

MINUTES
HOUSE AGRICULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

DATE: Wednesday, January 22, 2025

TIME: 1:30 P.M.

PLACE: Room EW42

MEMBERS: Chairman Andrus, Vice Chairman Raymond, Representatives Cannon, McCann, Ehlers, Garner, Nelsen, Pickett, Sauter, Miller, Beiswenger, Dygert, Leavitt, Mendive, Shirts, Mathias, Achilles

**ABSENT/
EXCUSED:** 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 1:31 p.m.

Chairman Andrus turned the gavel over to **Vice Chairman Raymond**.

DOCKET NO. 02-0403-2401: **Dr. Scott Leibsle**, Administrator, Idaho State Department of Agriculture (ISDA), DVM, Idaho State Veterinarian, said **Docket No. 02-0403-2401** clarifies procedures for controlling livestock and animal diseases in Idaho, including prevention, control, and eradication measures, as well as the Department's remedies for non-compliance.

MOTION: **Rep. McCann** made a motion to approve **Docket No. 02-0403-2401**. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

DOCKET NO. 02-0405-2401: **Dr. Leibsle** explained **Docket No. 02-0405-2401** updates federal code changes related to pasteurized milk ordinances, sanitation ratings for milk shippers, milk laboratory evaluations, and procedures under the National Conference on Interstate Milk Shippers Program. The rule governs the design, production, handling, and sale of Grade A and Manufactured Grade Milk and Milk Products to ensure dairy product safety and quality.

MOTION: **Rep. Garner** made a motion to approve **Docket No. 02-0405-2401**. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

DOCKET NO. 02-0415-2401: **Dr. Leibsle** stated **Docket No. 02-0415-2401** implements the Beef Cattle Environmental Control Act. He noted while the federal government has regulatory authority over discharges from beef cattle feeding operations, the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality oversees this through the Idaho Pollution Discharge Elimination System (IPDES) program.

MOTION: **Rep. Pickett** made a motion to approve **Docket No. 02-0415-2401**. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

DOCKET NO. 02-0419-2401: **Dr. Leibsle** explained that the changes in **Docket No. 02-0419-2401** were made in response to **H 591**, which was passed by the Idaho Legislature and approved by the Governor during the 2024 Legislative Session. The legislation modified the quarantine process, sampling protocols, and requirements for domestic cervidae operations under quarantine.

MOTION: **Rep. Dygert** made a motion to approve **Docket No. 02-0419-2401**. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

DOCKET NO. 02-0609-2402: **Andrea Thompson** Administrator, Plant Industries, ISDA, presented **Docket No. 02-0609-2402**, rules on Invasive Species and Noxious Weeds (Quagga Quarantine). The department received two petitions proposing to add Palmer amaranth and Myrtle spurge to the Noxious Weed List. However, there was no consensus on these petitions, and the species will not be listed in the proposed rule. Additionally, the agency is proposing to reclassify Turkish thistle from Early Detection/Rapid Response status.

MOTION: **Chairman Andrus** made a motion to approve **Docket No. 02-0609-2402**. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

DOCKET NO. 02-0609-2406: **Lloyd Knight**, Deputy Director, ISDA, presented **Docket No. 02-0609-2406** on invasive species and noxious weeds. Following the discovery of quagga mussel samples in the Snake River, the Director implemented a quarantine to support eradication efforts. The rule restricts access to affected river areas, mandates watercraft inspections, and requires decontamination at designated stations. The quarantine spans from Yingst Grade Bridge to Hansen Bridge. Governor Little declared an emergency on October 2, 2024, due to the significant environmental and economic threats posed by this issue.

MOTION: **Rep. McCann** made a motion to approve **Docket No. 02-0609-2406**. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

DOCKET NO. 02-0108-2401: **Mr. Knight** presented **Docket No. 02-0108-2401**, rules Governing Grizzly Bear and Wolf Depredation, and providing guidance and clarification on implementing the depredation compensation program. The program compensates livestock owners for livestock losses caused by grizzly bears and wolves. The rule was developed in consultation with the Idaho Department of Fish and Game and the Office of Species Conservation. The Governor has determined that temporary adoption of this rule is necessary, to implement **H 592(2024)**, and provide the benefits outlined by the Legislature, including funding for the current fiscal year. The rule establishes the process for livestock owners to receive depredation reimbursement during the current fiscal year.

MOTION: **Rep. Andrus** made a motion to approve **Docket No. 02-0108-2401**. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

Vice Chairman Raymond turned the gavel back to **Chairman Andrus**.

ADJOURN: There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting adjourned at 2:51 p.m.

Representative Raymond
Chair

Jayne Feik
Secretary