

MINUTES  
**SENATE AGRICULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE**

**DATE:** Thursday, February 18, 2021

**TIME:** 8:00 A.M.

**PLACE:** Room WW53

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Vice Chairman Bayer, Senators Siddoway (Burtenshaw), Patrick, Den Hartog, Johnson, Zito, Ricks, Nelson, and Rabe

**ABSENT/ EXCUSED:** None

**NOTE:** The sign-in sheet, testimonies and other related materials will be retained with the minutes in the committee's office until the end of the session and will then be located on file with the minutes in the Legislative Services Library.

**CONVENED:** **Vice Chairman Bayer** called the meeting of the Senate Agricultural Affairs Committee (Committee) to order at 8:01 a.m.

**PRESENTATIONS:** **Idaho Dairymen's Association Presentation. Rick Naerebout**, Chief Executive Officer, Idaho Dairymen's Association, updated the Committee on Idaho's dairy industry, explaining that he represents policy on the farm side of the dairy producers (see Attachment 1). He mentioned that two House bills would be coming before the Committee in this session, so he wanted to provide background on those as well. He informed the Committee about the dairies' economic contribution, stating that Idaho ranks third in the U.S. for milk production and that dairies bring 37,000 jobs and \$9.1 billion in total sales to the State. **Mr. Naerebout** provided details how dairies must follow a high-standard nutrient management plan (see Attachment 2) and that the dairymen meet those expectations by following the strict criteria.

In response to questions from the Committee, **Mr. Naerebout** discussed industry standards regarding phosphorus levels, threshold standards, and the precautions taken to prevent phosphorus from seeping into the river and groundwater.

**Idaho Dairy Products Commission Annual Report. Karianne Fallow**, Dairy West, noted dairy farmers' resilience during the COVID pandemic and its serious disruption to their supply chains. **Ms. Fallow** discussed the supply of and demand for dairy products around the world. She informed the Committee about Dairy West's Curds + Kindness initiative, which launched in April 2020 to match surplus milk with processing capacity to create products for food-insecure populations. She showed the Committee a YouTube video that explained its efforts.

**Caldwell Canyon Phosphate Mine Presentation. James Curry**, Governmental Affairs Lead, Bayer Crop Science (Bayer), informed the Committee that he was based in Washington and explained that Bayer acquired Monsanto. He introduced his colleague Randy Vranes, Business Unit Lead, Mineral Activities, to discuss Idaho projects. **Mr. Vranes** discussed Bayer's investment in the Caldwell Canyon phosphate mine in Soda Springs. He detailed the mine's community impact, jobs created, annual payroll, taxes and royalties paid, and charitable giving. He further discussed the Ballard Mine's background and remediation (see Attachment 3).

**Roundup Litigation Updates.** Mr. Curry discussed how herbicides are safe when used according to their label and gave an update regarding the status of the Roundup weed killer litigation. He also informed the Committee that Bayer will petition the Environmental Protection Agency to make adjustments to their labels since Roundup will continue to be on the market considering it has 40 years of safe usage.

**PAGE  
GRADUATION:**

**Vice Chairman Bayer** said farewell to the Committee's page, Hana Pfeiffer, and asked her what she had enjoyed about the page experience. **Ms. Pfeiffer** told the Committee about her experience and what she learned while being in service to the Committee and the Senate as a whole.

**ADJOURNED:**

There being no further business at this time, **Vice Chairman Bayer** adjourned the meeting at 9:25 a.m.

---

Senator Bayer  
Vice Chair

---

Erin Miller  
Secretary