

MINUTES
HOUSE AGRICULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

DATE: Tuesday, February 18, 2020
TIME: 1:30 P.M.
PLACE: Room EW42
MEMBERS: Chairman Boyle, Vice Chairman Troy, Representatives Kerby, Stevenson, Zito, Andrus, Giddings, Goesling, Marshall, Nichols, Raymond, Kiska, Toone, Abernathy, McCrostie

**ABSENT/
EXCUSED:** None

GUESTS: Katy Doumit, Idaho FFA; Sydney Plum, Idaho FFA; Cassidy Plum, Idaho FFA; Shalani Wilcox, Idaho FFA Association; Katie Hettinga, Idaho FFA; Herman Roberts, Idaho FFA

Chairman Boyle called the meeting to order at 1:33 p.m.

MOTION: **Rep. Kiska** made a motion to approve the minutes of the February 4, February 5, February 10, and February 12, 2020, meetings. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

Kaela Davis was welcomed and introduced to the committee as the page for the second half of the session.

FFA Officers, **Herman Roberts**, State President, **Shalani Wilcox**, State Vice President, **Cassidy Plum**, State Secretary, **Katie Hettinga**, State Treasurer, **Sydney Plum**, State Reporter and **Katy Doumit** introduced themselves to the committee. They stated the FFA Mission Statement; To make a positive difference in the lives of students by developing their potential for premier leadership, personal growth and career success through agricultural education. They explained the FFA motto of Learning to do, Doing to learn, Earning to love and Loving to serve, with the FFA functioning with-in the three-circle model of agricultural education as a student leadership organization complementing the student's classroom instruction and agricultural experiences. They reported there are 95 chapters of FFA in the state and they are continuing to grow. Speaking of their international trip to Spain and Portugal earlier this year, they were able to tour several cork farms, cattle ranches and farms in both countries. They spoke of their appreciation of the different cultures and sited the differences in agriculture and ranching. They said it helped them to gain a greater appreciation of other cultures.

The committee noted the use of the term "Global Citizens" and encouraged the FFA leadership to research the full meaning as it pertains to activism in setting up a world government, which is a lot different than the meaning of being able to feed the world.

02-0000-1900FA **Dr. Bill Barton**, Administrator for Animal Industries, stated this rule governs procedures for the detection, prevention, control and eradication of diseases among domestic cervidae including facilities, record keeping and reporting requirements of domestic cervidae ranches. He said there were no substitutive changes nor increases to the established fees.

In response to a committee question concerning meningeal worms, **Dr. Barton** said there has not been any cases found in Idaho. He said there is a very strict de-worming policy as well as annual checks.

MOTION: **Rep. Troy** made a motion to approve Omnibus **Docket No. 02-0000-1900FA, Chapter 02.04.19. Motion carried by voice vote.**

Roy Eiguren, representing Amalgamated Sugar, introduced **John McCreedy**, CEO and President.

John McCreedy, President and CEO of Amalgamated Sugar, said Amalgamated Sugar was purchased in 1997, by the Snake River Sugar Company, a grower-owned cooperative employing around 1600 workers. He said they have three processing plants in Idaho producing 19% of all domestically produced sugar. He explained looking to the future, they plan to make significant capitol investments over the next five years in their facilities while continuing to maximize diversification opportunities to find additional potential streams of revenue. He explained their legislative priorities as transportation, finding new talent and continuing agricultural research.

In response to a committee question, **Mr. McCreedy** said they are at capacity in their ability to process the sugarbeets grown in Idaho at this time. It is in their long range goals to be able to process more acres than is being grown now.

Brad Griff, Executive Director of Idaho Sugarbeet Growers, introduced **Randy Grant**, President of Idaho Sugarbeet Growers.

Randy Grant, President of Idaho Sugarbeet Growers, stated their mission is to promote the sugarbeet industry. He said they are made up of 540 members divided into five local organizations. He said they grow over 180,000 acres of sugarbeets. He explained because farmers can control the amount of water through irrigation during growing season, it enables them to attain higher sugar content in the sugarbeets. He said this past season was the third highest in their history.

In response to a committee question, **Mr. Grant** said as far as he knows there are no organic sugarbeets grown in the nation. He said before Round-up Ready Sugarbeets, the chemicals used were much harsher.

ADJOURN: There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting was adjourned at 2:47 p.m.

Representative Boyle
Chair

Joan Majors
Secretary