

**AMENDED AGENDA #1**  
**HOUSE AGRICULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE**  
**1:30 P.M.**  
**Room EW42**  
**Thursday, January 16, 2025**

For members of the public to observe the meeting, please click on the following link:  
<https://www.idahoptv.org/shows/idahoinsession/ew42/>

<b>SUBJECT</b>	<b>DESCRIPTION</b>	<b>PRESENTER</b>
<a href="#">RS 31941</a>	Organizational Meeting Alternatives for animal protein products	Rep. Scott Sen. Nichols

***If you have written testimony, please provide a copy to the committee secretary.***

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Chairman Andrus  
Vice Chairman Raymond  
Rep Cannon  
Rep McCann  
Rep Ehlers  
Rep Garner

Rep Nelsen  
Rep Pickett  
Rep Sauter  
Rep Miller  
Rep Beiswenger  
Rep Dygert

Rep Leavitt  
Rep Mendive  
Rep Shirts  
Rep Mathias (Carlson)  
Rep Achilles

COMMITTEE SECRETARY

Jayne Feik  
Room: EW11  
Phone: 332-1137  
Email: [hagri@house.idaho.gov](mailto:hagri@house.idaho.gov)

MINUTES  
**HOUSE AGRICULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE**

**DATE:** Thursday, January 16, 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 (Carlson), Achilles  
**ABSENT/  
EXCUSED:** Rep. 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 1:32 p.m.  
**Chairman Andrus** put the committee at ease at 1:39 p.m. The meeting was called back to order at 1:52 p.m.  
**RS 13941:** **Rep. Scott** explained this legislation introduces labeling requirements for alternative animal protein products sold in Idaho, such as lab-grown meat and insect-based proteins. It mandates clear front-of-package labels, sets standards for ingredient listings, and outlines penalties for non-compliance, with enforcement carried out by the Idaho Department of Agriculture.  
**MOTION:** **Rep. Garner** made a motion to introduce **RS 31941. Motion carried by voice vote.**  
**ADJOURN:** There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting adjourned at 2:12 p.m.

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Representative Andrus  
Chair

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Jayne Feik  
Secretary

AGENDA  
**HOUSE AGRICULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE**  
**1:30 P.M.**  
**Room EW42**  
**Monday, January 20, 2025**

For members of the public to observe the meeting, please click on the following link:  
<https://www.idahoptv.org/shows/idahoinsession/ew42/>

<b>SUBJECT</b>	<b>DESCRIPTION</b>	<b>PRESENTER</b>
<a href="#">43-0101-2401</a>	Rules Governing the Idaho Oilseed Commission	Patxi Larrocea-Phillips, Administrater

***Public Testimony Will Be Taken by Registering Through the Following Link:***  
***[Register to Testify](#)***

***If you have written testimony, please provide a copy to the committee secretary.***

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Chairman Andrus	Rep Nelsen
Vice Chairman Raymond	Rep Pickett
Rep Cannon	Rep Sauter
Rep McCann	Rep Miller
Rep Ehlers	Rep Beiswenger
Rep Garner	Rep Dygert

COMMITTEE SECRETARY

Jayne Feik  
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MINUTES  
**HOUSE AGRICULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE**

**DATE:** Monday, January 20, 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:** 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 January 16, 2025. **Motion carried by voice vote.**  
**Chairman Andrus** turned the gavel over to **Vice Chairman Raymond**.  
**DOCKET NO. 43-0101-2401:** **Mr. Larrocea-Phillips** explained the proposed rule governing the Idaho Oilseed Commission, **Docket No. 43-0101-2401**, is under review by the 2025 Idaho State Legislature and requires approval by concurrent resolution to take effect. The updates clarify deadlines for tax payments and document submissions to the Commission, based on public feedback. There is no fee associated with the rule, and no negative fiscal impacts are expected.  
**MOTION:** **Rep. McCann** made a motion to approve **Docket No. 43-0101-2401**. **Motion carried by voice vote.**  
**Vice Chairman Raymond** turned the gavel back over to **Chairman Andrus**.  
**Mr. Larrocea-Phillips** presented oilseed as seeds utilized for oil, meal, planting seed, condiments, or other industrial and chemurgic applications. The commission's responsibilities include conducting research, education, and publicity efforts, along with exploring new market opportunities. It also provides reliable information demonstrating the value of oilseeds and oilseed products for any uses where they are deemed beneficial and profitable. Additionally, the commission examines challenges related to oilseed production in Idaho.  
**ADJOURN:** There being no further business to come before the committee the meeting adjourned at 1:57 p.m.

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Representative Andrus  
Chair

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Jayne Feik  
Secretary

**AMENDED AGENDA #1**  
**HOUSE AGRICULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE**  
**1:30 P.M.**  
**Room EW42**  
**Wednesday, January 22, 2025**

For members of the public to observe the meeting, please click on the following link:  
<https://www.idahoptv.org/shows/idahoinsession/ew42/>

<b>SUBJECT</b>	<b>DESCRIPTION</b>	<b>PRESENTER</b>
<a href="#">02-0403-2401</a>	Animal Industry	Dr. Scott Leibsle, Idaho State Veterinarian
<a href="#">02-0405-2401</a>	Grade A Milk and Manufacture Grade Milk	
<a href="#">02-0415-2401</a>	Beef Cattle Animal Feeding Operations	
<a href="#">02-0419-2401</a>	Domestic Cervidae	
<a href="#">02-0609-2402</a>	Invasive Species and Noxious Weeds (Quagga Quarantine)	Andrea Thompson, IDAG
<a href="#">02-0609-2406</a>	Invasive Species and Noxious Weeds	Lloyd Knight, Deputy Director, IDAG
<a href="#">02-0108-2401</a>	Grizzly Bear and Wolf Depredation	

***If you have written testimony, please provide a copy to the committee secretary.***

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Chairman Andrus  
Vice Chairman Raymond  
Rep Cannon  
Rep McCann  
Rep Ehlers  
Rep Garner

Rep Nelsen  
Rep Pickett  
Rep Sauter  
Rep Miller  
Rep Beiswenger  
Rep Dygert

Rep Leavitt  
Rep Mendive  
Rep Shirts  
Rep Mathias  
Rep Achilles

COMMITTEE SECRETARY

Jayne Feik  
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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.

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Representative Raymond  
Chair

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Jayne Feik  
Secretary

AGENDA  
**HOUSE AGRICULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE**  
**1:30 P.M.**  
**Room EW42**  
**Tuesday, January 28, 2025**

For members of the public to observe the meeting, please click on the following link:  
<https://www.idahoptv.org/shows/idahoinsession/ew42/>

<b>SUBJECT</b>	<b>DESCRIPTION</b>	<b>PRESENTER</b>
	Snake River Sugarbeet Growers Association	Zach Patterson
	Amalgamated Sugar	Christina Hardesty

***If you have written testimony, please provide a copy to the committee secretary.***

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Chairman Andrus	Rep Nelsen
Vice Chairman Raymond	Rep Pickett
Rep Cannon	Rep Sauter
Rep McCann	Rep Miller
Rep Ehlers	Rep Beiswenger
Rep Garner	Rep Dygert

COMMITTEE SECRETARY

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MINUTES  
**HOUSE AGRICULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE**

**DATE:** Tuesday, January 28, 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 1:30 p.m.

**MOTION:** **Rep. Shirts** made a motion to approve the minutes of January 20, 2025. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

**Zach Patterson**, President, Snake River Sugarbeet Growers Association, emphasized the sugarbeet industry is vital to Idaho's agriculture, with the state ranking second in national production. Sugarbeets, grown in 11 states, are planted in late March and harvested in late September/October. They make up 54% of domestically produced sugar. The industry aims to promote efficient, profitable production, support legislation related to sugarbeets, and advance research on growing practices. Key legislative priorities include labor, water, infrastructure, farmland preservation, and crop protection tools.

**Christina Hardesty**, Vice President, General Counsel and Secretary, Amalgamated Sugar, said Amalgamated Sugar is a grower-owned cooperative of 700 sugarbeet farmers across Idaho, Oregon, and Washington, producing over 181,000 acres of sugarbeets, primarily in Southern Idaho. It operates three processing facilities and produces about 12% of the sugar consumed in the U.S., contributing over \$1 billion annually to Idaho's economy. The cooperative processes 7.25 million tons of sugarbeets annually, producing white, brown, and powdered sugar, as well as feed products. In addition to sugar, Amalgamated produces by-products such as 800,000 tons of sugarbeet pulp for cattle feed, 350,000 tons of molasses for animal feed and fertilizer, and high-protein CSB used in feed and as a road de-icer. Sugar also has important uses in pharmaceuticals and as a preservative. Legislative priorities include securing more funding for the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality (IDEQ) to address staffing shortages, supporting Idaho LAUNCH to help the labor market, and advocating for tort reform to protect businesses from liability related to labeling compliance.

**ADJOURN:** There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting was adjourned at 2:09 p.m.

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Representative Andrus  
Chair

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Jayne Feik  
Secretary

**AMENDED AGENDA #1**  
**HOUSE AGRICULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE**  
**1:30 P.M.**  
**Room EW42**  
**Thursday, January 30, 2025**

For members of the public to observe the meeting, please click on the following link:  
<https://www.idahoptv.org/shows/idahoinsession/ew42/>

<b>SUBJECT</b>	<b>DESCRIPTION</b>	<b>PRESENTER</b>
<a href="#">RS 32079</a>	Veterinary Practices Ownership	Rep. Raymond
<a href="#">RS 32090</a>	County Fair Board	Rep. Raymond
	Idaho Department of Agriculture	
<a href="#">02-0212-2401</a>	Bonded Warehouse Rules	Jared Stuart, Ag Inspector
<a href="#">02-0214-2401</a>	Weights and Measures	Jared Stuart
<a href="#">02-0301-2401</a>	Pesticide Management Plans for Ground Water Protection	Lloyd Knight, Deputy Director
<a href="#">02-0303-2402</a>	Governing Pesticide and Chemigation Use and Application	Lloyd Knight
<a href="#">02-0501-2401</a>	Produce Safety	Jared Stuart
<a href="#">02-0602-2401</a>	Registrations and Licenses	Andrea Thompson, Plant Industries
<a href="#">02-0633-2401</a>	Organic Food Products	Jared Stuart

***If you have written testimony, please provide a copy to the committee secretary.***

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Chairman Andrus  
Vice Chairman Raymond  
Rep Cannon  
Rep McCann  
Rep Ehlers  
Rep Garner

Rep Nelsen  
Rep Pickett  
Rep Sauter  
Rep Miller  
Rep Beiswenger  
Rep Dygert

Rep Leavitt  
Rep Mendive  
Rep Shirts  
Rep Mathias  
Rep Achilles

COMMITTEE SECRETARY

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MINUTES  
**HOUSE AGRICULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE**

**DATE:** Thursday, January 30, 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:** None

**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. Achilles** made a motion to approve the minutes of January 22, and January 28, 2025. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

**RS 32079:** **Rep. Raymond** explained **RS 32079** amends language to allow for more flexibility for veterinarians regarding to whom they choose to sell their practices and businesses.

**MOTION:** **Rep. Garner** made a motion to introduce **RS 32079**. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

**RS 32090:** **Rep. Raymond** presented **RS 32090** and explained this legislation removes an outdated provision allowing county commissioners in larger counties to designate fair boards as advisory. Repealing it ensures fair boards retain full authority, supporting Idaho's agricultural economy and preserving the tradition of county fairs.

**MOTION:** **Rep. Dygert** made a motion to introduce **RS 32090**. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

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

**DOCKET NO.  
02-0212-2401:** **Jared Stuart**, Administrator of Agriculture Inspections at the Idaho Department of Agriculture (ISDA), presented **Docket No. 02-0212-2401** outlined the Bonded Warehouse Program's four license types: Warehouse, Commodity Dealer, Seed Buyer, and Co-op (with Washington state). The program enforces ethical practices through inspections and manages two farmer-backed indemnity funds to reimburse farmers if a licensee defaults. This rule sets licensing and annual requirements to protect farmers and ensure compliance.

**MOTION:** **Rep. McCann** made a motion to approve **Docket No. 02-0212-2401**. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

**DOCKET NO.  
02-0214-2401:** **Mr. Stuart** presented **Docket No. 02-0214-2401** on behalf of the ISDA's Weights and Measures (W&M) Bureau, which is responsible for inspecting commercial weighing and measuring devices to ensure accuracy. These devices include fuel pumps, grocery store scales, and large livestock scales. The Bureau's primary objective is to uphold consumer confidence by verifying that customers receive the correct quantity of goods for their purchases, such as ensuring a \$40 fuel transaction dispenses the proper amount. Additionally, the Bureau investigates consumer complaints related to these devices.

**MOTION:** **Rep. Nelson** made a motion to approve **Docket No. 02-0214-2401**. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

**DOCKET NO. 02-0301-2401:** **Lloyd Knight**, Deputy Director, ISDA, turned the time over to **Brian Slabaugh** who presented **Docket No. 02-0301-2401**, proposing rules for Governing Pesticide Management Plans and Groundwater Protection. Administered by ISDA's Agricultural Resources Division, the rule outlines procedures for groundwater testing and response to pesticide detections, ensuring protection from harmful pesticide levels.

**MOTION:** **Rep. McCann** made a motion to approve **Docket No. 02-0301-2401**. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

**DOCKET NO. 02-0303-2402:** **Mr. Slabaugh** said **Docket No. 02-0303-2402** outlines certification and training requirements for pesticide applicators, handlers, and dealers. The program sets licensing standards, pesticide labeling protocols, and guidelines for safe handling, usage, and disposal. Its purpose is to ensure that pesticides are managed responsibly by qualified individuals, prioritizing the safety of people, animals, and the environment.

**MOTION:** **Rep. Mathias** made a motion to approve **Docket No. 02-0303-2402**. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

**DOCKET NO. 02-0501-2401:** **Mr. Stuart** presented **Docket No. 02-0501-2401**, explaining this state-run inspection program enforces federal guidelines and is federally funded. It ensures food safety by conducting on-site inspections of fruit and vegetable growing, harvesting, packing, and storage processes for human consumption.

**MOTION:** **Rep. Achilles** made a motion to approve **Docket No. 02-0501-2401**. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

**DOCKET NO. 02-0602-2401:** **Andrea Thompson**, Administrator of Plant Industries, ISDA, presented **Docket No. 02-0602-2401**, which includes several subchapters: Commercial Feed, Commercial Fertilizer, Soil and Plant Amendments, Nurseries and Florists, and Bee Inspection, with apiary inspections beginning in 1987. The proposed rule updates focus on Commercial Feed, Commercial Fertilizer, and Soil & Plant Amendments, which apply to registrants selling or distributing products in Idaho. The rule establishes product registration and labeling requirements while ensuring compliance with federal standards through on-site inspections. It also addresses ingredient standards, product adulteration, and label guarantees.

**MOTION:** **Rep. Cannon** made a motion to approve **Docket No. 02-0501-2401**. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

**DOCKET NO. 02-0633-2401:** **Mr. Stuart** presented **Docket No. 02-0633-2401**, a state-run inspection program established in 1990 to certify and license organic food producers, vendors, and handlers. While voluntary, certification is required for those labeling products as organic. Applicants may choose between private certifiers or the ISDA organics program, both of which follow National Organic Program Regulations. This rule sets standards for organic production, labeling, certification, fees, and enforcement.

**MOTION:** **Rep. Mathias** made a motion to approve **Docket No. 02-0633-2401**. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

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

**ADJOURN:** There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting adjourned at 2:38 p.m.

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Representative Raymond  
Chair

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Jayne Feik  
Secretary

AGENDA  
**HOUSE AGRICULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE**  
**1:30 P.M.**  
**Room EW42**  
**Tuesday, February 04, 2025**

For members of the public to observe the meeting, please click on the following link:  
<https://www.idahoptv.org/shows/idahoinsession/ew42/>

<b>SUBJECT</b>	<b>DESCRIPTION</b>	<b>PRESENTER</b>
	Idaho Soil and Water Conservation	Loretta Strickland, Ag Program Manager
	Idaho Assoc. of Soil Conservation Districts	Devin Fielding, President
	Quagga Muscles	Chanel Tewalt, Director, ISDA Nic Zurfluh, Bureau Chief
<a href="#"><u>H 24</u></a>	Alternative animal protein, insects	Rep. Scott
<a href="#"><u>RS 32147</u></a>	Animal Proteins	Rep. Scott

***If you have written testimony, please provide a copy to the committee secretary.***

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Chairman Andrus  
Vice Chairman Raymond  
Rep Cannon  
Rep McCann  
Rep Ehlers  
Rep Garner

Rep Nelsen  
Rep Pickett  
Rep Sauter  
Rep Miller  
Rep Beiswenger  
Rep Dygert

Rep Leavitt  
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Rep Shirts  
Rep Mathias  
Rep Achilles

COMMITTEE SECRETARY

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MINUTES  
**HOUSE AGRICULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE**

**DATE:** Tuesday, February 04, 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:** none

**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 January 30, 2025. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

**Loretta Strickland**, Acting Administrator, Agriculture Program Manager, Idaho Soil and Water Conservation Commission (ISWC), explained the ISWC Commission supports 50 locally led conservation districts and 10 Natural Resource Conservationists, providing non-regulatory conservation programs, agency administration, and outreach to educate stakeholders on the value of conservation. The Water Quality Program for Agriculture (WQPA) offers cost-share funds for water conservation projects. In FY 2023-2024, **H 352** allocated \$5M to WQPA, funding 51 of 80 proposed projects. Conservation districts leveraged these funds with other sources, resulting in a total project investment of \$17.7M.

**Devin Fielding**, Treasurer of Idaho Association of Soil Conservation Districts (IASCD) and the Idaho Hay and Forage Association, outlined the mission of the IASCD to promote locally led, non-regulatory conservation across the state. The IASCD works with 50 conservation districts, supporting programs that improve soil health, water quality, and farm viability. Funding comes from base allocations, local contributions, and grants. He emphasized the importance of infrastructure upgrades for sustainability and the need for wise, collaborative decisions to ensure Idaho's natural resources remain viable for future generations.

**Tori O'Neal**, IASCD, said investing in young producers and conservation education ensures sustainable land use. Programs like WQPA fund practices that improve soil and water health, while hands-on youth projects foster future conservation leaders. Upgrading infrastructure and collaborating with stakeholders will protect Idaho's natural resources for generations to come.

**Chanel Tewalt**, Director, Idaho State Department of Agriculture (ISDA), provided an update on the quagga mussel infestation detected on September 24, 2023, in the Shoshone Falls Pool, Pillar Falls, and Twin Falls Reservoir. The ISDA has doubled water sampling efforts, expanded watercraft inspection stations (now 23 statewide, with over 1.2 million inspections), and increased monitoring, outreach, and lab capacity. A rapid response was initiated, including a 200-hour treatment using chelated copper. Officials emphasized the urgency of containment, potential fish mortality, and ongoing risks of westward spread. Concerns were raised regarding budget constraints, long-term staffing, and the need for continued public awareness and compliance.

**Nic Zurfluh**, Bureau Chief, ISDA, said quagga mussel delimiting surveys were conducted from Twin Falls Reservoir to Centennial Park, extending upstream to American Falls and downstream to CJ Strike to track mussel movement. An 8.6-mile treatment area in Twin Falls Reservoir was targeted using chelated copper at 1 ppm over 200 hours. The treatment ran from October 8 to October 19, applying 63,525 gallons, with copper levels monitored until returning to baseline on November 8. Challenges included the complex river system, hydropower facilities, and sensitive species. The response involved coordinated efforts, with two weeks each for survey, treatment, and post-treatment evaluation.

**H 24:** **Rep. Scott** presented **H 24**, legislation regulating the sale of alternative animal protein products in Idaho, including lab-grown protein and insect-based proteins. The bill requires clear front-of-package disclosures, establishes ingredient listing standards, and outlines penalties for non-compliance. Enforcement would be overseen by the ISDA.

Speaking **in opposition** of **H 24**, were **Elizabeth Criner**, Food Northwest, and JR Simplot Company, **Douglas Jones**, Growers for Biotechnology, **Melinda Merrill**, NW Grocery, and **Pam Eaton**, Idaho Retailers Association. Testifiers raised concerns since national labeling standards already ensure consistency for consumers. They noted if this legislation passes, organizations may be required to use two different labels—one for Idaho and another for other states.

**MOTION:** **Rep. Cannon** made a motion to **HOLD H 24** in committee. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

**RS 32147:** **Rep. Scott** presented **RS 32147**, to define terms and establish labeling requirements for alternative animal proteins. The legislation outlines regulatory oversight and enforcement measures, including penalties for non-compliance, ensuring clear consumer information and industry accountability.

**MOTION:** **Rep. Cannon** made a motion to introduce **RS 32147** and recommend it be sent directly to the Second Reading Calendar.

**SUBSTITUTE MOTION:** **Rep. Shirts** made a substitute motion to return **RS 32147** to the sponsor. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

**ADJOURN:** There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting was adjourned at 4:15 p.m.

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Representative Andrus  
Chair

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Jayne Feik  
Secretary

AGENDA  
**HOUSE AGRICULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE**  
**1:30 P.M.**  
**Room EW42**  
**Thursday, February 06, 2025**

For members of the public to observe the meeting, please click on the following link:  
<https://www.idahoptv.org/shows/idahoinsession/ew42/>

<b>SUBJECT</b>	<b>DESCRIPTION</b>	<b>PRESENTER</b>
<a href="#">RS 32251</a>	Alfalfa and Clover Seed	Rep. Dygert
	Industrial Hemp	Braden Jensen, Idaho Farm Bureau Federation
	Idaho Hemp Program Overview	Dr. Chanel Tewalt, ISDA
	Hemp Processing	Triston Sponseller, Idaho Hemp Processing Farms
	Hemp Processing	Mattie Mead, Hempitecture
	Hemp Processing and Farming	Travis McAfee, McAfee Farms
	Hemp Processing and Farming	Tim Cornie, 1000 Spring Mills

***If you have written testimony, please provide a copy to the committee secretary.***

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Chairman Andrus  
Vice Chairman Raymond  
Rep Cannon  
Rep McCann  
Rep Ehlers  
Rep Garner

Rep Nelsen  
Rep Pickett  
Rep Sauter  
Rep Miller  
Rep Beiswenger  
Rep Dygert

Rep Leavitt  
Rep Mendive  
Rep Shirts  
Rep Mathias  
Rep Achilles

COMMITTEE SECRETARY

Jayne Feik  
Room: EW11  
Phone: 332-1137  
Email: [hagri@house.idaho.gov](mailto:hagri@house.idaho.gov)



MINUTES  
**HOUSE AGRICULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE**

**DATE:** Thursday, February 06, 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:** none

**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 1:32 p.m.

**RS 32251:** **Rep. Dygert** introduced **RS 32251** which proposes changes to the Alfalfa Seed and Clover Seed Commission. This proposed legislation increases the number of commission members from six to seven, comprising five grower representatives, one member from the University of Idaho College of Agricultural and Life Sciences, and one alfalfa and clover dealer. Additionally, the bill raises the assessment of one-fourth cent (1/4¢) to one cent (\$0.01).

**MOTION:** **Rep. McCann** made a motion to introduce **RS 32251**. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

**Braden Jensen**, Idaho Farm Bureau Federation (IFBF) introduced the presentation on Industrial Hemp, and explained the presentation is informational, highlighting Idaho's balanced approach to strong drug policies while allowing producers to benefit from the emerging hemp industry. No legislative changes are being proposed.

**Chanel Tewalt**, Director, Idaho State Department of Agriculture (ISDA), said Idaho's hemp program, established in 2021, follows strict regulations, and allowing on-farm production while imposing stringent THC limits. Unlike federal guidelines permitting up to 1% THC before a violation, Idaho enforces a strict 0.3% threshold. Licensing is expensive, requiring background checks and extensive oversight. While farm production and processing are heavily regulated, retail hemp products lack administrative oversight, creating enforcement challenges and market disadvantages for Idaho producers. The state's high fees and strict policies make participation difficult, though efforts continue to refine the program for better efficiency and fairness.

**Triston Sponseller**, Idaho Hemp Processing, IPH Farms, said hemp production must be distinguished from CBD. Shredding occurs in the field, and hemp requires less water. Seed sourcing focuses on low-THC varieties. Processing involves separating the inner core, dust, and hurd, while raw material arrives in bales for further use.

**Matthew Mead**, CEO of Hempitecture Inc., presented the benefits of industrial hemp. Hempitecture manufactures bio-based, sustainable building materials using fiber hemp, not CBD. Fiber hemp offers a major agricultural opportunity for Idaho, while grain hemp has industrial and food potential. Since federal legalization in 2018, the industry is evolving, but Idaho's strict regulations hinder growth. He advocates for aligning with USDA guidelines to support local businesses.

**Travis McAfee**, McAfee Farms, said Idaho's hemp licensing process is challenging. Seeds must contain less than 3% THC. For optimal softness, harvesting should wait until the plant turns white before being sent to a facility. Water availability is limited—local farms primarily grow hay and grain, with the Little Lost River flowing for only half the season. Hemp requires less water, making it a viable crop for the region.

**Tim Cornie**, 1000 Spring Mills, highlighted hemp grain as a superfood and a complete protein. Hemp plants grow 12-15 feet tall, and after being harvested, it softens after three days of moisture and toughens after seven. Idaho produces more hemp fiber than any other state. Most hemp seed originates from Europe and Canada due to Idaho's restrictions, requiring new seed each season.

**ADJOURN:** There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting adjourned at 2:58 p.m.

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Representative Andrus  
Chair

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Jayne Feik  
Secretary

AGENDA  
**HOUSE AGRICULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE**  
1:30 P.M.  
Room EW42  
Monday, February 10, 2025

For members of the public to observe the meeting, please click on the following link:  
<https://www.idahoptv.org/shows/idahoinsession/ew42/>

<b>SUBJECT</b>	<b>DESCRIPTION</b>	<b>PRESENTER</b>
<a href="#">RS 32334</a>	Honoring Paige Nelson	Rep. Raymond
<a href="#">H 106</a>	County fair boards	Rep. Raymond
<a href="#">24-3801-2501</a>	State of Idaho Board of Veterinary Medicine	Katie Stuart, Bureau Chief, Admin

***If you have written testimony, please provide a copy to the committee secretary.***

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Chairman Andrus	Rep Nelsen
Vice Chairman Raymond	Rep Pickett
Rep Cannon	Rep Sauter
Rep McCann	Rep Miller
Rep Ehlers	Rep Beiswenger
Rep Garner	Rep Dygert

Rep Leavitt
Rep Mendive
Rep Shirts
Rep Mathias
Rep Achilles

COMMITTEE SECRETARY

Jayne Feik  
Room: EW11  
Phone: 332-1137  
Email: [hagri@house.idaho.gov](mailto:hagri@house.idaho.gov)

MINUTES  
**HOUSE AGRICULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE**

- DATE:** Monday, February 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:** Pickett
- 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. Achilles** made a motion to approve the minutes of February 4, 2025, and February 6, 2025. **Motion carried by voice vote.**
- RS 32334:** **Rep. Raymond** presented **RS 32334**, stating this resolution honors **Paige Nelson** of Rigby, Idaho, for receiving the Idaho Farm Bureau Young Farmers and Ranchers Excellence in Agriculture Award and achieving third place in the American Farm Bureau Excellence in Agriculture program. We commend Mrs. Nelson's leadership in strengthening Idaho's agricultural impact.
- MOTION:** **Rep. McCann** made a motion to introduce **RS 32334**.
- SUBSTITUTE  
MOTION:** **Rep. Dygert** made a substitute motion to introduce **RS 32334** and recommend it be sent directly to the Second Reading Calendar. **Motion carried by voice vote.** **Rep. Raymond** will sponsor the bill on the floor.
- H 106:** **Rep. Raymond** presented **H 106**, legislation designed to enhance the effective operation of county fairs, which play a crucial role in Idaho's agricultural communities. County fairs serve as vital economic drivers and cultural traditions, and this bill aims to ensure their stability and proper governance. By maintaining fair boards with their full authority, the legislation supports the continued growth of Idaho's agricultural economy and preserves the rich heritage of county fairs across the state.
- Speaking **in opposition** of **H 106** were **Linda Rider**, Idaho Farm Bureau (IFB), Kootenai County Fair Board, and **Sara Westbrook**, Idaho Association of Counties. They were of opinion the fair boards would petition to be a separate board.
- Braden Jensen** of IFB spoke **in support** for **H 106**, highlighting the IFB's appreciation for fair boards and their role in preserving history for the community.
- MOTION:** **Rep. Dygert** made a motion to send **H 106** to the floor with a **DO Pass** recommendation. **Motion carried by voice vote.** **Rep. Leavitt** requested he be recorded as voting **NAY**. **Rep. Raymond** will sponsor the bill on the floor.

**DOCKET NO. 24-3801-2501:** **Katie Stuart**, Bureau Chief of Administration, Division of Occupational Licensing (DOPL), presented **Docket No. 24-3801-2501**, explaining this temporary rule requires DOPL to address cash balances outside the 35%-125% range of a five-year expenditure average. Amending this rule allows the Board to lower fees, reduce licensure costs, and address high cash reserves. The governor supports this change to ease entry for veterinarians, ensuring greater access to animal care in Idaho.

**MOTION:** **Rep. Raymond** made a motion to approve **Docket No. 24-3801-2501**. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

**ADJOURN:** There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting adjourned at 2:17 p.m.

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Representative Andrus  
Chair

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Jayne Feik  
Secretary

**AMENDED AGENDA #1**  
**HOUSE AGRICULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE**  
**1:30 P.M.**  
**Room EW42**  
**Wednesday, February 12, 2025**

For members of the public to observe the meeting, please click on the following link:  
<https://www.idahoptv.org/shows/idahoinsession/ew42/>

<b>SUBJECT</b>	<b>DESCRIPTION</b>	<b>PRESENTER</b>
	University of Idaho College of Agricultural and Life Sciences	
	The State of the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences	Michael P. Parrella, Dean, Special Assistant to the President
	2024 Financial Condition of Idaho Agriculture	Brett Wilder, Assistant Professor, Area Extension Educator in Agricultural Economics
	Idaho Water Resources Research Institute	Kendra Kaiser, Director, Assistant Research Faculty, IWRI

***If you have written testimony, please provide a copy to the committee secretary.***

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Chairman Andrus            Rep Nelsen  
Vice Chairman Raymond    Rep Pickett  
Rep Cannon                 Rep Sauter  
Rep McCann                 Rep Miller  
Rep Ehlers                  Rep Beiswenger  
Rep Garner                 Rep Dygert

COMMITTEE SECRETARY

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MINUTES  
**HOUSE AGRICULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE**

**DATE:** Wednesday, February 12, 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

**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 February 10, 2025. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

**Chairman Andrus** recognized the service Legislative Page, **Blyss Miller** who has been assigned to the committee during the first half of the session.

**Michael Parrella**, Dean, Special Assistant to the President at the University of Idaho (U of I), presented the State of the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, highlighting its land grant mission of expanding education and applied research. Since 1892, the Idaho Agricultural Experiment Station has driven agricultural innovation, including developing the Russet Burbank potato and advancing sustainability, disease management, and invasive species control. Cooperative Extension provides statewide education in agriculture, natural resources, health, and youth development, with Idaho 4-H serving over 75,000 youth. FY26 request: \$157,900 for a Viticulture & Small Fruits Specialist to support growers in disease management, water efficiency, and post-harvest practices—an area lacking in-state faculty expertise.

**Brett Wilder**, Assistant Professor, Area Extension Educator in Agricultural Economics, presented the 2024 Financial Condition of Idaho Agriculture, saying Idaho's agricultural sector remains a key economic driver, ranking 7th in farm GDP as a percentage of state GDP (3.27%), despite being 38th in total GDP and 19th in total farm GDP. Agribusiness contributes 17% of the state's economic output, supports 1 in 9 jobs, and accounts for 12.8% of Idaho's GSP. In 2024, net farm income rose 12% to \$3.3 billion, driven by lower costs for fertilizer, pesticides, feed, and fuel, though interest expenses increased. Idaho's total exports reached \$4 billion, with food and agriculture exports at \$1.2 billion. As the state hits a record \$11.3 billion in agricultural revenue, geopolitical factors, inflation, and rising fixed costs will challenge producers, with livestock remaining strong while the crop sector faces ongoing pressures. Top trading partners include Canada, Taiwan, Mexico, Japan, and Singapore.

**Kendra Kaiser**, Director and Assistant Research Faculty at the Idaho Water Resources Research Institute (IWRRI), reported that the institute, established in 1963 by the U of I Board of Regents, is one of 54 national water research and technology centers. It conducts and directs research to address water resource needs at the state, regional, and national levels. Additionally, IWRRI supports student training and faculty development in water resource science while leading innovative education and outreach programs which share research-based insights with water managers, agency scientists, and the public.

**ADJOURN:** There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting adjourned at 2:43 p.m.

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Representative Andrus  
Chair

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Jayne Feik  
Secretary



**AMENDED AGENDA #3**  
**HOUSE AGRICULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE**  
**1:30 P.M.**  
**Room EW42**  
**Tuesday, February 18, 2025**

For members of the public to observe the meeting, please click on the following link:  
<https://www.idahoptv.org/shows/idahoinsession/ew42/>

<b>SUBJECT</b>	<b>DESCRIPTION</b>	<b>PRESENTER</b>
<a href="#"><u>02-0801-2401</u></a>	Idaho Sheep and Goat Health Board	Lauren Mink, Executive Secretary & Treasurer
	Idaho Apple, Cherry, and Hop Grower's Commissions	Candi Fitch, Executive Director
	Idaho Potato Commission	Jamey Higham, President / CEO, Idaho Potato Commission

***If you have written testimony, please provide a copy to the committee secretary.***

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Chairman Andrus	Rep Nelsen	Rep Leavitt
Vice Chairman Raymond	Rep Pickett	Rep Mendive
Rep Cannon	Rep Sauter	Rep Shirts
Rep McCann	Rep Miller	Rep Mathias
Rep Ehlers	Rep Beiswenger	Rep Achilles
Rep Garner	Rep Dygert	

COMMITTEE SECRETARY

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MINUTES  
**HOUSE AGRICULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE**

**DATE:** Tuesday, February 18, 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:** Pickett

**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.

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

**MOTION:** **Rep. Achilles** made motion to approve the minutes of February 12, 2025. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

**Chairman Andrus** introduced **Ryia Thomsen** as the page for the second half of the session.

**DOCKET NO.  
02-0801-2401:** **Lauren Mink**, Executive Director, Idaho Sheep and Goat Health Board, State Animal Damage Control Board, stated there are no changes to the **Docket No. 02-0801-2401**, and it is being adopted as originally proposed.

**MOTION:** **Rep. Shirts** made a motion to approve **Docket No. 02-0801-2401**. **Motion carried by voice vote**

**Candi Fitch**, Executive Director of the Idaho Apple, Cherry, and Hops Commissions, provided an industry update. The Idaho Hop Growers Commission reported a decline in hop acreage from 9,561 in 2022 to 5,797 in 2024, with further drops expected due to oversupply. Warm temperatures in August 2024 impacted early apple varieties like Galas, and late spring frosts caused additional losses. Northwest tree fruit growers face financial strain from rising costs, stagnant prices, and limited marketing. The Idaho Cherry Commission reported a yield of about 1,400 tons, with low prices due to high market competition.

**Jamey Higham**, President/CEO of the Idaho Potato Commission (IPC), reported the IPC promotes and protects the Grown in Idaho seal, ensuring consumers receive high-quality Idaho potatoes. Idaho's ideal growing conditions and generational farmers set its potatoes apart. Challenges include trade uncertainties with Canada, Mexico, and Asia, rising competition from India and China, high input costs, and declining market prices affecting grower margins. The IPC also works on developing disease-resistant, heat-tolerant, and water-efficient potato varieties, while addressing labor, succession planning, dietary guidelines, and urbanization.

**ADJOURN:** There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting adjourned at 2:26 p.m.

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Representative Andrus  
Chair

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Jayne Feik  
Secretary

AGENDA  
**HOUSE AGRICULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE**  
1:30 P.M. or Upon Adjournment  
Room EW42  
Thursday, February 20, 2025

For members of the public to observe the meeting, please click on the following link:  
<https://www.idahoptv.org/shows/idahoinsession/ew42/>

<b>SUBJECT</b>	<b>DESCRIPTION</b>	<b>PRESENTER</b>
<a href="#">H 173</a>	Alfalfa and clover seed	Rep. Dygert
	Idaho Wine Commission	Roger Batt, Legislative Educator Moya Dolsby, Executive Director Melanie Krause, Founder and Winemaker, Cinder Wines

***If you have written testimony, please provide a copy to the committee secretary.***

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Chairman Andrus	Rep Nelsen	Rep Leavitt
Vice Chairman Raymond	Rep Pickett	Rep Mendive
Rep Cannon	Rep Sauter	Rep Shirts
Rep McCann	Rep Miller	Rep Mathias
Rep Ehlers	Rep Beiswenger	Rep Achilles
Rep Garner	Rep Dygert	

COMMITTEE SECRETARY

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MINUTES  
**HOUSE AGRICULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE**

**DATE:** Thursday, February 20, 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:** Pickett

**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 3:15 p.m.

**MOTION:** **Rep. Shirts** made a motion to approve the minutes of February 18, 2025. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

**H 173:** **Rep. Dygert** presented **H 173**, which changes the make up of the Alfalfa and Clover Seed Commission. The proposed commission will be made up of five alfalfa seed and clover grower members, one member from the University of Idaho College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, and one alfalfa and clover dealer member.

**Rick Waitley**, Idaho Alfalfa/ Clover Growers Seed Commission, and **Paul Rasgorshek**, Rasgorshek Farms, ID Alfalfa & Clover Seed Growers Association, spoke in support of **H 173**.

**MOTION:** **Rep. Miller** made a motion to send **H 173** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation. **Motion carried by voice vote.** **Rep. Dygert** will sponsor the bill on the floor.

**Roger Batt**, Legislative Educator for the Idaho Grape and Wine Commission (IWC), spoke about the history of wine in Idaho and the challenges facing the industry. Key issues include farmland loss, the importance of a new position at the University of Idaho, Parma, water supply concerns, and labor shortages.

**Moya Dolsby**, Executive Director, IWC, discussed the commission's funding structure and current marketing grants for media missions, advertising, and Winter Wine Weekends.

**Melanie Krause**, Founder and Winemaker of Cinder Wines, discussed the wine-making process, including the time from harvest to bottle, cost per bottle, and winery challenges.

**Jay Hawkins**, Commissioner, IWC Board of Directors explained the economics of grape growing, water requirements, grape value, varieties grown in Idaho, and vineyard challenges affecting the industry's growth.

**ADJOURN:** There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting adjourned at 4:45 p.m.

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Representative Andrus  
Chair

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Jayne Feik  
Secretary

**AMENDED AGENDA #3**  
**HOUSE AGRICULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE**  
**1:30 P.M.**  
**Room EW42**  
**Wednesday, February 26, 2025**

For members of the public to observe the meeting, please click on the following link:  
<https://www.idahoptv.org/shows/idahoinsession/ew42/>

<b>SUBJECT</b>	<b>DESCRIPTION</b>	<b>PRESENTER</b>
<a href="#">S 1026</a>	Urban ag, livestock, chickens	Rep. Tanner (13)

***If you have written testimony, please provide a copy to the committee secretary.***

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Chairman Andrus  
Vice Chairman Raymond  
Rep Cannon  
Rep McCann  
Rep Ehlers  
Rep Garner

Rep Nelsen  
Rep Pickett  
Rep Sauter  
Rep Miller  
Rep Beiswenger  
Rep Dygert

Rep Leavitt  
Rep Mendive  
Rep Shirts  
Rep Mathias  
Rep Achilles

COMMITTEE SECRETARY

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MINUTES  
**HOUSE AGRICULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE**

**DATE:** Wednesday, February 26, 2025  
**TIME:** 1:30 P.M.  
**PLACE:** Room EW42  
**MEMBERS:** Chairman Andrus, Vice Chairman Raymond, Representatives Cannon, McCann (Mosman), Ehlers, Garner, Nelsen, Pickett, Sauter, Miller, Beiswenger, Dygert, Leavitt, Mendive, Shirts, Mathias, Achilles  
**ABSENT/EXCUSED:** Raymond, Leavitt  
**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 February 20, 2025. **Motion carried by voice vote.**  
**S 1026:** **Rep. Tanner** explained **S 1026** supports urban agriculture by allowing residential property owners to keep up to four chickens per 0.2 acres. The bill aims to promote local food production, safeguard property rights, and enhance food security in urban areas. However, it does not apply to multifamily units or properties already subject to agricultural zoning.  
Speaking **in opposition** to **S 1026**, **William Schultz**, Kingsbridge HOA, **John Osmond**, **Scott Emerich**, HOA resident, **Noelle Rauschendorfer**, VF Law.  
**MOTION:** **Rep. Dygert** made a motion to **HOLD S 1026** subject to call of the chair.  
**SUBSTITUTE MOTION:** **Rep. Ehlers** made a substitute motion to send **S 1026** to General Orders.  
**AMENDED SUBSTITUTE MOTION:** **Rep. Nelsen** made an amended substitute motion to **HOLD S 1026** in committee.  
**Chairman Andrus** put the committee at ease at 2:22 p.m. and resumed the meeting at 2:28 p.m.  
**ROLL CALL VOTE ON AMENDED SUBSTITUTE MOTION:** Roll call vote was requested on **S 1026**. **Motion carried by a vote of 8 AYE, and 7 NAY, 2 Absent/Excused. Voting in favor** of the motion: **Reps. McCann (Mosman), Garner, Nelsen, Pickett, Sauter, Miller, Dygert, and Mendive. Voting in opposition** to the motion: **Reps. Andrus, Cannon, Ehlers, Beiswenger, Shirts, Mathias, and Achilles. Reps. Raymond and Leavitt** were absent/excused.  
**ADJOURN:** There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting adjourned at 2:30 p.m.

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Representative Andrus  
Chair

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Jayne Feik  
Secretary

AGENDA  
**HOUSE AGRICULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE**  
**1:30 P.M.**  
**Room EW42**  
**Tuesday, March 04, 2025**

For members of the public to observe the meeting, please click on the following link:  
<https://www.idahoptv.org/shows/idahoinsession/ew42/>

<b>SUBJECT</b>	<b>DESCRIPTION</b>	<b>PRESENTER</b>
	Idaho State Department of Agriculture	
	Updates on High Path Avian Influenza and Cervidae	Chanel Tewalt, Director, ISDA  Dr. Scott Libsle, Idaho State Veterinarian

***If you have written testimony, please provide a copy to the committee secretary.***

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Chairman Andrus  
Vice Chairman Raymond  
Rep Cannon  
Rep McCann  
Rep Ehlers  
Rep Garner

Rep Nelsen  
Rep Pickett  
Rep Sauter  
Rep Miller  
Rep Beiswenger  
Rep Dygert

Rep Leavitt  
Rep Mendive  
Rep Shirts  
Rep Mathias  
Rep Achilles

COMMITTEE SECRETARY

Jayne Feik  
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MINUTES  
**HOUSE AGRICULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE**

**DATE:** Tuesday, March 04, 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:** Sauter

**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. Achilles** made a motion to approve the minutes of February 26, 2025.  
**Motion carried by voice vote.**

**Chanel Tewalt**, Director, Idaho State Department of Agriculture (ISDA), presented an update on cervidae (deer and elk) and avian influenza. An unknown disease emerged in Texas one year ago, prompting Idaho state officials to take action by restricting movement, despite criticism from the USDA. Idaho was the only state to act, later proving its decision correct as the disease spread through imported cattle. The state was the first to address cattle-to-cattle transmission. **Dr. Liebsle** became a key figure in managing the situation.

**Dr. Scott Liebsle**, Idaho State Veterinarian, reported the Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) in domestic poultry has persisted for three years, ranking the state fifth in the nation for affected facilities, most of which are backyard operations. The greater concern lies with backyard poultry, show birds, and pet birds rather than commercial poultry farms. Despite the differences in poultry types, response measures remain consistent. HPAI continues to be a significant issue and is not expected to subside in the near future.

HPAI H5N1 has affected all 50 states and one territory, impacting pets and milk production. Restrictions on transporting cattle in Idaho is limited to lactating cattle, all other cattle are free to be transported. Idaho currently has one dairy under quarantine. While complete disease elimination is difficult, quarantine measures will be enforced if detected.

In addition to concerns about livestock diseases, **Dr. Liebsle** said that until two months ago, no cases of Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) had been identified in domestic cervidae herds in Idaho. Since then, one case has been confirmed in Jefferson County and another in Madison County. A positive case of CWD was reported in a herd transported in from an Alberta herd. There is no evidence of transmission of CWD between herds or between wildlife and domesticated cervidae. Most cases have been concentrated in Northern Idaho. Currently, there is no live test for cervidae, though efforts are underway to develop one.

**MOTION:** **Rep. Mendive** made a motion to reconsider the vote on **S 1026**. **Rep. Raymond** excused himself from the vote as he was absent on February 26, 2025.



**ROLL CALL  
VOTE:**

Roll call vote was requested. **Motion failed by a vote of 5 AYE, and 9 NAY, 2 Absent/Excused, 1 Excused. Voting in favor of the motion: Reps. Andrus, Cannon, Ehlers, Beiswenger, and Mendive. Voting in opposition to the motion: Reps. McCann, Garner, Nelsen, Pickett, Miller, Dygert, Shirts, Mathias, and Achilles. Reps. Sauter and Leavitt were Absent/Excused. Rep. Raymond was Excused.**

**ADJOURN:**

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

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Representative Andrus  
Chair

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Jayne Feik  
Secretary

AGENDA  
**HOUSE AGRICULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE**  
**1:30 P.M.**  
**Room EW42**  
**Thursday, March 06, 2025**

For members of the public to observe the meeting, please click on the following link:  
<https://www.idahoptv.org/shows/idahoinsession/ew42/>

<b>SUBJECT</b>	<b>DESCRIPTION</b>	<b>PRESENTER</b>
	Seed Industry	Roger Batt
	Apiary, pollinators	Ron Bittner

***If you have written testimony, please provide a copy to the committee secretary.***

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Chairman Andrus

Vice Chairman Raymond

Rep Cannon

Rep McCann

Rep Ehlers

Rep Garner

Rep Nelsen

Rep Pickett

Rep Sauter

Rep Miller

Rep Beiswenger

Rep Dygert

Rep Leavitt

Rep Mendive

Rep Shirts

Rep Mathias

Rep Achilles

COMMITTEE SECRETARY

Jayne Feik

Room: EW11

Phone: 332-1137

Email: [hagri@house.idaho.gov](mailto:hagri@house.idaho.gov)

MINUTES  
**HOUSE AGRICULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE**

**DATE:** Thursday, March 06, 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, Pickett, Ehlers, 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.

**Roger Batt**, Executive Director, Eastern Oregon and Idaho Seed Industry, said the seed industry is vital to agriculture, much like microchips are to technology. The U.S. is the leader in global seed production, accounting for 34.5% of total production, followed by China, the EU, South America, and others. Idaho is one of just six major global seed production regions, alongside California, China, France, Chile, and Australia, and is known for producing high-quality seed, especially in sweet corn. Idaho's seed industry, valued at \$800 million, contributes \$1.5 billion in economic activity across the state, with a strong vertical integration from seed production to research. The state's unique high desert climate, abundant water supply, and advanced irrigation practices make it ideal for seed production. Despite challenges such as smaller fields due to topography, Idaho has thrived through major historical events, from wars to recessions. The industry faces several issues: loss of farmland, maintaining pesticide labels, ensuring water supply, and supporting farmers and companies. The industry remains resilient, with consistent growth even during economic downturns.

**Dr. Ron Bitner**, PhD, a leading entomologist and bee biologist, emphasized the importance of native bees in agriculture. Idaho hosts over 700 bee species, with 76 identified in the Treasure Valley with 90% of which are ground nesters. Research on native pollinators examined their role in specialty crops and their attraction to colors like blue, yellow, and white. The Logan Bee Lab, the world's largest bee research facility, has documented significant bee losses due to land development. A major event in February 2025 saw 1.1 million honeybees die during almond pollination in California, with causes still under investigation. Dr. Bitner stressed the need for immediate conservation efforts, urging farmers and workers to better understand soil health and protect vital bee populations in Idaho's agricultural hub.

**ADJOURN:** There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting adjourned at 2:13 p.m.

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Representative Andrus  
Chair

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Jayne Feik  
Secretary