

MINUTES

HOUSE AGRICULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

DATE: Wednesday, March 06, 2013

TIME: 1:30 or Upon Adjournment

PLACE: Room EW42

MEMBERS: Chairman Andrus, Vice Chairman Boyle, Representatives Bolz, McMillan, Batt, Bell, Agidius, Dayley, Miller, Romrell, Stevenson, VanOrden, Pence, Erpelding

ABSENT/ EXCUSED: None

GUESTS: Larry A Hayhurst, State Brands Inspector; Sean Ellis, Capital Press

Chairman Andrus called the meeting to order at 2:47 p.m.

In regard to **H 208**, which was presented on March 4th, 2013, **Reps. Van Orden, Boyle, Batt, and Dayley** requested to be recorded as voting **Nay**. **Chairman Andrus** reviewed the intent of the bill, and stated some opinions have changed since the bill was presented. He said there are things in the works to get alternative funding, and there is a possibility the bill will be held until alternatives are presented. In answer to a question, Chairman Andrus clarified the bill gives the Cattle Association authority to raise fees on brand inspections, not to exceed twenty-five cents.

Chairman Andrus reviewed the status of **H 111**, which amends Section 25-3502, Idaho Code, to revise a definition , and amends Section 25-3504, Idaho Code, to provide a felony penalty relating to the torture of animals. He said he has requested to leave the bill on General Orders and not amend it, explaining the Senate refuses to hear animal welfare legislation this year. Chairman Andrus stated the Humane Society of the United States has expressed if legislation does not do something about animal torture, they will come with money, hire people, and there will be a ballot initiative.

Chairman Andrus said the "One of Three" organization collected signatures last summer, for a ballot initiative to be placed on the November ballot, and they received 8,000 more signatures than what was needed. They did not turn it in to the Secretary of State, as the signatures needed to be validated through their respective counties. Chairman Andus said the "One of Three" organization is now waiting to see what the legislature will do. The Humane Society has recommended to Chairman Andrus that a task force meet this summer to further discuss this issue.

Larry Hayhurst, State Brands Inspector, presented an update on the Idaho State Brand Board. He stated the mission of the Idaho Brand Board is to serve and protect the Idaho livestock industry, by creating a deterrent to theft, illegal transportation, and slaughter of livestock. Their mission is accomplished through livestock identification/brand inspections and the ongoing maintenance of a brand recording system. Mr. Hayhurst reviewed the history of brand recording, which began in 1905 under the state auditor. Since that time it has moved to the state veterinarian, the Idaho Department of Lands, and the 1939 legislature established a State Brand Inspector. In 1943 the duties were transferred to the Idaho Department of Law Enforcement, and in 1947 the State Brand Board was established. Presently, the State Brand Inspector and the Idaho Brand Board are a self-governing agency within the Idaho State Police.

Mr. Hayhurst presented statistics for FY 2012, stating total inspections were over two million, up almost one hundred thousand from 2011. He reviewed the schedule of fees and other assessments collected at the time of brand inspection. Other assessments include the Idaho Beef Council, Idaho Horse Board, Idaho State Department of Agriculture/animal disease, and the United States Department of Agriculture/Predator. Mr. Hayhurst clarified a brand inspection is required when ownership changes in any manner. The brand inspection is good for 96 hours before leaving the state, and before shipping or at time of slaughter. Due to the number of brands recorded in Idaho, brand recording and brand renewals are now staggered based alphabetically by last name or company name.

Mr. Hayhurst said the Brand Board has developed a Police Officer Standardized Training (POST) certified brands/animal health class, which is designed for law enforcement agencies and port of entry officials. The law enforcement officers get POST credit for taking the class. Mr. Hayhurst stated the Brand department outreaches training and education to any horse, cattle association, or club by invitation, across the State of Idaho. They also conduct "town hall" type meetings around the state, especially in problem areas.

In response to questions, **Mr. Hayhurst** explained when registered, not only is the brand owned but the location of the brand as well. A cow can be branded on the hips, shoulders, and ribs. A horse can be branded only on the hips and shoulders. A brand can be kept forever as long as it is renewed every five years. Mr. Hayhurst stated a brand placed on an animal is "prima facie" proof of ownership.

ADJOURN: There being no further business to come before the Committee, the meeting adjourned at 3:53 p.m.

Representative Andrus
Chair

Lynn Walker
Secretary

AGENDA

HOUSE AGRICULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

1:30 p.m. or Upon Adjournment
Room EW42
Tuesday, March 12, 2013

SUBJECT	DESCRIPTION	PRESENTER
H 266	Veterinary Medicine	Dr. Brett Bingham, Veterinarian

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Chairman Andrus
Vice Chairman Boyle
Rep Bolz
Rep McMillan
Rep Batt
Rep Bell
Rep Agidius
Rep Dayley
Rep Miller
Rep Romrell
Rep Stevenson
Rep VanOrden
Rep Pence
Rep Erpelding

COMMITTEE SECRETARY

Kim Jensen-Porter
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MINUTES

HOUSE AGRICULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

DATE:	Tuesday, March 12, 2013
TIME:	1:30 P.M.
PLACE:	Room EW42
MEMBERS:	Chairman Andrus, Vice Chairman Boyle, Representatives Bolz, McMillan, Batt, Bell, Agidius, Dayley, Miller, Romrell, Stevenson, VanOrden, Pence, Erpelding
ABSENT/ EXCUSED:	Rep. Bell
GUESTS:	Julie Bingham, Brett Bingham, Vicki Smith, Idaho Veterinary Medical Association

Chairman Andrus called the meeting to order at 2:18 p.m.

MOTION:	**Rep. Pence** made a motion to approve the minutes for the February 28, 2013 meeting, March 4, 2013 meeting, and March 6, 2013 meeting. **Motion carried by voice vote**.
H 266:	**Brett Bingham**, President, Idaho Veterinary Medical Association, presented **H 266**. He stated that this legislation clarifies the Veterinary Practice Act to ensure that veterinarians are able to prescribe, dispense, deliver or administer drugs and medicines in the scope of their practice. He clarified that the word 'dispensing' was previously omitted and needed to be added.
MOTION:	**Rep. VanOrden** made a motion to send **H 266** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation. **Motion carried by voice vote**. **Rep. McMillan** will sponsor the bill on the floor.
ADJOURN:	There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting adjourned at 2:23 p.m.

Representative Andrus
Chair

Kim Jensen-Porter
Secretary

AGENDA

HOUSE AGRICULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

1:30 p.m. or Upon Adjournment
Room EW42
Thursday, March 14, 2013

SUBJECT	DESCRIPTION	PRESENTER
H 278	Animal Damage Control Funding	Rep. Boyle
	Agriculture in the Classroom	Rick Waitley, National Executive Director
	Idaho Wine Commission Update	Shelley Bennett, Community Relations Coordinator
	Idaho Alfalfa and Cloverseed Commission Update	Leland Tiegs, Administrator

If you have written testimony, please provide a copy of it to the committee secretary to ensure accuracy of records.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Chairman Andrus
Vice Chairman Boyle
Rep Bolz
Rep McMillan
Rep Batt
Rep Bell
Rep Agidius
Rep Dayley
Rep Miller
Rep Romrell
Rep Stevenson
Rep VanOrden
Rep Pence
Rep Erpelding

COMMITTEE SECRETARY

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MINUTES

HOUSE AGRICULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

DATE: Thursday, March 14, 2013

TIME: 1:30 pm or Upon Adjournment

PLACE: Room EW42

MEMBERS: Chairman Andrus, Vice Chairman Boyle, Representatives Bolz, McMillan, Batt, Bell, Agidius, Dayley, Miller, Romrell, Stevenson, VanOrden, Pence, Erpelding

ABSENT/ EXCUSED: Rep. Erpelding

GUESTS: Shelley Bennett, Idaho Wine Commission; Sean Ellis, Capital Press; Sharon Kiefer, Idaho Department of Fish and Game; Rick Waitley, Idaho Agriculture in the Classroom; Dar Olberding, Idaho Grain Producers; Wally Butler, Idaho Farm Bureau Federation; Stan Boyd, Idaho Cattle Association and Idaho Wool Growers Assocation

Chairman Andrus called the meeting to order at 2:53 p.m.

MOTION: **Rep. Dayley** made a motion to approve the minutes of the March 12, 2013 meeting. **Motion carried by voice vote**.

H 278: **Rep. Boyle**, presented **H 278** , Animal Damage Control Funding. She stated that this bill deals with wolf problems, wildlife depredation, and animal damage control. She detailed the Idaho Department of Fish and Game's set-aside fund, in part, called Access Yes, for sportsmen's access to private hunting and fishing land. Monies for this set-aside account come from Idaho hunting and fishing licenses and tags.

Rep. Boyle explained that monies also flow in from interest earned from the Expendable Big Game Depredation Fund. She confirmed that at the close of each fiscal year, if the balance of this fund exceeds $750,000, then up to $100,000 of the overage has been transferred to Access Yes, and any remaining funds above that to the Animal Damage Control (ADC) fund. This legislation proposes to move any overages above the $750,000 mark, if available each year, solely to the ADC. Access Yes would be moved to the Fish and Game fund, which receives $2 from each hunting or fishing license sold.

In regards to questions, **Rep. Boyle** answered that there was a large balance in the Depredation Fund as of November 2012. She related that revenue brought in from tags must be balanced with a huge amount of claims for damages, i.e. loss of livestock due to predators. She responded that requests could be made from the state's General Fund, although many other issues desperately need funding as well. Also, interest earned toward depredation funds has decreased significantly from previous years. She claimed that monies from federal funding and from environmental groups that had pledged to help with the wolf problem have dried up.

Concerning Access Yes, **Rep. Boyle** clarified that these funds provide sportsmen with access to private lands for hunting by making payments to the land owners who participate in their program.

Sharon Kiefer, Deputy Director, Idaho Department of Fish and Game (IDFG), testified that this bill affects the Expendable Big Game Depredation Fund, Sportsmen's Access, and ADC. She commented that license and tag money collected by IDFG transfers $200,000 annually into the depredation fund, plus interest earnings. These are used for compensation payments to landowners who suffer damages from wildlife. She specified that the ADC does not have latitude to use the IDFG funds at their discretion; IDFG oversees and directs the use of ADC funds toward predatory animals, including birds. Ms. Kiefer described that the overage funds above the required $750,000 annual balance are an intermittent financial tool for both sportsmen's access and the ADC. In fiscal year 2011, $100,000 was transferred to Access Yes and $66,000 was transferred to the ADC account.

Ms. Kiefer specified that Access Yes also receives revenue from their Super Hunt proceeds and federal and partnership funds. She conveyed that landowner interest to participate in Access Yes has always exceeded the funding available. Many access easements or permanent access improvements, such as boat ramps and parking areas, have been acquired through Access Yes. A significant portion of Access Yes funding from Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) is expected to dry up, and this affects IDFG's ability to uphold sportsman expectations.

Ms. Kiefer stated that Wildlife Services responds to livestock depredation reports to assist owners in areas that help with elk survival and benefit sportsmen. She emphasized that this bill was not discussed with the IDFG or with sportsmen, whose funds are affected. She does not believe this bill balances multiple, important priorities; consequently, IDFG does not support this bill.

Regarding questions on how the overage money should be spent, **Ms. Kiefer** said there is room for discussion about dividing this between Access Yes and the ADC. She noted that the ADC receives other funding. Access Yes has additional funding from the Super Hunt, around $160,000 to $200,000 per year; some federal funding, between $300,000 to $400,000 spread over three to four years; plus some partnership accounts for lesser amounts.

Pertaining to other possible solutions, **Ms. Kiefer** acknowledged many groups are looking for any and all available financial tools to aid depredation. She indicated that the ADC account is used for control measures, many times carried out by Wildlife Services. However, this bill does not address compensation for livestock losses. With reference to the large sums in IDFG's Habitat Acquisition and Winterfeed operations, she reiterated that the depredation fund, which includes these, must maintain a minimum balance of $750,000. Much of these funds, above the minimum, were spent by the end of the fiscal year, then the balance continually rebuilds again with licensing revenue. She offered to bring an annual report showing IDFG's spending history to the committee members.

Wally Butler, Range and Livestock Specialist, Idaho Farm Bureau Federation, affirmed his support of this bill. Although it is an intermittent funding source and he would rather see the federal government step in for a mandate they created, he wants to bolster any ADC efforts to prevent depredation. He recognized that most cattlemen from his organization contribute to the depredation fund as hunters and fishermen that buy licenses.

Stan Boyd, representing the Idaho Cattle Association and Idaho Wool Growers Association, expressed his support of this bill. He pointed out that with the advent of the wolf in Idaho, there has been a huge increase in their population preying on livestock resources. He believes the ADC needs to be able to respond. Ideally, the livestock industry would like a significant and consistent funding increase. He stated that although the consistency for funding within this bill is not present, any funding helps, even if it fluctuates. He mentioned the possibility of adding Access Yes to a land acquisition account, which has a large balance. He also specified that paying out more claims against wolves in the future means less money for predator control. He stressed that more funding sources are needed, but this is a step in the right direction.

In regards to questioning, **Ms. Kiefer** was called upon to answer about the possibility of raising the cost of each hunting and fishing license by one dollar, to go toward ADC funds. She related the recent effect of the economy, and how IDFG has suffered due to diminished funding. She did not believe an increase on license fees would best accomplish IDFG objectives or benefit sportsmen.

Rep. Boyle commented that the Legislature has discussed options for further ADC funding for 20 years. She has not seen other solutions brought forward. She indicated that when wolves prey on wildlife, it creates less opportunity for hunters as well, so hunters would benefit from this bill. Also monies to compensate ranchers who lost livestock are gone now. Any current relief only provides pennies on the dollar. She claimed there are significant problems with lack of response from Fish and Game, so depredation issues have exploded, creating urgency for action. She disclosed that another bill will be forthcoming to address compensation issues.

MOTION: **Rep. Miller** made a motion to send **H 278** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation.

Rep. Bolz and **Rep. Pence** expressed concern that this is not a complete fix for the wolf problem, but is more like a band-aid, without a constant source of funding.

ROLL CALL VOTE: Roll call vote was requested. **Motion carried by a vote of 10 AYE, 3 NAY, 1 Absent/Excused. Voting in favor** of the motion: **Reps. Andrus, Boyle, McMillan, Batt, Agidius, Dayley, Miller, Romrell, Stevenson, and VanOrden. Voting in opposition** to the motion: **Reps. Bolz, Bell, and Pence. Rep. Erpelding was absent/excused**. **Rep. Boyle** will sponsor the bill on the floor.

Rick Waitley, State Director, presented an update on Idaho Agriculture in the Classroom (AITC). He defined that this program was started in the 1980's to help students that were a generation or two removed from the farm, to learn where their food and fiber came from. Funding is provided in part by Idaho agriculture specialty license plates. He said AITC develops curriculum for use in Idaho classrooms. They provide bumper stickers, posters to color describing Idaho agriculture, puzzles, pamphlets, books, recipes, bulletin board ideas, nutrition programs, workshops, tours, and large expo events. They have been able to distribute thousands of teacher and student packets with classroom resources through these venues.

Mr. Waitley described an AITC character named Flat Andy who travels to different states and agricultural areas, as a way to educate students, developed in part due to recent reductions in funding for field trips. He directed attention to multiple summer teacher workshops and continuing education credits provided by AITC, in conjunction with various colleges and universities in Idaho. He indicated that Idaho is one of four states that are able to provide a balanced diet from what is grown in their state. He commended many partners who work with AITC, such as the Department of Education, Idaho Beef Council, Idaho Preferred Program, and Farm to School. AITC also boasts a large, strong membership base.

Shelley Bennett, Community Relations Coordinator, Idaho Wine Commission, presented an update. She stated that there are 50 wineries and 56 vineyards currently in Idaho. Their board has five members, consisting of wine and vineyard owners. She submitted that the Wine Commission markets and promotes wineries and grape growers through educating the community, hosting events and media outreach. This industry has grown significantly over the last ten years. She affirmed that the Wine Commission offers seminars, tours and brochures. Their web site has been a successful and valuable tool. Grants have been used toward advertising, personnel and travel. She also explained they received a great response to their media boot camp as well.

Ms. Bennett outlined their three major events: Savor Idaho, Sippin' in the City, and "Unwined" at the Movies. She gave an update on legislation regarding the wine industry, with recent excise tax legislation and changes to container sizes/private labeling. Educational seminars were well received. She advised that the "I Support Idaho Wines" campaign has aided their industry. Scenic byway signs help identify areas with vineyards and generate traffic to them. She noted that research needs continue, regarding chemistry, pruning, canopying, and soils, but overall the Commission is in good shape with a positive overall outlook.

Rick Waitley, Administrator, Idaho Alfalfa and Clover Seed Commission (IACSC), presented an update. He remarked that they represent growers in southwestern Idaho, who produced over seven million pounds of alfalfa and clover seed in fiscal year 2012. This is a drop from prior years, losing acreage to houses being built. He mentioned that IACSC received assessments last year around $25,000. However, after expenses, the total income and expenses balance was close to negative $11,000. He related that there is a separate balance of $50,000, which their six member commission of growers is trying to figure out how to best invest.

Mr. Waitley explained that IACSC oversees the disbursement of funds in three major areas of operation: research, education and promotion. They are also affiliated with the National Alfalfa and Forage Alliance (NAFA), which coordinates and promotes educational and research activities, benefitting seed growers in Idaho. He described two Idaho funded research/education projects in 2012, the Pest Alert Network (communicating within the agricultural industry about pest outbreaks and pest management information), and Idaho One Plan (pesticide applicator digital reporting program).

Mr. Waitley relayed that Idaho is the third largest alfalfa seed producing state, and the alfalfa forage industry is among the top five agricultural crops grown in the U.S. He supported the IACSC in providing $5,000 of funding to the Parma Research Center, owned by the University of Idaho (U of I). He stressed the importance of keeping this center going. IACSC also provided funding for industry relations in conducting educational activities this past year, with Food Producers of Idaho, among others, at two large fairs. He reported that much of the U.S. looks to Idaho for quality seeds to plant, as a result of Idaho's excellent soil, water availability, climate and knowledgeable growers.

In response to questions regarding the U of I's two day teacher workshop and agricultural tour, **Mr. Waitley** explained that the U of I is the only university/college that recognizes the tour for credit, although they are they most expensive. He confirmed that currently someone with a doctorate degree must conduct the workshop.

ADJOURN: There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting adjourned at 4:48 p.m.

Representative Andrus
Chair

Kim Jensen-Porter
Secretary

AGENDA

HOUSE AGRICULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

1:30 p.m. or Upon Adjournment
Room EW42
Monday, March 18, 2013

SUBJECT	DESCRIPTION	PRESENTER
	Idaho Dairy Products Commission	Deana Sessions, Administrator
	Idaho Dairymen's Association	Bob Naerebout, Executive Director

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Chairman Andrus
Vice Chairman Boyle
Rep Bolz
Rep McMillan
Rep Batt
Rep Bell
Rep Agidius
Rep Dayley
Rep Miller
Rep Romrell
Rep Stevenson
Rep VanOrden
Rep Pence
Rep Erpelding(McLean)

COMMITTEE SECRETARY

Kim Jensen-Porter
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MINUTES

HOUSE AGRICULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

DATE: Monday, March 18, 2013

TIME: 1:30 pm or Upon Adjournment

PLACE: Room EW42

MEMBERS: Chairman Andrus, Vice Chairman Boyle, Representatives Bolz, McMillan, Batt, Bell, Agidius, Dayley, Miller, Romrell, Stevenson, VanOrden, Pence, Erpelding (McLean)

ABSENT/ EXCUSED: None

GUESTS: Deana Sessions, Cheri Chase, Idaho Dairy Commission; Bob Naerebout, Idaho Dairymen's Association; Suzanne Budge, SBS Associates

Chairman Andrus called the meeting to order at 1:31 p.m.

Deana Sessions, Administrator, Idaho Dairy Products Commission (IDPC), presented an update. She related that their net assets at the end of 2012 were nearly $8,600,000. Some of these monies are in long term investment or in certificates of deposit. She gave production totals for 2012 at 13,527,800,000 pounds. The projected budget for 2013 is $14,886,000. Marketing communications are a large portion of this, then membership agreements, channel marketing, McDonald's cheese research, operating expenses, plus research and other programs complete their budget. She stated that $5,000,000 was invested in nutrition products and ingredient marketing. Food safety is also a critical component for research. IDPC participated in channel marketing with coupons, of which 77% of those printed were redeemed for purchasing milk, culminating a very successful program.

Ms. Sessions noted that last year, IDPC contributed to many noteworthy programs, including the school food service program with expanded breakfast options for students. They also funded a distinguished student scholarship program. Another beneficiary was the Idaho High School Activities Association, wherein IDPC provided tournament sweatshirts for athletes. Among other financial highlights, IDPC invested in a milk processing plant to package students' drinks in round, resealable plastic bottles. She said that overall contributions to Idaho schools last year were nearly $2,000,000. In addition to the above-listed programs, IDPC invested in Fuel Up to Play 60. They also funded medical outreach to health professionals.

Ms. Sessions outlined their national partnership with McDonald's, the largest fast food chain. IDPC employs four scientists and a nutritionist at McDonald's headquarters in Chicago to help create more nutritionally balanced foods on their menu, including more real dairy products. As a result, McDonald's purchased one million pounds more milk in 2011 than they did in 2008. She explained that Idaho is a cheese manufacturing state and McDonald's wants to convert more of their processed cheese to natural cheese. Research is underway, with the assistance of IDPC, to have half of McDonald's products be made with natural cheese by 2017. This benefits fast food consumers and Idaho farmers alike.

Cheri Chase, Communications Director, IDPC, introduced Fuel Up to Play 60. She described this flagship program for nutrition and exercise, designed to engage and empower youth to take action for their own health. They encourage students to get active and play for 60 minutes daily, and to fuel up with nutrient-rich foods. She indicated that over 3,000 schools participate nationwide, including 577 schools in Idaho. They have seen increased interest in this program with more students pledging to this concept and more schools applying for funding. General Mills and Food Institutes of America also contributed to Fuel Up to Play 60, in sponsorship with the National Football League and the Idaho Dairy Council.

Bob Naerebout, Executive Director, Idaho Dairymen's Association (IDA), presented an update. He explained that they are also affiliated with Independent Dairy Environmental Action League (IDEAL). The IDA's funding comes from an assessment collected from the dairy industry. Their purpose is to continue to develop and sustain an economically viable Idaho dairy industry. They have set aside funds to construct a new environmental livestock research facility in the Magic Valley in the future.

Mr. Naerebout stated there are 542 licensed dairy farms currently in Idaho. They range from small operations with less than 200 cows to large operations with over 2,000 cows. Dairies are located in the Treasure Valley, Magic Valley, and Eastern Idaho. He commented that milk production has increased in the last few years due to value added through technological advances. Also, milk and cheese products in Idaho have multiplied rapidly in comparison to the rest of the country.

Mr. Naerebout submitted that in 2012, the Idaho dairy industry lost revenue in the first nine months of the year, but the fourth quarter was positive. He projects for 2013 that they may struggle to break even. Challenges include the cost of production, feed costs at historic highs, the federal government's ethanol policy, and competition for acres. He asserted that financial institutions are tightening lending requirements for dairies, resulting in higher interest rates and highly leveraged dairies. This is due in part to the feed lien law, which is now under consideration by the Idaho Supreme Court.

Mr. Naerebout related positives for the Idaho dairy industry as well. A new Chobani plant is the latest addition to Twin Falls. Export markets are bright for 2013, with access to west coast and Asian markets, and shipping lanes. Jobs created by the dairy industry in Idaho include 8,300 dairy farm workers and 2,371 in manufacturing plants. With additional bankers, accountants and others needed, another 22,000 are cited as secondary and induced employment. He recognized that the majority of farm laborers are foreign and he has been closely following national immigration issues to ensure the ability of foreign laborers to come harvest milk.

Mr. Naerebout noted that agriculture must increase production to feed the world's growing population in coming years. One dilemma is that many suitable agricultural lands are already in use or under protection. Also, water scarcity will eventually become an issue. He described the environmental impact of the dairy industry, as gradually using less land, less water and manure, with reduced greenhouse gas emissions. Dairies are getting larger and more efficient, due to innovation in breeding, nutrition, and cow health; he emphasized the continuing need for these types of research. He acknowledged the dairy industry's dedication to 'sustainability', by providing nutritious dairy products with a collaborative effort to protect the environment and assure responsible management of resources.

Mr. Naerebout remarked that the dairy industry will be coming out with an animal care guide document before the middle of this year. It will incorporate education, farm evaluations, and third party verification. This effort will be voluntary and available to all producers. They are developing tools to do background checks on employees, formulate an employment contract, and define what practices are or are not acceptable on a dairy. One of the main provisions will be that if someone witnesses abuse, they must report it to management. Certification classes will be available through the College of Southern Idaho or University of Idaho extension center.

Mr. Naerebout outlined the primary dairy industry expenditures as: research, legal services, immigration, and education programs. Research sponsored by IDEAL is aimed at reducing ammonia emissions from dairy manure, monitoring atmospheric emissions, and evaluation of dairy wastewater. Other studies include addressing immigration issues, identifying and quantifying pathogens in dairy lagoons, monitoring nitrate levels in the aquifer, and examining long term impacts of manure applications.

Mr. Naerebout mentioned the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) and their relationship with the dairy industry. He related that the DEQ does not regulate dairies, but their research does impact them. IDA recently issued a Memorandum of Understanding, as a working agreement with DEQ, to express mutual concerns and collaborate together.

In regards to questioning on videos depicting animal abuse in the dairy industry, **Mr. Naerebout** disclosed that the agricultural industry may need to address these issues with future legislation. Concerning rbST and synthetic technology, he asserted that milk production and environmental benefits will continue to increase, unless there is resistance to these efforts; however, then it would be difficult to maintain this type of growth. Pertaining to the availability and timeliness of visas for foreign workers, he answered that there are presently two competing bills in Congress, but they will not be introduced until April.

ADJOURN: There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting was adjourned at 2:29 p.m.

Representative Andrus
Chair

Kim Jensen-Porter
Secretary

AMENDED AGENDA #2

HOUSE AGRICULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

1:30 or Upon Adjournment
Room EW42
Tuesday, March 26, 2013

SUBJECT	DESCRIPTION	PRESENTER
H 111	Animal Care	Rep. Andrus
H 336	Wolf Depredation Account	Rep. Boyle

If you have written testimony, please provide a copy of it to the committee secretary to ensure accuracy of records.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Chairman Andrus
Vice Chairman Boyle
Rep Bolz
Rep McMillan
Rep Batt
Rep Bell
Rep Agidius
Rep Dayley
Rep Miller
Rep Romrell
Rep Stevenson
Rep VanOrden
Rep Pence
Rep Erpelding

COMMITTEE SECRETARY

Kim Jensen-Porter
Room: EW11
Phone: 332-1137
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MINUTES

HOUSE AGRICULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

DATE: Tuesday, March 26, 2013

TIME: 1:30 or Upon Adjournment

PLACE: Room EW42

MEMBERS: Chairman Andrus, Vice Chairman Boyle, Representatives Bolz, McMillan, Batt, Bell, Agidius, Dayley, Miller, Romrell, Stevenson, VanOrden, Pence, Erpelding

ABSENT/ EXCUSED: None

GUESTS: LeRoy Riscus; Pam Lazenby; Monica Morrison, Canyon County Prosecutor's Office; Lisa Kauffman, HSUS; Sean Ellis, Capital Press; Sharon Kiefer, IDFG; Dar Olberding, Idaho Grain Producers; Sunrise Ayers; Mary F. Rengel; Rick Waitley, Food Producers; Dustin Miller, OSC; Elizabeth Criner, NWFPA; Stan Boyd, ICA/ IWGA

Chairman Andrus called the meeting to order at 3:15 p.m.

MOTION: **Rep. Pence** made a motion to approve the minutes of the March 14, 2013 and March 18, 2013 meetings. **Motion carried by voice vote**.

Chairman Andrus handed the gavel over to **Vice Chairman Boyle**.

H 111: **Chairman Andrus** presented **H 111**, Animal Care. He explained that the amendment for this bill would provide that torture of a companion animal would be a felony on the second offense, instead of on a third offense, as in the original bill. He expressed concern for potential action by an animal rights group to conduct a ballot initiative that would make animal torture a felony on the first offense, for companion or production animals. He pointed out they were nearly successful last year. He has also heard public outrage that nothing currently in Idaho law addresses this issue with a reasonable compromise. He indicated that one conviction of animal torture as a misdemeanor should be enough warning that the abuser would think twice about committing this act again, which would then be tried as a felony. He stated that the livestock industry does not want animal torture to include production animals, due to normal agricultural practices possibly being misconstrued as torture.

Chairman Andrus referenced **Allie Phillips**, who outlined in a presentation earlier this session, the link between animal abuse and probable escalation to child or other domestic abuse. He claimed that prosecutors of animal abuse are seeking legislative direction and guidance to help bring offenders to justice. A clear definition and consequence would help their efforts greatly.

Regarding questions on how widespread this issue is, **Chairman Andrus** answered that shelters and law enforcement officers are always getting calls or having to deal with cruelty and neglect daily.

Monica Morrison, Deputy Prosecutor, Canyon County, commented that she came to testify on her own accord and not for the county. She related that there has been a huge increase in the number of animal torture cases routed to their office on a daily basis. She indicated that as the economy has worsened, so has animal abuse. She noted the nexus of animal cruelty, child abuse, and domestic violence. Ms. Morrison pled for more tools or laws that would create a deterrent effect for offenders. She pointed out how thefts are punished more harshly than cruelty and torture. She claimed that prosecutors need more direction and clarification from the legislature on how to pursue these cases .

In response to questions, **Ms. Morrison** agreed that the animal cruelty and production animal laws passed last year have been helpful. She explained that when responders check on allegations of animal cruelty, they would seize animals only after many warnings were issued. At that point, the county or shelter would accrue costs to take over caring for the animals, but they are not looking to take on production animals; their primary concern is for companion animals.

Concerning deficiencies with current animal cruelty laws, **Mr. Morrison** confirmed that very few have a felony penalty and the definitions are difficult to prove. She stated this proposed legislation would address concerns for specific situations and allow that torture is completely different than the current animal cruelty law. Pertaining to deterrents and the possibility of mental help or treatment, she replied that the first offense would be a misdemeanor and a warning. At that point a psychological evaluation could be requested. She observed that if the court were to order an evaluation or counseling, this may partly address the problem and prevent further abuse. She also acknowledged that prosecutors and judges have had to be creative to deal with these cases and would like more options to be made available.

Ms. Morrison further explained the process of animal control workers. When a call or tip is received, they go out for a welfare check and if they believe there is a problem, they show the animal owner how to remedy the situation, giving appropriate feeding or shelter basics. Then they return in 30 days. She noted that if the problem has continued, they will prosecute the owner. She indicated that only in severe abuse cases would the animals be seized.

Pam Lazenby testified in favor of **H 111**. She related that she volunteers with the Humane Society and Animal Patrol. She has rescued hundreds of dogs and was a school teacher for 23 years. She affirmed that she sees the link between animal abuse and child abuse. When she worked in other states, she observed that perpetrators were prosecuted and dealt with severely; however, in Idaho, she was embarrassed to learn that we are one of very few states where the first offense of animal torture is not a felony. She expressed a tremendous need to help these offenders, who are often pet hoarders and become more abusive.

Lisa Kauffman, State Director, Humane Society of United States, testified in support of **H 111**. She commented that she was pleased this bill was brought back to include a felony offense on the second violation. She believes this will be a deterrent that also gives judges and prosecutors more to work with. She granted that this bill does not include production animals or livestock. She validated that she would rather work with the Legislature to affect change and said this bill is a good compromise.

Rep. VanOrden referenced an e-mail she received from **Ms. Kauffman**, which opined that production animals should be included at some point. Ms. Kauffman granted that she does feel all animals should be covered, but that perhaps the ranching and agricultural communities should bring this up. She specified that if legislation does not get passed this session, she would be open to doing an initiative on the ballot, but there is another group that would likely do the ballot first.

Mary Rengel expressed support for this bill. She mentioned that she is a retired veterinarian and school teacher. She commented that animal torture is a humane issue, educational issue, and public safety issue. She wrote her master's thesis about how violence in childhood to animals leads to later violence in life. She stressed that educating young children is key to preventing abuse. She related that some children have poor examples and do not know that animal cruelty is wrong. She claimed if children are not educated on this before middle school, it is too late and the window of opportunity has passed.

Chairman Andrus closed his remarks by clarifying that the ballot initiative last year had more than enough signatures, but was discredited because they were not properly verified by the respective counties and some were not on the correct paper. He is greatly alarmed that this particular animal rights organization would provide that convictions of animal cruelty would mandate prison time and a substantial fine. This bill would ward off such an effort and has the potential to stop another initiative. Additionally, it would not criminalize the livestock industry in their normal agricultural practices. He signified that he wants to be able to assure constituents that the legislators have done something to address this issue.

In connection with questioning, **Chairman Andrus** suggested that other groups are tired of initiatives and that perceptions of animal cruelty between urban and rural voters are different. He believes that passing this bill would alleviate some concerns of groups that would run initiatives, but without this bill, animal owners and especially livestock owners may be helpless.

MOTION: **Rep. Batt** made a motion to **HOLD H 111** in committee.

Rep. Batt commented she believes the last animal rights group that ran the initiative would bring it forward again and this legislation may not deter them. She sustained that last year's legislation on animal cruelty will help protect all animals from cruel treatment. She recommended assembling a task force to discuss this issue over the summer, with all parties involved.

Rep. Erpelding reiterated that this bill is about torture and companion animals. He cited evidence that those who torture animals will likely abuse a human being. He resolved that prosecutors need stronger laws to work with. He offered to help stand with agricultural communities (at a later date) to argue against animal torture of production animals.

SUBSTITUTE MOTION: **Rep. Erpelding** made a substitute motion to send **H 111** to the floor with amendments attached.

Rep. Dayley expressed opposition to how the bill addresses cruelty. He said there are better ways to handle this than increasing the penalty, such as mental counseling and education. **Vice Chairman Boyle** related that she received many calls from people stating they signed the previous initiative because the Legislature had not passed stricter laws. They indicated if there were stronger laws in place, they may not sign the petition again. **Chairman Andrus** included that this bill addresses concerns and the felony charge would be on the second offense, for someone who knows what they're committing and has had a chance for remediation. He recommended that this legislation would protect people.

ROLL CALL VOTE ON SUBSTITUTE MOTION: Roll call vote was requested. **Motion carried by a vote of 8 AYE, 6 NAY. Voting in favor** of the motion: **Reps. Andrus, Boyle, Bolz, McMillan, Miller, Stevenson, Pence, Erpelding. Voting in opposition** to the motion: **Reps. Batt, Bell, Agidius, Dayley, Romrell, Vanorden. Chairman Andrus** will sponsor the bill on the floor.

Vice Chairman Boyle handed the gavel back to **Chairman Andrus**.

H 336: **Vice Chairman Boyle** presented **H 336**, Wolf Depredation Account. She explained that two similar bills last year, **H 544** and **H 545**, were combined to introduce this bill. She outlined the problems that wolves have brought to Idaho, effecting wildlife, the Idaho Department of Fish and Game (IDFG), hunters, and producers. She claimed that federal funding has dried up and environmental groups have not kept their promises to help. Senator Craig and Senator Tester tried to keep those funds coming but they are now gone.

Vice Chairman Boyle acknowledged the previous federal fund that compensated ranchers and producers, but last year this paid only 33 cents on the dollar for confirmed kills. She related that when livestock are found dead or wounded, Wildlife Services are called. Many times it takes three to four days for them to respond and other animals have fed on the carcass by then. Other times when livestock herds are grazing, it is difficult to find dead or maimed livestock in time to protect and preserve the evidence. This demonstrates the difficulty in proving a confirmed kill. She pointed out the frustration in completing the necessary paperwork. She also spoke about unconfirmed kills, where the loss was probably due to a wolf, but these reimbursements were last in line for monies and received only a few pennies on the dollar.

Vice Chairman Boyle focused on the proposed fee increase for gray wolf tags in Idaho, which was previously $9.75 and would become $15 for residents. For non-residents, the fee would go from $184.25 to $188.25. She noted that this bill would authorize taking $8.00 from each wolf tag and putting it into two different accounts. One would be a newly created "Wolf Depredation Account" with monies invested and interest returned to the account. This would be specific for wolves and not applied to other animal control. Half of these funds would be transferred to the Animal Damage Control (ADC) fund, to control wolves preying on wildlife or livestock. The other half would be used for wolf depredation payments to livestock producers, administered by the Governor's Office of Species Conservation (OSC), and in coordination with the IDFG. She pointed out that although it appears that IDFG loses some money, it is actually revenue neutral.

In response to questions of hunters possibly backing off from buying more expensive tags, **Vice Chairman Boyle** answered that she spoke with wolf hunters and they contribute for the cause and the thrill of the hunt, even if the wolves are mostly elusive. She noted that Wildlife Services has had better success with trapping, and these funds would aid their efforts. She also clarified the bill specifies the IDFG would work in cooperation with the OSC to administer the compensation payments.

Pertaining to questions on other monies in the works for wolf depredation, **Vice Chairman Boyle** remarked that the other wolf legislation, **H 278**, is very sporadic funding and applies to general ADC. Pertaining to the number of wolves currently in Idaho, she related estimates of at least 1200. She defined that 150 is the absolute lowest number allowed or the wolves may be re-listed as an endangered species, which would put a stop to any hunting or management efforts.

Dustin Miller, Administrator, OSC, stepped forward to offer technical information. He confirmed that previously, for verified losses, they were able to compensate livestock owners close to market rates. Although wolves were de-listed in 2011, they had federal funding that ended in 2010. For undocumented losses, there was $100,000 annually available from additional federal funds and Defenders of Wildlife, to make payments if certain criteria was met. However, the last three seasons, compensation was only 33-35% of market value. He specified, unfortunately, that these funds have also dried up, leaving those with losses due to wolves in difficult situations.

In relation to questions on payments and required monitoring, **Mr. Miller** advised that the payments from Defenders of Wildlife were applicable so long as the endangered species act still applied. Now under state control, there is a five year period following de-listing where wolf monitoring and reporting is still required, to ensure the number of wolves stays above the threshold.

Sharon Kiefer, Deputy Director, IDFG, voiced technical observations and concerns about H 336. She stated this bill transfers more money into control and compensation payments than is raised by the wolf tag increase. She expressed fear that the license money the department needs for wolf monitoring will likely be reduced. However, federal expectations must be upheld to ensure that wolves are not re-listed.

Ms. Kiefer said that this bill's use of funds paid by hunters does not comply with Idaho Code since it would divert funds from ADC without the direct oversight of the IDFG Commission. She asserted that merely coordinating with OSC is not sufficient. She referenced that license funds must be implemented in a transparent manner for documenting claims and compensation, which she believes are lacking in this bill.

Ms. Kiefer presented her analysis that their Pittman Robertson funds may be threatened by diverting IDFG funds. She indicated that hunters and trappers are already part of the wolf management solution and are making overall progress in reducing depredation. She worried that increasing fees may be a disincentive to hunters. Ms. Kiefer called the committee's attention to recent revisions adopted by IDFG that will provide benefits to livestock producers. She lamented that hunters do not want their funding to be the only solution to the wolf problem.

Ms. Kiefer pointed out that IDFG was not consulted about this bill and are concerned that it carries an emergency clause. She recognized frustration about federal funds drying up, affecting legislators, producers, IDFG and sportsmen too. She asserted that IDFG and Idaho State Department of Agriculture (ISDA) have engaged an advisory committee to discuss this issue and bring forward potential solutions for consideration.

Ms. Kiefer described a Commission Order containing discounted non-resident fees for wolf tags, mountain lions and black bears. She wished to encourage rather than discourage hunting as a management tool for predation. She wondered if the emergency clause in **H 336** would overturn these non-resident discounts. She encouraged the committee to hold this bill for the remainder of the session.

In regards to further questioning on the Pittman Robertson funds, **Ms. Kiefer** answered that a large component of these funds is used for wildlife. The assent language to using the funds states that no funds from license fees by hunters shall be diverted. She responded that about $8 million per year comes in from Pittman Robertson funds and requires a state match with licensed dollars. She indicated that IDFG was using some of these funds for wolf management monitoring and control, but they were not available for depredation payments.

Ms. Kiefer continued that if Pittman Robertson funds are not used appropriately or are diverted, they can be withheld. She wants to make sure IDFG continues to receive these matching funds, which pertain to all hunting license fees, including licensing, tags and permits. She offered that in order to use the funds for compensation payments, it would need to be framed correctly. When asked if wolf management was outside the purpose of the Pittman Robertson funds, she consented that it may be possible to add wolves to Idaho Code 36-1109, which already specifies compensation for damage by black bears, grizzly bears, or mountain lions. She suggested that their advisory committee could look at how adding wolves to Idaho Code would effect funding for other animal depredation payments.

Ms. Kiefer addressed questions on following the money from the sale of wolf tags. She remarked that those fees go into the IDFG Expendable Trust Account, the bulk of which are used for wolf monitoring. In response to doubts on progress with wolves and possibly offering a bounty, she claimed that trappers have much better success than hunters, but hunters face a disparity in the likelihood of actually obtaining a wolf. She did not know if bounties would be more effective. Concerning wolf harvest numbers not keeping up with reproduction rates, she referenced harvest numbers gradually improving over the last few years and acknowledged they would continue to need wolf control to manage population growth. She predicted increased need for utilizing trappers.

On the topic of amending Idaho Code to include wolves for depredation payments, **Ms. Kiefer** indicated that she would try to have the House Resources Committee and IDFG Advisory Committee bring in key stakeholders to look at this possibility.

Stan Boyd, representing Idaho Cattle Association and Idaho Wool Growers Association, expressed his support of **H 336**. He noted that this would be a reliable source of funding that could be budgeted and counted on.

Vice Chairman Boyle summed up several concerns, adding that the other possible depredation payment program was similar to crop funding and had many complaints; however, the OSC program was highly praised and the industry has been happy with it, when funding was available in the past. She had approached several attorneys about the diversion of monies and is confident that Pittman Robertson funds would not be lost.

On the topic of the fiscal note for the bill, **Vice Chairman Boyle** was taught that it should reflect changes to the state's General Fund, and will look into that. She stated that one reason for the emergency provision was that February was usually when ranchers came together to be compensated by the OSC and so those who suffered losses would have something instead of nothing. Pertaining to bounties, she wanted to make sure that the wolves would not be in danger of re-listing or the agreement would be violated, but agreed the idea is worth looking into further.

MOTION: **Rep. McMillan** made a motion to send **H 336** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation.

Rep. Pence advocated coordinating groups and advocates of wolves to get together and find another solution without picking on one segment. **Rep. Batt** declared that this is not a new issue. She asked **Ms. Kiefer** to take the message to IDFG that we have got to find money for a solution to this issue.

VOTE ON MOTION: **Motion carried by voice vote**. **Representatives Pence, Erpelding, Bell, and Bolz** requested that they be recorded as voting **NAY**. **Vice Chairman Boyle** will sponsor the bill on the floor.

ADJOURN: There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting adjourned at 5:30 p.m.

Representative Andrus
Chair

Kim Jensen-Porter
Secretary

AGENDA

HOUSE AGRICULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

1:30 or Upon Adjournment
Room EW42
Thursday, March 28, 2013

SUBJECT	DESCRIPTION	PRESENTER
	Approval of Minutes	Chairman Andrus

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Chairman Andrus
Vice Chairman Boyle
Rep Bolz
Rep McMillan
Rep Batt
Rep Bell
Rep Agidius
Rep Dayley
Rep Miller
Rep Romrell
Rep Stevenson
Rep VanOrden
Rep Pence
Rep Erpelding

COMMITTEE SECRETARY

Kim Jensen-Porter
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Phone: 332-1137
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MINUTES

HOUSE AGRICULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

DATE:	Thursday, March 28, 2013
TIME:	1:30 or Upon Adjournment
PLACE:	Room EW42
MEMBERS:	Chairman Andrus, Vice Chairman Boyle, Representatives Bolz, McMillan, Batt, Bell, Agidius, Dayley, Miller, Romrell, Stevenson, VanOrden, Pence, Erpelding
ABSENT/ EXCUSED:	Rep. Dayley, Rep. Bell
GUESTS:	None

Chairman Andrus called the meeting to order at 1:40 p.m.

MOTION:	**Rep. Agidius** made a motion to approve the minutes of the March 26, 2013 meeting. **Motion carried by voice vote.**
ADJOURN:	There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting adjourned at 1:45 p.m.

Representative Andrus
Chair

Kim Jensen-Porter
Secretary