

MINUTES  
**SENATE AGRICULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE**

**DATE:** Thursday, March 12, 2026

**TIME:** 8:00 A.M.

**PLACE:** Room WW53

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Chairman Nichols, Senators Lakey, Lent, VanOrden, Kohl, Semmelroth, and Taylor

**ABSENT/ EXCUSED:** Vice Chairman Zito, Senator Blaylock

**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.

**MINUTES APPROVAL:** **Senator Kohl** moved to approve the Minutes of February 24, 2026. **Senator Taylor** seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**.

**H 662** **MILK TESTING - Amends existing law to revise provisions regarding milk and cream testing methods.** **Representative Vander Woude** disclosed that his son owned a milk testing lab. He explained the various components of milk that were tested and paid for according to quality standards. He said processors and producers requested a bacterial category be added to the testing process. This legislation allowed the Idaho State Department of Agriculture (ISDA) to consider rules for this category. He stated his son's lab was the third largest milk testing lab in the world. He requested **H 662** be sent to the floor with a do pass recommendation.

**DISCUSSION:** **Senator VanOrden** asked if this legislation would allow Representative Vander Woude's son the ability to test for bacteria at his milk testing lab. **Representative Vander Woude** explained it was discretionary and his own consideration depended on what the rules consisted of. **Chairman Nichols** asked where the two largest milk testing labs were located. **Representative Vander Woude** responded Holland and New Zealand. **Chairman Nichols** queried about the primary purpose of milk testing. **Representative Vander Woude** said testing served as a management tool to determine the productiveness of each cow in a herd. He emphasized individual milk testing was not required under law, however, bulk tank sampling was required to determine milk price.

**TESTIMONY:** **Mr. Jamie Neill**, Idaho Dairyman's Association, explained his support of **H 662**. He stated bacteria could be further analyzed by buyers and sellers of milk when the quality was in question, and the bill allowed the ISDA to be a part of this process. He thanked the legislators that were involved in bringing **H 662** forward and thanked milk processors.

**Mr. Travis Jones**, Executive Director, Intermountain Milk Processors Association, testified in favor of **H 662**. He explained this bill was compromise legislation between milk processors and producers. He believed the bill created a fair process for all aspects of milk testing when there was disagreement between pricing. He noted the legislation modeled an arbitration process the ISDA already implemented.

**NOTE:** **Representative Vander Woude** provided a specific example as to how his son's lab served as an accuracy checkpoint for a herd in Washington.

**MOTION:** **Senator Kohl** moved to send **H 662** to the floor with a **do pass** recommendation. **Senator Lent** seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**.

**ADJOURNED:** There being no further business at this time, **Chairman Nichols** adjourned the meeting at 8:12 a.m.

---

Senator Nichols  
Chair

---

Rachel Verrette  
Secretary