

MINUTES  
**HOUSE AGRICULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE**

**DATE:** Thursday, February 16, 2023

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

**PLACE:** Room EW42

**MEMBERS:** Chairman Andrus, Vice Chairman Raymond, Representatives Boyle, Cannon, McCann, Ehlers, Gallagher, Garner, Nelsen, Pickett, Sauter, Mathias, Nash, Roberts

**ABSENT/  
EXCUSED:** Reps. Mathias, Nash, Boyle, Nelsen, McCann

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

**Laura Wilder**, Executive Director, Idaho Barley Commission (IBC) explained The Commission is self-governing and serves to enhance the profitability of Idaho barley growers through research, market development, promotion information and education. IBC is funded by Idaho barley growers and leads the nation in barley production. Idaho's altitude, high desert climate and agronomic conditions, including abundant irrigation water, make it an ideal location to grow a consistent, reliable supply of premium-quality barley, sought after by the malting industry, livestock feed, food barley and barley protein products.

**Liz Wilder**, Executive Director, Idaho Wool Growers Association (IWGA), said the purpose of this association, established in 1893, is to advocate for and promote Idaho's sheep industry through education, extension, funding new research, influencing politics and policies, improve lamb and wool marketing, and to benefit the economic prosperity of the Idaho sheep producers. The goal of IWGA is to foster, protect, and encourage the business of developing, raising and marketing sheep. Lambing begins in January and will be ready for processing at a time when inventory is at its lowest. There are 1447 shepherds and 220,000 sheep who call Idaho home. The IWGA owns an airplane based out of Gooding, Idaho and is leased to the U.S. Wildlife Services for animal depredation work.

**Emily Merrigan**, Executive Secretary, Idaho Sheep and Goat Commission (ISGB) stated the Commission 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. Idaho is a top ten state in sheep and lamb population, with inventory at 220,000 head, down 4% from last year. The minimum of 694 sheep samples was met by Idaho in 2022, retaining the "Scrapie Consistent" status, and moved Idaho to a "Low Risk" scrapie state. Producers in Idaho lost 6,900 animals to predators, costing \$1.34 million in damages. Idaho estimated coyote population is 52,000 and caused 74% of predatory losses. Idaho inventory of milk goats is 6,400, up 6% from the previous year and all goat inventory is 28,000 head.

**Chairman Andrus** thanked **Jameson Harper** for his service as committee page.

**ADJOURN:** There being no further business to come before the committee the meeting adjourned at 2:45 p.m.

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Representative Kevin Andrus  
Chair

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Jayne Feik  
Secretary