

MINUTES
HOUSE AGRICULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

DATE: Tuesday, February 20, 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: Larry A. Hayhurst, State Brand INSP; Rep. Clark Kauffman, House; Candi Fitch, Idaho-Oregon Fruit and Veg. Assn; Ed McNelis, Idaho Quarter Horse Assoc; Cody Burlite, Idaho Brand Insp; Sydney Anderson, Idaho FFA; Austen Thomason, Idaho FFA; Patrick Guzzle, IDHW; Elizabeth Criner, Food Northwest; Debra J Amsden, Idaho Horse Council; Charlene Cooper, Idaho Horse Board; Clara-Leigh Evans, University of Idaho/Idaho FFA; Myron Amsden, Idaho Horse Council; Wyatt Prescott, ICA; Dennis Stevenson, Rules Coordinator; Cole Riggs, Western Pulse Growers Assn; Pat L Smith, Idaho Pea and Lentil Commission; Dennis Tanikuni, Idaho Farm Bureau

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

MOTION: **Rep. Toone** made a motion to approve the minutes of the February 12, 2018, meeting. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

Austen Thomason, Idaho Future Farmers of America (FFA) Treasurer from Weiser FFA, addressed the committee stating Idaho FFA has had an excellent year. He said they have been growing, leading and serving through agriculture education. He explained they are developing workforce skills as students in career and technical education in over 92 chapters through out Idaho. He explained several service projects accomplished by the members including packaging peas, lentils and spices to send out to the community, serving lunch at the veterans home and listening to their stories and serving dinner at the Boise Rescue Mission. He said service is a very important aspect of Idaho FFA and they will continue to search for ways to serve in their communities. He said leadership is a key component of their FFA mission and included a year of traveling across the state delivering leadership workshops to high school members. He reported they have also spent time advocating for Idaho FFA on a national, and international level, traveling to Washington D.C. and to the National FFA Convention. He thanked the Legislature for their support and promised to continue to work to pursue success through the FFA Motto, Learning to Do, Doing to Learn, Earning to Live and Living to Serve.

H 537: **Rep. Kauffman**, explained for human food manufactures, the primary oversight for food safety and inspections falls within the jurisdiction of the federal Food and Drug Administration (FDA), under the authority of the Food and Safety Modernization Act (FSMA). The FDA has in the past contracted a number of these inspections out to the State of Idaho. At the present time, they are contracting with the Idaho Department of Health and Welfare. This legislation would transition that responsibility over to the Idaho Department of Agriculture by fiscal year 2020. He said this legislation authorizes the production agriculture under the auspices of federal produce safety rule. This legislation authorizes the ISDA to administer and enforce the produce safety rule, not to exceed the standards required by federal law. He reported the funds now allocated to Health and Welfare would transition to

the Agriculture Department and because there may be some unknowns, it may be necessary to request some funding from the General Funds.

Speaking on behalf of organizations **in support of H 537** were **Candi Fitch**, representing Idaho-Oregon Fruit and Vegetable Assn. and Food Producers as well as **Elizabeth Criner**, representing Food Northwest.

MOTION: **Rep. Dayley** made a motion to send **H 537** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation. **Motion carried by voice vote.** **Rep. Kauffman** will sponsor the bill on the floor.

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

H 602: **Rep. Boyle** explained this legislation is about a change in horse brand inspections. She said this is a discussion that has been necessary to take place for several years. She indicated several states through out the west do not have mandatory horse brand inspections any longer and pointed out Oregon stopped requiring brand horse inspections nearly 5 years ago. She said in 2017, the record shows 9,611 equine inspections were done, yet it is estimated there are over 250,000 horses in Idaho, making it obvious owners are not following the mandatory brand law. She stated there is a life time \$35.00 fee offered but that is not enough to offset the short fall that is made up by the cattle brand fees. **Rep. Boyle** said there needs to be a discussion about the necessity of horse branding. She said she would like to work with the Brand Department, and all those involved. She asked for **H 602** to remain in committee so that can happen.

MOTION: **Rep. Burtenshaw** made a motion to **HOLD H 602** in committee. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

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

Pat Smith, Chair of the Pea and Lentil Commission, introduced the Board for 2017, pointing out the new members. He said pulse farm acres have been stable with a small shift from peas and lentils to more chick peas in the ground. He stated this year there were 167,000 acres compared to 173,000 acres last year due primarily to the abundance of rain this past year. He explained the commission has a variable assessment rate from 1 to 2 %, currently at 1.5%. Chick peas are the largest share of the assessment followed by peas and lentils. He indicated domestic marketing and research being the two largest assessment expenditures.

Mr. Smith said the 2016 campaign, "The Year of the Pulse" was very successful with more than 2.4 billion people reached on social media encouraging them to begin the 1/2 cup of pulse a day habit.

In response to a committee question concerning where chick peas are processed, **Mr. Smith** said they are cleaned and bagged here, then sent to Virginia to be processed into hummus. He stated on the export side they have processing plants in Idaho and Washington where they are bagged and cleaned and sent off to international market. He said it would be ideal to have a processing plant here similar to one in North Dakota that runs 24 hours a day grinding yellow peas into flour, separating the protein from the starch. He stated a lot of that product goes into making pet food.

In response to a committee question, **Mr. Smith** said their biggest market was India but India's government is trying to promote local farmers and have placed a high tariff in addition to a sur tax making it impossible to import to them at the present time. He said for now Mexico and Canada are the largest customers outside of the US.

ADJOURN: There being no further business to come before the committee. the meeting was adjourned at 2:21 p.m.

Representative Boyle
Chair

Joan Majors
Secretary