

MINUTES
HOUSE AGRICULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

- DATE:** Thursday, January 30, 2014
- 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:** Barbara Petty, University of Idaho Extension; Steve Hines, UI Extension; Ben Eborn, UI Extension; Rich Garber, UI CALS; Dennis Tanikuni, Idaho Farm Bureau; Camille Blaylock, Batt Associates; Sean Ellis, Capital Press; Elli Brown, Veritas Advisors; Wyatt Prescott, ICA; Mark Duffin, ISGA
- Chairman Andrus** call the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m.
- RS 22589:** **Rep. Dayley** presented **RS 22589**, Produce Rule and said this is a statement from Idaho to the federal government. The Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA) was signed into law in 2011. Rep. Dayley explained the process used to test the water for adequate sanitary quality and said this would have a devastating impact on Idaho Agriculture.
- MOTION:** **Rep. Agidius** made a motion to introduce **RS 22589**. **Motion carried by voice vote.**
- Dr. Garth Taylor**, Associate Professor of Agriculture Economics, University of Idaho, discussed the Idaho Agricultural Outlook. He stated the financial condition of Idaho agriculture breaks records for the third consecutive year and is the most it has ever been in Idaho history. He said potatoes are the largest crop grown followed by hay. He said sugar beets are down one percent this year and milk is up six percent. He said at this rate of growth we are close to doubling the size of agriculture in the last 12-17 years. He reviewed the numbers for revenue and the figures for government subsidies. He said in the latest version of the Farm Bill current programs are being replaced by more insurance based programs and as a result Idaho farmers will lose \$50 million worth of income. He said the debt to income ratio is the lowest in agricultural history and he explained how agriculture fits in with Idaho's economy. He said dairy is now the largest export in Idaho and the export is in the form of powdered milk. Dr. Taylor explained the relationship between exports and the prices received by farmers. He said exports will determine the health of Idaho agriculture.
- Steve Hines**, Extension Educator, University of Idaho presented the Potential Economic Effects of a Water Call. He explained exports bring new dollars into the economy and dairy processing is a critical link to the State of Idaho. He said seventy percent of Idaho's milk cow herds are located in the Magic Valley area. He reviewed in detail that high farm gate cash receipts comes from six counties in the Magic Valley. He explained the percentage of crops grown in the Magic Valley and discussed the cash value of each crop. He said the Magic Valley contributes over half of Idaho's total farm gate receipts.
- ADJOURN:** There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting was adjourned at 2:50 p.m.

Representative Andrus
Chair

Angela Sandoval
Secretary