

MINUTES  
**HOUSE AGRICULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE**

- DATE:** Monday, February 02, 2015
- TIME:** 1:30 P.M.
- PLACE:** Room EW42
- MEMBERS:** Chairman Andrus, Vice Chairman Boyle, Representatives McMillan, Batt, Bell, Dayley, Miller, Romrell, VanOrden, Burtenshaw, Kerby, Troy, Pence, Erpelding
- ABSENT  
EXCUSED:** Rep. VanOrden
- GUESTS:** Jim Jeffress, Sportsman; Scott Leibsle, ISDA; Karen Balch; Olin Balch; Forrest Goodrum; Burke Mantel; John Caywood; Jodie Ellis, BOVM; Dan Schiffler, Idaho Auction Association; Rulon Jones, Rancher; Shawn Schafer, North American Deer Farmer; KathyJems, Broadmountain Canyon Ranch; RF Reiner; Laura Johnson, ISDA; Brittany Hurst, Idaho Cattle Association; Joel Van Lith, Wendell Buying Station; Patrick Kole, Idaho Potato Commission; David Miller, Idaho Elk Breeders; Stan Boyd, Idaho Elk Breeders; John Jameson, Idaho Elk Breeders; Jason Shaw, Administrative Rules; Michael Gibson, Idaho Wildlife Federation
- Chairman Andrus** called the meeting to order at 1:32 p.m.
- MOTION:** **Rep. Erpelding** made a motion to approve the minutes of the meetings on January 20, 2015 and January 22, 2015. **Motion carried by voice vote.**
- RS 23232:** **Jodie Ellis**, Executive Director of Veterinary Medicine, stated while current law authorizes veterinarians to place their license on "inactive status," certified veterinary technicians have no such ability. In the interest of fairness and to treat both groups similarly, legislation is proposed to grant technicians the authority to place their certificates on "inactive status" and make technical corrections.
- MOTION:** **Rep. Erpelding** made a motion to introduce **RS 23232**. **Motion carried by voice vote.**
- RS 23233:** **Jodie Ellis**, Executive Director of Veterinary Medicine, explained in 2013, the legislature approved a change to make application and certification fees nonrefundable to applicants for certification as a veterinary technician. However, current statute requires the return of licensing fees to applicants for veterinary licenses, under certain circumstances. To eliminate this inconsistency between two similarly situated groups regulated by the Board of Veterinary Medicine, this proposed legislation amends Idaho Code to make both application and licensing fees for veterinary applications nonrefundable, thereby treating the two groups the same. When asked by the committee what the cost was for processing an application, Ms. Ellis stated it cost approximately \$150.00 to \$175.00 but much higher if there is complications.
- MOTION:** **Rep. Erpelding** made a motion to introduce **RS 23233**. **Motion carried by voice vote.**
- DOCKET NO.  
29-0102-1401:** **Patrick J. Kole**, Idaho Potato Commission, stated that changing circumstances in the way labels are marked on potato containers as well as how containers are made have led the industry to request the rules be updated. The type of containers used for packing potatoes, the size of the seal used on potato containers and the manner in which variety labeling takes place will be reviewed for bringing the rules current. The Food and Safety Modernizations Act as well as Good Agricultural Practices also impact the industry particularly as it relates to traceability.

**MOTION:** Rep. Kerby made a motion to approve **Docket No. 29-0102-1401**. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

**DOCKET NO. 02-0428-1401:** **Dan Schiffler**, Idaho Livestock Association President, spoke **in support** of the rule. He would like to see trader lots held to the same rules as auction yards. In response to committee questioning about cattle sent out of state he explained the auction yard contacts the state they are being sent to and follows their health requirements.

**Britany Hurst**, Idaho Cattle Association, spoke **in support** of the rule. She said in November of last year association members were introduced to the changes in this rule. The membership voted in support of the changes. The purpose of the change is to maintain the health of the cattle through the State of Idaho. When asked if they made an effort to contact any trader lots, she stated they did not as none of the trader lots have membership in the Cattle Association.

**Joel Van Lith**, owner of Wendell Buying Station, testified **in opposition** to the rule change. When cattle are shipped out of state from trader lots, they are inspected before shipment and get a health certificate. Cattle going directly to slaughter are inspected for disease at the slaughter house. This rule will require all cattle be inspected, even those who are going directly to slaughter. Responding to committee questioning concerning his notification of the new rule, he stated he was not involved in the rule making process.

**Dr. Leibsle**, Deputy Administrator, responded to committee questions regarding how the rule was negotiated. He explained they used the usual process by notifying organizations and publishing it in the administrative bulletin. When asked if he had contacted any of the six trader lots this rule would directly effect, his response was no.

**MOTION:** **Rep. Batt** made a motion to reject **Docket No. 02-0428-1401** and draft a concurrent resolution stating the committees rejection. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

**DOCKET NO. 02-0421-1401** **Rulon Jones**, Elk Rancher, spoke **in support** of the rule change. He reviewed a study done in Michigan on free range elk, which was conducted from 1981 - 1994. During this time tagged elk were monitored. The meningeal worm accounted for only 3% of mortalities. Thus, meningeal worm had little impact on elk in Michigan during the study despite greater than normal precipitation and record deer densities. He pointed out to the committee that his business contributes greatly to his community in employment and commerce. He stated that it is difficult for him to compete with elk farms in near by states that do not have similar rules restricting importation of elk over state lines.

**Shawn Schafer**, Executive Director, North American Deer Farmers Association spoke **in support** of the change to the rule. He questioned why elk were the target of this rule while there are other species that are more susceptible, such as sheep, llamas, and alpacas. They all have the potential to spread this disease, yet have zero restriction for importation. He asked for removal of Section 605, to eliminate the import restrictions of domestic cervidae from regions known to be endemic for meningeal worm.

Due to time constraints, **Docket No. 02-0421-1401** will be carried over to the meeting of February 4, 2015, at 1:30 p.m.

**ADJOURN:** There being for further business to come before the committee, the meeting was adjourned at 2:57 p.m.

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Representative Andrus  
Chair

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Joan Majors  
Secretary