

MINUTES
SENATE AGRICULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

DATE: Tuesday, January 27, 2026

TIME: 8:00 A.M.

PLACE: Room WW53

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chairman Nichols, Vice Chairman Zito, Senators Lent, VanOrden, Blaylock, Kohl, Semmelroth, and Taylor

ABSENT/ EXCUSED: Senator Lakey

NOTE: The sign-in sheet, testimonies and other related materials will be retained with the minutes in the committee's office until the end of the session and will then be located on file with the minutes in the Legislative Services Library.

CONVENED: **Chairman Nichols** called the meeting of the Senate Agricultural Affairs Committee (Committee) to order at 8:00 a.m.

INTRODUCTION: **Ms. Rachael Bickerton**, Director of Government and External Relations, College of Agricultural and Life Sciences at the University of Idaho (U of I), introduced the Twenty-fourth Annual U of I Agricultural Economics Public Policy Tour. She introduced each student and stated their home town and major. (See Attachment 1).

PASSED THE GAVEL: Chairman Nichols passed the gavel to Vice Chairman Zito.

DOCKET NO. 02-0205-2501 **Rules Governing Stone Fruit Grades (ZBR Chapter Rewrite) - Pending Rule.** **Mr. Jared Stuart**, Administrator of the Agriculture Inspections Division for the Idaho State Department of Agriculture (ISDA), stated amendments removed obsolete grade standard language and duplicative language, as well as made clarifications. The resulting rule was consistent with industry practices. (See Attachment 2).

DOCKET NO. 02-0207-2501 **Rules Governing Bulk Permits and Retail Sale of Potatoes (ZBR Chapter Rewrite) - Pending Rule.** **Mr. Jared Stuart**, Administrator of the Agriculture Inspections Division for the ISDA, explained the Federal Marketing Order Citation was updated, language was clarified, and unnecessary language was removed.

DOCKET NO. 02-0214-2501 **Rules for Weights and Measures (ZBR Chapter Rewrite) - Pending Rule.** **Mr. Jared Stuart**, Administrator of the Agriculture Inspections Division for the ISDA, stated the rule's Incorporation by Reference (IBR) citation was updated to its most recent publication. Duplicative language that was already referenced in the IBR handbook was removed. Clarifications were also made to the rule.

DISCUSSION: **Senator Taylor** wanted clarification as to where the removed definitions were located. **Mr. Slabaugh** stated the definitions were located within the statute.

DOCKET NO. 02-0303-2501 **Rules Governing Pesticide and Chemigation Use and Application - Pending Rule.** **Mr. Brian Slabaugh**, Administrator of the Division of Agricultural Resources for the ISDA, gave a brief summary of the rule's background. Changes included five-year license terms, separating new license categories for potato cellar and wood preservation licenses, adding a new category for applicators using aerial unmanned drones, and lengthening the sunset provisions on commercial apprentices. (See Attachment 3).

**DOCKET NO.
02-0633-2501**

Organic Food Products Rules - Pending Rule. Mr. Jared Stuart, Administrator of the Agriculture Inspections Division for the ISDA, explained the IBR citation was updated to its most recent publication. The rule amended the application period for organic certification to better align with crop production years. The amendments would also assist the agency in better managing certification workload for customers.

NOTE:

Vice Chairman Zito noted the Committee would vote on all of the rules following the fifth Committee meeting.

**PASSED THE
GAVEL:**

Vice Chairman Zito passed the gavel back to Chairman Nichols.

ADJOURNED:

There being no further business at this time, **Chairman Nichols** adjourned the meeting at 8:21 a.m.

Senator Nichols
Chair

Rachel Verrette
Secretary