

MINUTES  
**HOUSE AGRICULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE**

- DATE:** Wednesday, February 18, 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 (Stone), Healey, Mathias, Haws
- ABSENT/  
EXCUSED:** 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 Shirts** called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m.
- MOTION:** **Rep. Haws** made a motion to approve the minutes of the February 16, 2026 meeting. **Motion approved by voice vote.**
- Rachael Bikerton**, Director of Government and External Relation, University of Idaho (UI), College of Agricultural and Life Sciences (CALs), Ag Research and Extension (ARES), said the UI delivers a strong return on investment to the State of Idaho by directly supporting producers, strengthening rural communities, and advancing agricultural innovation. Research reduces risk at the farm gate. Extension provides rapid, science-based solutions in every county, and workforce programs supply industry with highly trained graduates—many with 100 percent job placement. Even amid budget reductions, the university has prioritized mission-critical positions and operational efficiencies to ensure careful stewardship of taxpayer dollars while maintaining measurable economic impact for Idaho agriculture.
- Kimberly Kaiser**, Director of the Idaho Water Resource Research Institute (IWRRI) and Extension faculty in CALs, provided an overview of IWRRI's mission, structure, and recent activities. She reported on the Legislature's \$1 million appropriation, outlined the institute's research priority-setting process, and highlighted current projects related to snowpack forecasting and water supply tools, managed aquifer recharge and water quality, and harmful algal bloom monitoring. She emphasized IWRRI's role in providing independent, data-driven analysis to support water management decisions statewide.
- Chairman Shirts** turned the gavel over to **Chairman Raymond** at 2:17 p.m.
- H 630:** **Rep. Shirts** presented **H 630**, which amends Section 22-102A, Idaho Code, to revise provisions governing airborne control of predatory animals, move certain administrative rule provisions into statute, nullify related rules, provide penalties, and declare an emergency effective July 1, 2026.
- MOTION:** **Rep. Leavitt** made a motion to send **H 630** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation. **Rep. Leavitt** declared a conflict of interest pursuant to Rule 80. **Motion carried by voice vote. Rep. Shirts** will sponsor the bill on the floor.

**H 631:** **Rep. Shirts** presented **H 631**, which amends Title 22, Chapter 1, Idaho Code, to provide for Certificates of Free Sale, move certain administrative rule provisions into statute, nullify related rules, provide for application fees and documentation requirements, include a severability clause, and declare an emergency effective July 1, 2026.

**MOTION:** **Rep. Dygert** made a motion to send **H 631** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation. **Motion carried by voice vote.** **Rep. Shirts** will sponsor the bill on the floor.

**Chairman Raymond** placed the committee at ease to recognize **Paige Kailynn Clark** for her service to the House Agricultural Affairs Committee.

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

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Representative Shirts  
Chair

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Jayne Feik  
Secretary