

MINUTES
HOUSE AGRICULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

DATE: Monday, February 20, 2017

TIME: 1:30 P.M.

PLACE: Room EW42

MEMBERS: Chairman Boyle, Vice Chairman Dayley, Representatives Bell, Miller, VanOrden, Burtenshaw, Kerby, Troy, Stevenson, Amador, Armstrong, Hanks, Zito, Erpelding (Gugino), Toone

**ABSENT/
EXCUSED:** None

GUESTS: Jeff Rumney, USA Dry Pea and Lentil; Sid Freeman, Self; Howard Jones, Chair of Idaho Pea and Lentil Commission; Cole Riggers, Western Pulse Growers Assn.; Mitch Coates, Food Producers; Wyatt Prescott, ICA

Chairman Boyle called the meeting to order at 1:34 p.m.

Chairman Boyle introduced the new page, **Rebekah Henrie**, and welcomed her to the Agriculture Affairs Committee.

MOTION: **Rep. Troy** made a motion to approve the minutes of Tuesday, February 14, 2017. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

RS 25285: **Rep. Dayley** explained the process of rejection of a rule as was requested by the Wheat Commission.

MOTION: **Rep. Miller** made a motion to introduce **RS 25285** and recommend it be sent directly to the Second Reading Calendar. **Motion carried by voice vote.** **Rep. Dayley** will sponsor the bill on the floor.

RS 25286: **Rep. Dayley** explained the rejection of this rule is the same procedure as the previous legislation.

MOTION: **Rep. Zito** made a motion to introduce **RS 25286** and recommend it be sent directly to the Second Reading Calendar. **Motion carried by voice vote.** **Rep. Dayley** will sponsor the bill on the floor.

Gretchen Hansten, Idaho FFA President, stated the future of agriculture promises challenges and opportunities as we move forward, and one thing we can look forward to is our up and coming workforce. She said Idaho FFA and agriculture education are preparing a pipeline of individuals who are bright and intuitive for careers in the future of agriculture. There are over 4,441 FFA members in 91 FFA chapters across the state engaged in courses from food science to agricultural mechanics. She stated not only are the FFA members being trained in different areas of agriculture, but they are developing a variety of skills such as public speaking, conducting and participating in meetings, managing financial matters and solving problems.

Rep. Smith was presented the Honorary State FFA Degree by the 2016-2017 Idaho State FFA officers. It is considered the highest honor a State FFA Association can award to a non-member.

HJM 1:

Sid Freeman, Canyon County farmer, said in 2006, he was part of a team who wrote a Memorial Resolution and carried it through to completion. Now because during the presidential campaign, then candidate Donald Trump, made statements regarding possibly opening up free trade agreements and making some adjustments to them, it was time to pull out the 2006 Memorial, do some re-writing and bring it back before the committee today. He stated in 2015 the Country of Origin Labeling was repealed after a ruling by the World Trade Organization triggered by complaints filed by Mexico and Canada stating they had been financially harmed because of it. He said without the Country of Origin Labeling, the citizens of our country have no way of knowing where their food is coming from. He stated all food products coming into this country should meet the exact same criteria as is expected of our domestic ranchers, farmers and food processors. Mr. Freeman said this is a food security issue which could lead to a national security issue. He said a strong and viable food source is the corner stone of any country's national security.

Mr. Freeman said the actual number of producers in the United States is now less than one percent of the nation's population and declining. He said because of the importance of the standards to which American farmers, ranchers and food processors are held, primarily standards concerning food safety, he urged that foreign companies wishing to participate in markets that lie within the boundaries of the United States be held to the exact same standards. He also said any audits or inspections that may be required to confirm the necessary criteria is met are paid in full by the foreign companies themselves.

In response to a committee question, **Mr. Freeman** said many factors come into play along with food safety, including; wages, environmental issues, and insecticides to name a few.

MOTION:

Rep. Armstrong made a motion to send **HJM 1** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation. **Motion carried by voice vote.** **Rep. Armstrong** will sponsor the bill on the floor

Howard Jones, Chair of Idaho Pea and Lentil Association, stated 2016 was the International Year of The Pulse campaign. He said pulses are nutritionally dense, sustainable, affordable and versatile, all traits important to the consumers of the world. He explained a pulse is the dried edible seed of a legume. There are over 100 varieties of dried beans, lentils, peas and chickpeas. He said the Genesee, Idaho PMW Coop processes over 500 million pounds of garbanzo beans annually. Mr. Jones said the 2016 campaign focused on the millennial generation in their promotion of the pulse market. They did this through digital media, social media, food magazines and food networks. He said there were over 56,000 people who accepted the pledge to include a type of pulse in their diet at least one day a week for 12 weeks. He said now 25% of people are able to identify pulse as an edible product. He explained the revolution of new products that now contain some type of pulse in their ingredients. The movement of non GMO and gluten free products has promoted pulse as they fit that description completely. He said one of the surprising places where they have seen a product addition has been in pet food.

Mr. Jones said the 2017 campaign will offer the challenge to include 1/2 cup of pulse daily in their meals. The advantage is fat loss, lowering of bad cholesterol and raising good cholesterol. He said the pulses offer health, nutrition, functionality and sustainability.

ADJOURN: There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting was adjourned at 2:22 p.m.

Representative Boyle
Chair

Joan Majors
Secretary