

MINUTES
HOUSE AGRICULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

- DATE:** Wednesday, February 22, 2012
- TIME:** 1:30 PM or Upon Adjournment
- PLACE:** Room EW20
- MEMBERS:** Chairman Andrus, Vice Chairman Boyle, Representative(s) Lake, Stevenson, Trail, Bolz, Shirley, Patrick, McMillan, Batt, Pence, Lacey
- ABSENT/
EXCUSED:** Representative(s) Stevenson
- GUESTS:** Rick Kelly, Dennis Tanikuni, Frank Priesley, Idaho Farm Bureau; Margie Watson, Gerald Henggeler, IVAC; Karen Launchbaugh, University of Idaho, Benjamin Kelly, Idaho Honey Industry Assoc., Lloyd Knight, ISDA; Ned Moon, Blaine Jacobson, Joe Anderson, Gordon Gallup, Jerry Brown, Bill Flory, Idaho Wheat Commission; Dar Olberding, Travis Jones, Clark Kauffman, Jeff Tee, Joseph Anderson, Idaho Grain Producers Association.
- Chairman Andrus** called the meeting to order at 2:53 p.m.
- MOTION:** **Rep. Pence** made a motion to approve the minutes of Monday, February 20, 2012. **Motion carried by voice vote.**
- H 513:** **Rep. Bolz** said there is concern that honey is being adulterated and is not true honey. He said there are 29 states that have legislation or pending legislation that is similar to this legislation. He said the FDA has decided they would not set standards federally for honey. He said states would have to set their own standards and now several states are doing that. **Rep. Bolz** reviewed the bill section by section.
- MOTION:** **Rep. Shirley** made a motion to send **H 513** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation. **Motion carried by voice vote.** **Rep. Bolz** will sponsor the bill on the floor.
- H 512:** **Stan Boyd**, Idaho Wool Growers Association, said the Sheep Commission is charged with the regulatory health of sheep and goats in the state of Idaho. He said other commissions in the state deal with advertising for their industry. He said ninety percent of the bill will change the name of the Sheep Commission to the Idaho Sheep and Goat Health Board. **Mr. Boyd** said the other part of the bill will allow a change in the assessment ceiling charged by the Commission. He explained how the assessment is divided between the regulatory health of animals and the Animal Damage Control program. **Mr. Boyd** said there were questions regarding the authority to collect assessments on goats. He said it was determined in the fee section that there was no authority to assess goats. **Mr. Boyd** asked the Committee to add this amendment to the legislation. He also said there is an amendment from the Governor's Office adding a provision to the legislation to relieve a member of the board if necessary.
- In answers to the Committee questions, **Mr. Boyd** said they have discussed how to assess goats and believe it will be on a per head basis that is comparable to the amount they assess for wool on sheep. He also said they are working out the details on whether the assessment will be on an annual basis and how they will inform goat owners of the assessment.
- MOTION:** **Rep. Bolz** made a motion to send **H 512** to **General Orders** with Committee amendments attached. **Rep. Lake** seconded the motion. **Motion carried by voice vote.** **Rep. Andrus** will sponsor the bill on the floor.

S 1259:

Dar Olberding, Idaho Grain Producers Assoc., said this legislation has come from a good process and he would yield to others present from the industry.

Gordon Gallop, Commissioner, Idaho Wheat Commission, introduced some of the Wheat Commissioners that were present. He said the Wheat Commission was established to promote the wheat industry. He said after being faced with budget challenges the assessment increase is important. He said they want to ensure that cutting edge technology is available for wheat producers in Idaho.

Frank Priestly, Idaho Farm Bureau, thanked the Committee for the opportunity to express Farm Bureau's support for this legislation. He said the assessment paid to the commodity commission is imposed by the members of the industry to fund research, information, and promotion for the industry. He said the Commission has said they won't automatically increase the assessment and can also decrease the assessment if necessary. He reviewed the other new language in the bill.

Joe Anderson, Idaho Wheat Commission, spoke in support of **S 1259** on behalf of the wheat growers of Idaho. He said this specifically addresses a tool to ensure the long term viability of wheat research and education. He said this is needed to attract and retain quality personnel and top scientists who provide research in the wheat industry. He said this is also an investment in students who will provide scientists in the future.

Joseph Anderson, President, Idaho Grain Producers Assoc., said the Commission has discussed the need for an increase in the assessment in Idaho. He said growers understand the value of the investment and the Wheat Commission has done a good job in stewarding investment dollars. He said he believes the time is right to pass this assessment increase. He said the money will go a long way at shoring up budgets and will allow commissioners more flexibility down the road. He said in their board meetings and at the convention, producers have supported this unanimously. He asked the Committee to please join in promoting the wheat industry by passing this legislation.

In response to Committee questions, **Blaine Jacobson**, Idaho Wheat Commission, said the legislation includes cleanup language for the purpose of bringing the Commission up to date and in line with other Commissions.

MOTION:

Rep. Patrick made a motion to send **S 1259** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation. **Motion carried by voice vote.** **Rep. Patrick** will sponsor the bill on the floor.

Dr. Karen Launchbaugh, University of Idaho, said the University was one of the first Universities to offer a degree in range management. She said the people in Idaho and in the World are dependent on rangelands. She explained the Rangeland Resource Center vision. She said they need to think broader and bring people together to do science in a new way. She said they have created a new vision for research and outreach. They are building a network of people who want to advance the understanding of rangelands. **Dr. Launchbaugh** said they have brought the right people to the table to work in the Center. She said they don't have much staff, but are utilizing interns, and they are the working hands of the Center.

Dr. Launchbaugh explained the rangeland mission, which is science and solutions for the range. She said they are creating insight where it is needed, and promoting active partnerships with individuals, organizations and communities. She said their focus is on research and education to produce solutions for rangeland issues.

Dr. Launchbaugh reviewed the structure of the Rangeland Center and who the faculty and partners are. She said their goal is to provide a clear understanding of rangelands for managers, users and admirers of rangelands and to provide educational opportunities. She said another goal is to engage students and interns to help solve rangeland problems. She said they are stepping forward to address today's rangeland challenges.

In response to Committee questions, **Dr. Launchbaugh** said many people today don't see the advantages of livestock grazing on rangelands. She said through the Center they will be more equipped to change the attitude of livestock on the range. She also said the outlook in range job opportunities is outstanding.

Margie Watson, Treasure Valley Ag Coalition, said they would like to address the critical needs of the maintenance and repair of Research and Extension Centers. She said they did go through the proper channels for this funding, but the money was pulled out at the end of the fiscal year. She said the agriculture industry competes globally and they have to stay competitive. She said money is going into repairing buildings when it should be going to research. She said they need to stay competitive and at the top of their game. She said agriculture is important to the state budget and they need the committees help.

Jerry Henggeler, Treasure Valley Ag Coalition, said there are two contracts put together with the University of Idaho and Simplot which puts funding in for research programs. He said the recipients of the money are paying taxes and fees. He said the hope of producers is to keep money in Idaho, but they can't do it without research. He said they are here to ask for funding for these research programs. They are asking the Committee to look at the programs and consider funding toward the repair and replacement of equipment at research stations.

ADJOURN: There being no further business to come before the Committee the meeting adjourned at 4:10 p.m.

Representative Andrus
Chairman

Susan Werlinger
Secretary