

MINUTES
SENATE AGRICULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

DATE: Thursday, January 25, 2024

TIME: 8:00 A.M.

PLACE: Room WW53

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chairman Hartgen, Vice Chairman Nichols, Senators Foreman, Hart, Schroeder, Carlson, Zuiderveld, Egbert, and Taylor

ABSENT/ EXCUSED: Senator Semmelroth

NOTE: The sign-in sheet, testimonies and other related materials will be retained with the minutes in the committee's office until the end of the session and will then be located on file with the minutes in the Legislative Services Library.

CONVENED: **Chairman Hartgen** called the meeting of the Senate Agricultural Affairs Committee (Committee) to order at 8:00 a.m.

Chairman Hartgen introduced Senator Megan Egbert who was substituting for Senator Semmelroth.

MINUTES APPROVAL: **Senator Foreman** moved to approve the Minutes of January 18, 2024. **Senator Taylor** seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**.

PRESENTATION: **Idaho Barley Commission (IBC) Annual Report. Laura Wilder**, Executive Director, IBC, spoke about the IBC updates and how the commission served to enhance the profitability of the Idaho barley growers through research, market development, promotion information, and education programs (Attachment 1).

Ms. Wilder applauded Idaho as the number one barley producing state in the U.S. in 2023, with 540,000 acres harvested at a record of 112 bushels per acre. She acknowledged it was due to Idaho's altitude, high desert climate, and agronomic conditions including abundant irrigation water. These factors made Idaho an ideal location to grow a consistent, reliable supply of premium-quality barley. **Ms. Wilder** reported the 2023 Idaho barley crop was estimated at a record high of \$467.5 million with the average price per bushel at \$7.73, this was a one percent increase in total production from 2022 to 2023 (Attachment 2).

PASSED THE GAVEL: Senator Hartgen passed the gavel to Vice Chair Nichols.

RULES REVIEW: **Vice Chair Nichols** instructed the Committee to ask questions before voting on each of the dockets. She mentioned Lloyd Knight was present to answer any questions.

DOCKET NO. 02-0414-2301 **Rules Governing Dairy Byproduct (ZBR Chapter Rewrite) - Proposed Rule.**

MOTION: **Senator Schroeder** moved to approve **Docket No. 02-0414-2301**. **Senator Carlson** seconded the motion. The motion passed by **voice vote**.

DOCKET NO. 02-0423-2301 **Rules governing Commercial Livestock Truck Washing Facilities (ZBR Chapter Rewrite) - Proposed Rule.**

MOTION: **Senator Zuiderveld** moved to approve **Docket No. 02-0423-2301**. **Senator Schroeder** seconded the motion. The motion passed by **voice vote**.

DOCKET NO. 02-0430-2301 **Rules Governing Environmental and Nutrient Management (ZBR Chapter Rewrite) - Proposed Rule.**

MOTION: **Senator Taylor** moved to approve **Docket No. 02-0430-2301**. **Senator Zuiderveld** seconded the motion. The motion passed by **voice vote**.

DOCKET NO. 02-0432-2301 **Rules Governing Poultry Operations (ZBR Chapter Rewrite, Fee Rule) - Proposed Rule.**

MOTION: **Senator Hart** moved to approve **Docket No. 02-0432-2301**. **Senator Taylor** seconded the motion. The motion passed by **voice vote**.

DOCKET NO. 02-0303-2301 **Rules Governing Pesticide and Chemigation Use and Application (ZBR Chapter Rewrite, Fee Rule) - Proposed Rule.**

MOTION: **Senator Egbert** moved to approve **Docket No. 02-0303-2301**. **Senator Taylor** seconded the motion. The motion passed by **voice vote**.

RULES REVIEW: **Vice Chair Nichols** emphasized to the Committee there would be no voting on the next dockets.

Vice Chair Nichols introduced Andrea Thompson.

DOCKET NO. 02-0610-2301 **Rules Governing the Growing of Potatoes (ZBR Chapter Rewrite) - Proposed Rule.** **Andrea Thompson**, Administrator, Plant Industries Division, ISDA, reviewed **Docket No. 02-0610-2301**. She stated the rules governed the procedures for all potato management within the Seed Potato Crop Management Areas. She advised these rules established the procedures of identifying, handling, and testing uncertified seed potatoes planted in Idaho. She added the rules were to prevent the spread of Pale Cyst Nematode and the introduction and/or spread of *Clavibacter Michiganensis* Subsp. *Sepedonicus* (Cms), and subsequently bacterial ring rot throughout Idaho and the United States. **Ms. Thompson** emphasized protecting seed beds for the next generation of potato plants was vitally important since pests and diseases could wipe out the seed stocks.

Ms. Thompson stated there was strong broad based participation from stakeholders which included the Idaho Farm Bureau, Idaho Potato Commission, growers, and advisory groups.

DOCKET NO. 02-0616-2301 **Rules Governing Honey Standards (ZBR Chapter Rewrite) - Proposed Rule.** **Andrea Thompson**, Administrator, ISDA, cited the rule was reviewed over the course of two negotiated rule-making meetings, and that review benefited from the participation of program stakeholders, the Honey Commission, and commercial beekeepers with no negative comments. She stated the rules applied to all honey produced by honeybees, and to incorporate by reference the United States Standards for Grades of Extracted Honey as a quality control program.

Ms. Thompson explained it was vitally important to protect honey as a food source as required by the Honey Industry Act. This was a law in Idaho that dealt with commercial honey production. It was enacted to promote the honey industry in Idaho by increasing the consumption of honey and promoting its many food values and quality.

**DOCKET NO.
11-0201-2301**

Rules of the Idaho State Brand Board (Fee Rule) - Proposed Rule. **Cody Burlile**, Executive Director, Idaho Brand Board, reviewed **Docket No. 11-0201-2301**. He explained the reason for this rule-making was that it was solely funded with dedicated funds generated from brand inspections, brand recording, brand renewals, and livestock dealer licensing. He reaffirmed that the last three years had seen a significant increase in inflationary costs and that the Brand Board had experienced a reduction in revenue due to the decrease in cattle numbers within the cattle market. He indicated that the Brand Board took a proactive approach and notified the livestock industries of a foreseeable need for additional revenue to remain financially solvent. The Brand Board had not imposed a cattle brand inspection fee increase since 2017.

Mr. Burlile stated the pending rule increased the cattle brand inspection fee by \$0.06 per head inspected, changing the total fee charged from \$1.19 to \$1.25 per head of cattle inspected. This increase moved the Brand Board cattle brand inspection fee to the statutory cap of \$1.25 per head set in Section 25-1160(1)(a), Idaho Code.

TESTIMONY: **Bob Naerebout**, Idaho Dairymen's Association, testified he was in support of the fee increase.

Ted Vander Schaaf, Idaho Brand Board Chairman, stated he was a dairy and cattle producer in Idaho. He cited the issue had been ongoing since 2022, and that the Brand Board had been discussing with the cattle industry an increase in fees. He asked the Committee for their support on this rule.

**DOCKET NO.
24-3801-2301**

Rules of the State of Idaho Board of Veterinary Medicine (ZBR Chapter Rewrite, Fee Rule) - Proposed Rule. **Stephanie Lotridge**, Executive Officer, Department of Professional Licences, (DOPL) presented **Docket No. 24-3801-2301**. She stated that under Executive Order 2020-01, Zero-Based-Regulation (ZBR), the Board of Veterinary Medicine had strived to prevent the accumulation of costly, ineffective, and outdated regulations, and reduce regulatory burden to achieve a more efficient operation of government. She stated the changes made were to simply the language for foreign veterinary graduates, continuing education, supervising veterinarians, certified veterinary technicians, and veterinary client patient relationships. She emphasized no fees had been increased.

**PASSED THE
GAVEL:**

Vice Chair Nichols passed the gavel back to Chairman Hartgen.

ADJOURNED:

There being no further business at this time, **Chairman Hartgen** adjourned the meeting at 8:50 a.m.

Senator Hartgen
Chair

Melissa Price
Secretary