

MINUTES
HOUSE AGRICULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

DATE: Monday, March 10, 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:** Mathias, Mendive

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. Shirts** made a motion to approve the minutes of March 4, 2025. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

T.K. Kuwahara, CEO, Idaho Beef Council (IBC), explained the IBC is focused on marketing, education, and research to promote Idaho beef both nationally and internationally. It is financially supported by a Checkoff program, where producers contribute a small fee per animal. These funds are carefully managed and used to grow the beef industry without being spent on lobbying or political matters. The council's work supports a diverse range of operations, from ranchers to processors, and operates on private and public lands.

Liz Wilder, stated the Idaho Wool Growers Association (IWGA) is dedicated to promoting and supporting Idaho's wool and sheep industries. By collaborating with educational institutions such as the University of Idaho, and supporting initiatives like shearing school, they contribute to the sustainability of the industry. The wool producers in Idaho contribute a small assessment on each pound of wool sold, which is then used for promotional and educational activities to support the wool industry.

Dairy West, led by **Jenny Nelsen**, promotes the Idaho dairy industry by funding programs that educate consumers, especially students, and increase dairy consumption. The Dairy Checkoff system supports national and state-level efforts, where a portion of funds from dairy producers is remitted to the National Dairy Board. Programs like Farm to School, Front End Milk Initiative, and social media campaigns help Dairy West connect with consumers, while sustainability efforts work to reduce environmental impact. These combined efforts have generated significant revenue, helping to boost the visibility and demand for dairy products.

ADJOURN: There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting adjourned at 2:25 p.m.

Representative Andrus
Chair

Jayne Feik
Secretary