

MINUTES
HOUSE AGRICULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

DATE: Tuesday, March 12, 2024

TIME: Upon Adjournment

PLACE: Room EW42

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

**ABSENT/
EXCUSED:** Boyle, Cannon

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.

MOTION: **Rep. Gallagher** made a motion to approve the minutes of March 8, 2024. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

Candi Fitch, the Executive Director of the Idaho Apple, Cherry, and Hop Commission reported a decline in hop usage, leading to market correction efforts by brewers and dealers. Idaho saw a strong apple yield last season but faces labor challenges in seasonal hiring. Cherries had a good season in 2023, but a lack of market resulted in significant unpicked crops. A Specialty Crop Grant for 2024 aims to boost awareness and demand for Idaho cherries.

Chairman Andrus turned the gavel over to **Vice Chairman Raymond** at 1:49 p.m.

ADJOURN: There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting adjourned at 2:03 p.m.

Representative Andrus
Chair

Jayne Feik
Secretary