

MINUTES  
**HOUSE AGRICULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE**

**DATE:** Tuesday, March 08, 2022

**TIME:** 1:30 P.M.

**PLACE:** Room EW42

**MEMBERS:** Chairman Kauffman, Vice Chairman Andrus, Representatives Boyle, Kerby, Giddings, Marshall, Nichols, Hanks, Cannon, Moon, McCann, Toone, Ruchti, Mathias

**ABSENT/  
EXCUSED:** Rep.(s) Ruchti, Hanks, Giddings

**GUESTS:** The sign-in sheet will be retained in the committee secretary's office; following the end of session the sign-in sheet will be filed with the minutes in the Legislative Library.

**Chairman Kauffman** called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m.

**Katie Baker**, Executive Director, FARE Idaho, explained FARE stands for food, agriculture, restaurants, and establishments, and unites Idaho food and beverage communities to ensure independents get a seat at the table with an opportunity to collectively create positive change within their industry. Farmers, ranchers, food producers, independent food and beverage markets, independent markets and retailers, independent restaurants, and beverage establishments have joined together, and now there are over 270 members statewide. FARE Idaho connects producers and retailers, promotes members, and builds community. Their mission is to tell stories about Idaho's food from farm to table.

**Liz Wilder**, Executive Director, Idaho Wool Growers Association, said this association was established in 1893, and its mission is to promote, educate and advocate for the Idaho sheep industry. Idaho is seventh in the nation for sheep inventory and 8th for wool production. There are 1447 shepherds and 230,000 sheep who call Idaho home. Idaho's inventory value is \$120 million and the wool base value is \$2.6 million. The wool is taken around the world, including to the famous Pendleton Woolen Mills. In January, lambing begins and will be ready for processing at a time when inventory is at its lowest. Idaho is one of two states who can provide the lamb necessary for this time of year. Covid 19 resulted in a large price drop as many restaurants closed, however, many are rediscovering this protein and two years later prices are at an all-time high. Wool is thriving as its value is being seen as biodegradable, long-lasting, provides less harm to the environment, and consists of thermal insulation properties.

**Kim Royer**, Chairman, Idaho Sheep and Goat Board (ISGB) explained ISGB has the responsibility of oversight and control of serious contagious disease of sheep and goats in Idaho as well as general support of the industry. ISGB tracks sheep and goat imports and exports with Certified Vet Inspection permits and operates a hotline six days and evenings a week to answer veterinarians' calls regarding permits. Partnering with the Idaho State Department of Agriculture (ISDA) animal industry department and Idaho Wool Growers, ISGB is developing a localized vaccine for campylobacter and chlamydia using Idaho sourced isolates. ISDA will store and handle the vaccine, and Idaho Wool Growers will market the vaccine. Producers will benefit from a below-market priced vaccine that is geographically and culturally specific for them.

**ADJOURN:** There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting adjourned at 2:24 p.m.

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Representative Kauffman  
Chair

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Jayne Feik  
Secretary