

MINUTES
HOUSE AGRICULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

DATE: Tuesday, January 20, 2026

TIME: 1:30 P.M.

PLACE: Room EW42

MEMBERS: Chairman Raymond, Vice Chairman Shirts, Representatives Cannon, McCann, Garner, Nelsen, Pickett, Sauter, Miller, Beiswenger, Dygert, Leavitt, Mendive, Hall, Healey, Mathias, Haws

**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 Raymond called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m.

MOTION: **Rep. Haws** made a motion to approve the minutes of the January 14, 2026.
Motion carried by voice vote.

Rachael Bickerton, Director of Government and External Relations for the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences (CALs) at the University of Idaho (UI), introduced **Brett Wilder**, an Assistant Professor and Area Extension Educator in Farm Business Management with UI CALs. Mr. Wilder provided an overview of projections indicating Idaho agricultural farm-gate cash receipts are expected to reach an estimated \$12.1 billion in 2025, representing a second consecutive year at an all-time high. Members noted projected growth is largely attributable to the livestock sector. Beef cattle cash receipts are estimated at \$3.9 billion, which would make beef the state's largest agricultural commodity for the first time since 2003, slightly exceeding projected milk receipts of \$3.85 billion. Livestock is expected to comprise approximately 68 percent of total farm-gate cash receipts, the largest share on record. In contrast, projected crop revenues reflect a decline, with potato cash receipts estimated at \$1.1 billion, a decrease of approximately 12 percent from 2024. Net farm income is projected at \$2.7 billion, an increase of 6 percent year over year, despite estimated production expenses of \$10.4 billion, which are at record levels. The discussion noted recent income growth is concentrated primarily in livestock production, while conditions for many crop producers continue to deteriorate.

ADJOURN: There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting adjourned at 2:27 p.m.

Representative Raymond
Chair

Jayne Feik
Secretary