

MINUTES  
JOINT MEETING  
**HOUSE AGRICULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE  
SENATE AGRICULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE**

**DATE:** Thursday, February 23, 2023

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

**PLACE:** Lincoln Auditorium

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

Chairman Hartgen, Vice Chairman Nichols, Senators Foreman, Hart, Schroeder, Carlson, Zuiderveld, Semmelroth, Taylor

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

**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.

**Sen. Hartgen** called the meeting to order at 8:02 a.m.

**Rep. Raymond** introduced **Troy Forrest**, Division Director, Utah Department of Agriculture and Food (UDAF), Grazing Improvement Program (GIP).

**Troy Forrest**, UDAF, GIP, explained the mission of the GIP is to improve the health and productivity of rangelands in Utah by providing ranchers and landowners with technical assistance and financial incentives to implement the sustainability of their grazing operations. This program follows several key principles of grazing management to improve the health and productivity of rangelands, including proper stocking rates to prevent overgrazing, rotational grazing to allow plants time to recover, strategic grazing to control invasive weeds, and water development to ensure adequate hydration for livestock and wildlife, and improved soil health. By encouraging these practices, the program aims to improve the health of the rangelands, watersheds, increased forage production, and to promote the economic viability of the state's livestock industry.

The Utah Department of Agriculture and Food Grazing Improvement Program is a valuable resource for ranchers and landowners looking to improve the sustainability and profitability of grazing operations while promoting the long-term health of Utah's rangelands.

**Chairman Hartgen** excused the House Agricultural Affairs Committee at 8:47 a.m.

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Representative Kevin Andrus  
Chair

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Jayne Feik  
Secretary