

MINUTES
HOUSE AGRICULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

DATE: Tuesday, January 30, 2018

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, Toone

**ABSENT/
EXCUSED:** None

GUESTS: Michael Goodson, Idaho Bean Commission; Roger Batt, Idaho Eastern Oregon Seed Association; Aaron Phillips, IEOSA; Dennis Tanikuni, Idaho Farm Bureau; Benjamin Kelly, Idaho Food Producers; Mark Duffin, Idaho Sugarbeet Growers; Paige Larrolea-Phillips, Food Producers; Nathan Helm, Melba Future Farmers of America (FFA); William Baird, Melba FFA; Brant Monanan, Melba FFA; Luke Vanderwerft, Melba FFA; Halie Workman, Melba FFA, Devin Padget, Melba FFA; Cindy Read, Melba FFA, Hailey Cowger, Melba FFA; Kaylee Andrus, Melba FFA; Cheylan Volkers, Melba FFA

Chairman Boyle called the meeting to order at 1:35 p.m.

MOTION: **Rep. Toone** made a motion to approve the minutes of the Monday, January 20, and Wednesday, January 24, 2018 meetings. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

Anna Peterson, Vice President Nampa Future Farmers of America (FFA) explained because agriculture is vital to the economy of Idaho and yet so few students are exposed to the many different ways agriculture affects their lives, she choose to propose through her senior project that the State Board of Education establish Agricultural Science as a high school graduation requirement. She said in the State of Idaho 1 out of 7 workers are directly employed in agriculture, yet fewer young people are choosing to work in the industry. She stated through Agriculture Science young people would have the opportunity to learn more about careers available supporting agriculture. She said 58% of students who are involved in agriculture through programs like FFA go on to college as opposed to only 46% of high school senior in the state of Idaho.

Cindy Anderson, Idaho State FFA Secretary spoke **in support** of the proposed mandatory Agriculture Science class for Idaho high school students. She spoke of the opportunities that have come to her through involvement in the FFA and Agriculture Programs offered through her high school.

Saad Hafez, Nematologist, University of Idaho explained he is testifying today neither in support nor against the soy bean industry but only to give the scientific facts of the impact on the industry if the commodity is brought into Idaho. He said the Bean Cyst Nematode can lay dormant in the soil for 8-10 years, only becoming active when a host plant is planted in the soil. The Soy Bean Cyst Nematode was discovered in Japan and now has spread everywhere soy beans are grown causing up to an 80% reduction in yield. He said the Soy Bean Cyst Nematode grows on a variety of other crops such as cucumbers, alfalfa, tomatoes and sugar beets. Mr. Hafez said the Soy Bean Cyst Nematode causes serious ramification including a halt to export. He explained how the nematode will adapt and create new breeds as they are introduced to nematode resistance plants. He explained trap crops and how they are used either pre planting or post planting to destroy the cyst nematode. He said it would be more efficient to work on management of the cyst nematodes

rather than eradication. He stated in the history of nematodes, they have never been able to eradicate them completely.

Oliver Neher, PhD Amalgamated Sugar Company, stated he is not representing the sugar beet growers but rather the opinion of the research arm of Amalgamated Sugar. He said the sugar beet industry contributes 87 million dollars to the Idaho economy Sugar Beet Cyst Nematode. He explained 65 to 75% of all the acres planted in sugar beets are affected by the Sugar Beet Cyst Nematode. He said we do have ways to treat the seeds with chemicals. He stated sugar beet seed tolerant to the sugar beet cyst nematodes can still produce nematode so over time the population slowly increases in the fields.

Mr. Neher said the Soy Bean Cyst Nematode could be a problem for the industry depending on how they are introduced to soy bean certified seed as everything that carries soil is a potential threat. He explained what happens to a sugar beet if it is penetrated by a cyst nematode, allowing other pathogens and diseases to enter the crop. He said currently in Idaho we have two round up ready crops; corn and sugar beets. If soy beans are added to the list there is an issue with volunteer soy beans in a beet field. He stated a soy bean rotation has the highest resistance to herbicide weeds.

Aaron Phillips, President of Idaho Eastern Oregon Seed Association, stated there are two distinct areas for bean seed production; the Treasure Valley and the Magic Valley. He said one of the risks to bean seed production concerning the soy bean has to do with the length of time it takes for them to fully mature. The soy bean requires an extra 30 days in the field. He stated the longer growing period allows for greater potential of diseases and insect damage. He said the soy bean crop is more frost resistant allowing an opportunity for disease to persist in the soy bean plant later in the year. He stated if the disease is found in our seed, the exports of bean seed out of Idaho will be closed, there will be a huge loss to the market and the states reputation as a premier grower of seed will be damaged.

Chairman Boyle turned the gavel over to **Vice Chairman Dayley**.

Mr. Phillips stated the rules and regulations put in place have been a protector to the industry and any lax in the rules would potentially be damaging to the industry. He said Idaho is the number one dry bean seed grower in the United States and he wants to continue to place Idaho seed at the top tier of growers.

Roger Batt, Idaho Eastern Oregon Seed Association, said the industry is very concerned with soy bean cyst nematode and does not want it here in the State of Idaho because of its devastating impact not only to the bean industry but to other crops as well. Mr. Batt said when the industry asked for negotiated rules making to take place on this issue they were denied by the Agricultural Department stating there already were several measures in place to protect the industry. He said they respectfully disagree. Mr. Batt explained the two proposals they will be making to the legislature this session.

In response to a committee question, **Mr. Batt** said the growers are supportive of both proposal.

In response to committee question, **Mr. Batt** said in the mid west where soy beans are grown, they do have the Bean Cyst Nematode but they do not have the same bean seed industry as we have here.

ADJOURN: There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting adjourned at 3:06 p.m.

Representative Boyle
Chair

Joan Majors
Secretary