

MINUTES  
**HOUSE AGRICULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE**

- DATE:** Monday, February 06, 2012
- TIME:** 1:30 P.M.
- PLACE:** Room EW20
- MEMBERS:** Chairman Andrus, Vice Chairman Boyle, Representative(s) Lake, Stevenson, Trail, Bolz, Shirley, Patrick, McMillan, Batt, Pence, Lacey
- ABSENT/  
EXCUSED:** None.
- GUESTS:** Janie Burns, Meadowlark Farm; Josie Erskine, Peaceful Belly Farm; Patrick Guzzle, Dept. of Health & Welfare; Breland Draper, Idaho Hanger Ruliet Task Force; Stacie Ballard, Ballard Cheese; Elizabeth Young, Garden Vitality LLC; Bob Naerebout, Idaho Dairymen's Assoc.; Elizabeth Criner, NWFPA; Jillian Greenawalt, Green Goat Dairy; Kent Lauer, Idaho Farm Bureau; Bonnie Butler, Governor's Office; Steve Ballard, Ballard Cheese; Benjamin Kelly, Food Producers of Idaho; Bill Barton, ISDA
- Chairman Andrus** called the meeting to order at 1:31 p.m.
- MOTION:** **Rep. McMillan** made a motion to approve the minutes of Thursday, February 2, 2012. **Motion carried by voice vote.**
- Stan Boyd**, Executive Secretary, Idaho Sheep Commission, said in 2000 the Legislature approved the collection of assessments for various programs in the Sheep Commission. He said they contract with the Idaho Wool Growers Association to implement the promotion program. He said currently Idaho is ranked 7th in the nation for number of breeding stock and 7th in nation for wool production. Mr. Boyd said the industry remains strong for prices, there is a good market, but the numbers of sheep in the state has continued to decline. He said there is currently 189,000 head of sheep in Idaho. He said the cost of production has also gone up.
- Mr. Boyd** said the Sheep Commission is in charge of the regulatory health program in Idaho for sheep and goats. He said the General Fund money received by the Commission is not used to promote the industry but to regulate the health of animals in Idaho. He said it has been recommended the Sheep Commission change its name to the Idaho Sheep and Goat Health Board. He said there will be legislation introduced to make that change.
- Mr. Boyd** explained the Commission charges an assessment of 8 cents per pound of wool sold. He explained how the amount is divided and reviewed the amounts in the promotion account. He reviewed the statement of cash flow and explained where the moneys were expended. He said the portion of money for promotion helps keep the industry in front of the public eye. He said right now the prices are high which is encouraging people who want to expand into the industry. Mr. Boyd explained the three primary problems in the industry. These are: predators including wolves; labor, dealing with immigration and public land issues, which is the most frustrating.
- Mr. Boyd** responded to Committee questions regarding the percentage of money going into Animal Damage Control, specifically depredation by wolves and how to significantly increase the number of sheep in Idaho.
- RS 20927:** **Rep. Barbieri** said this proposed legislation will eliminate the cow share program, which he felt was an unnecessary layer in the raw milk rules. He said there is still the provision for having the raw milk and products tested and nothing changes for bacterial content. He said the proposed changes continue to protect the consumer and opens the market further for raw milk producers.

Concerns from the Committee were expressed regarding opening this up to everybody to produce raw milk and sell it. That there had been compromises reached last year in the Rules and this legislation would take away those compromises. **Rep. Barbieri** answered concerns from Committee members regarding whether he had worked with the two groups involved last year in the Rules and whether he had checked the practices of other states regarding cow shares.

**MOTION:** **Rep. Patrick** made a motion to return **RS 20927** to the sponsor. **Motion carried by voice vote**, with **Rep. McMillan** being recorded as voting **NAY**.

**H 431:** **Rep. Hart** said he was not prepared to present the legislation at this time, he requested the bill he held at the Call of the Chair.

**MOTION:** **Rep. Lake** made a motion to **hold H 431 at the Call of the Chair**. **Motion carried by voice vote**.

**ADJOURN:** There being no further business to come before the Committee the meeting adjourned at 1:58 p.m.

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Representative Andrus  
Chairman

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Susan Werlinger  
Secretary