

AGENDA  
**HOUSE AGRICULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE**  
**1:30 P.M.**  
**Room EW42**  
**Wednesday, January 14, 2026**

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

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SUBJECT	DESCRIPTION	PRESENTER
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Organizational Meeting

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

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Chairman Raymond  
Vice Chairman Shirts  
Rep Cannon  
Rep McCann  
Rep Garner  
Rep Nelsen

Rep Pickett  
Rep Sauter  
Rep Miller  
Rep Beiswenger  
Rep Dygert  
Rep Leavitt

Rep Mendive  
Rep Hall  
Rep Healey  
Rep Mathias  
Rep Haws

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:** Wednesday, January 14, 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:** Representative(s) Miller, Pickett, Cannon, 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 Raymond** called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m.

**Chairman Raymond** welcomed the commencement of the 2026 session of the Idaho House of Representatives. **Reps. Haws** and **McCann** were entrusted with the task of reviewing the minutes, and Chairman Raymond acknowledged **Kailynn Clark**, the committee page hailing from Rigby, Idaho.

**ADJOURN:** There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting adjourned at 1:53 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 20, 2026**

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>
	The Financial Condition of Idaho Agriculture	Brett Wilder, UI College of Agricultural and Life Sciences

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

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Chairman Raymond	Rep Pickett
Vice Chairman Shirts	Rep Sauter
Rep Cannon	Rep Miller
Rep McCann	Rep Beiswenger
Rep Garner	Rep Dygert
Rep Nelsen	Rep Leavitt

COMMITTEE SECRETARY

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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.

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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**  
**Thursday, January 22, 2026**

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 32944C1</a>	Artificial Sweeteners	Rep. Crane (12)
	Idaho Sugar Industry	
	-Economic Condition	Zach Patterson, Patterson Farms
	-Regenerative Ag	Nathan Garner, Garner Farms
	-Marketing and Sales of Sugar	Jake Hancock, Amalgamated Sugar

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

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Chairman Raymond	Rep Pickett	Rep Mendive
Vice Chairman Shirts	Rep Sauter	Rep Hall
Rep Cannon	Rep Miller	Rep Healey
Rep McCann	Rep Beiswenger	Rep Mathias
Rep Garner	Rep Dygert	Rep Haws
Rep Nelsen	Rep Leavitt	

COMMITTEE SECRETARY

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MINUTES  
**HOUSE AGRICULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE**

**DATE:** Thursday, January 22, 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:** Rep. Healy

**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 January 20, 2026. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

**RS 32944C1:** **Rep. Crane (12)** presented **RS 32944C1**. He stated that Idaho is one of the nation's leading sugarbeet producers and that sugarbeets are a natural source of sugar. The memorial urges Congress to support efforts to reduce the use of artificial sweeteners in school lunches in favor of natural sugar sources, consistent with the "Make America Healthy Again" initiative. The memorial will be read into the congressional record and entered into the journal.

**MOTION:** **Rep. Leavitt** made a motion to introduce **RS 32944C1**. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

**Samantha Parrott**, Executive Director, Snake River Sugar Association, introduced **Zach Patterson**, owner of Patterson Farms and President, SRSGA. Mr. Patterson testified that Idaho farmers are facing severe financial pressure as they renew operating loans and project the coming year. Commodity prices across multiple crops have dropped sharply—sugar beets, corn silage, hay, and wheat—while input costs such as seed, water, power, equipment, and land rent continue to rise. For sugar beets specifically, revenue has declined by roughly \$1,000 per acre compared to recent years, pushing many operations below break-even, even after aggressive cost-cutting. Farmers are being forced to delay equipment replacement, reduce maintenance, and scale back investments, which will ripple through rural economies. Mr. Patterson emphasized that the greatest risk is to small and multi-generational family farms and stressed that current sugar market conditions are driven by federal policy, warning that if not addressed at the federal level, sugar production and processing capacity could permanently leave the region.

**Nathan Garner**, owner of Garner Farms, Chairman of the Board, SRSGA, provided an overview of regenerative farming practices. Regenerative farming is an agricultural approach focused on improving soil health through reduced soil disturbance, ground cover, increased plant diversity, living roots, and livestock integration, with the goal of regenerating degraded land and improving long-term system resilience. Considerations discussed included increased water use and costs associated with cover crops, reliance on precision equipment, GMO seed, and glyphosate for no-till and strip-till systems, as well as a planned 25% reduction in synthetic fertilizer use by 2026.

**Jake Hancock**, Vice President of Commercial and Supply Chain for Amalgamated Sugar, presented an overview of the grower-owned cooperative representing approximately 700 sugarbeet farmers in Idaho, Oregon, and Washington, which operates three processing facilities and contributes over \$1 billion annually to Idaho's economy. He noted Amalgamated represents about 9% of the domestic sugar market and highlighted challenges including weakened demand, high inventories, excessive imports, and prices near forfeiture levels resulting in grower losses, along with industry efforts to work with USDA and the Administration to better align demand estimates, limit imports, update high-tier duties for inflation, and modernize the federal sugar program to protect domestic producers and food security. The 2025 sugarbeet crop was the largest Idaho has ever produced. Sugar imports that are lower in cost than can be grown here are devastating sugarbeet farms in the United States. Farm prices are low so there's nothing that is going to replace this crop.

**ADJOURN:** There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting adjourned at 2:16 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**  
**Monday, January 26, 2026**

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>02-0205-2501</u></a>	Stone Fruit Grades	Jared Stuart, ID Dept. of Ag
<a href="#"><u>02-0207-2501</u></a>	Bulk Permits and Retail Sale of Potatoes	Jared Stuart
<a href="#"><u>02-0214-2501</u></a>	Weights and Measures	Jared Stuart
<a href="#"><u>02-0303-2501</u></a>	Pesticide and Chemigation Use and Application	Brian Slabaugh
<a href="#"><u>02-0633-2501</u></a>	Organic Food Products	Jared Stuart

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

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Chairman Raymond	Rep Pickett	Rep Mendive
Vice Chairman Shirts	Rep Sauter	Rep Hall
Rep Cannon	Rep Miller	Rep Healey
Rep McCann	Rep Beiswenger	Rep Mathias
Rep Garner	Rep Dygert	Rep Haws
Rep Nelsen	Rep Leavitt	

COMMITTEE SECRETARY

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MINUTES  
**HOUSE AGRICULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE**

**DATE:** Monday, January 26, 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:** Rep. Haws, Dygert

**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 1:32 p.m.

**Chairman Raymond** turned the gavel over to **Vice Chairman Shirts**.

**DOCKET NO  
02-0205-2501:** **Jared Stuart**, Idaho State Dept. of Agriculture (ISDA), Division Administrator, Agriculture Inspections Division, presented **Docket No. 02-0205-2501**, relating to inspection and grading requirements for Idaho stone fruit (prunes, plums, sweet cherries, and apricots). The proposed rule establishes state-specific grading and inspection standards for packed fruit used in marketing, including tolerances and defect scoring which differ slightly from USDA standards to better reflect Idaho growing conditions.

**MOTION:** **Rep. McCann** made a motion to approve **Docket No. 02-0205-2501**. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

**DOCKET NO  
02-0207-2501:** **Jared Stuart** presented **Docket No. 02-0207-2501**, concerning permitting, inspection, grading, and sale of potatoes in Idaho. The rule governs bulk shipping permits, grading requirements for fresh and repack sales, shipment of processing potatoes under USDA Marketing Order 945, applicable permit fees, and compliance with Idaho Potato Commission and USDA standards.

**MOTION:** **Rep. Beiswenger** made a motion to approve **Docket No. 02-0207-2501**. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

**DOCKET NO  
02-0214-2501:** **Jared Stuart** presented **Docket No. 02-0214-2501**, relating to inspection and testing of commercial weighing, measuring, and dispensing devices in Idaho. The rule ensures the accuracy of weights, measures, and counts for commodities sold, protecting consumers by verifying they receive the correct amount or size of purchased items.

**MOTION:** **Rep. Pickett** made a motion to approve **Docket No. 02-0214-2501**. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

**DOCKET NO  
02-0633-2501:** **Jared Stuart** presented **Docket No. 02-0633-2501**, relating to producers, vendors, and handlers of organic food products seeking voluntary certification through the ISDA. The rule establishes definitions and requirements for organic production, handling, labeling, certification, fees, and penalties for violations of organic laws and rules.

**MOTION:** **Rep. Cannon** made a motion to approve **Docket No. 02-0633-2501**. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

**DOCKET NO 02-0303-2501:** **Brian Slabaugh**, ISDA, Division Administrator, presented **Docket No. 02-0303-2501**, relating to pesticide applicators, handlers, dealers, and others involved in the distribution, use, storage, and disposal of pesticides. The rule establishes certification, training, licensing, and registration requirements; governs pesticide storage, handling, application, and chemigation equipment; and includes restrictions to protect pollinators.

**MOTION:** **Rep. McCann** made a motion to approve **Docket No. 02-0303-2501**. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

**Chairman Shirts** turned the gavel back to **Chairman Raymond** at 2:02 p.m.

**MOTION:** **Rep. MaCann** made a motion to approve the minutes of January 22, 2026. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

**ADJOURN:** There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting adjourned at 2:03 p.m.

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Representative Shirts  
Chair

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Jayne Feik  
Secretary

AGENDA  
**HOUSE AGRICULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE**  
**1:30 P.M.**  
**Room EW42**  
**Wednesday, January 28, 2026**

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 Potato Commission	Jamey Higham, CEO Idaho Potato Commission

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

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Chairman Raymond  
Vice Chairman Shirts  
Rep Cannon  
Rep McCann  
Rep Garner  
Rep Nelsen

Rep Pickett  
Rep Sauter  
Rep Miller  
Rep Beiswenger  
Rep Dygert  
Rep Leavitt

Rep Mendive  
Rep Hall  
Rep Healey  
Rep Mathias  
Rep Haws

COMMITTEE SECRETARY

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MINUTES  
**HOUSE AGRICULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE**

**DATE:** Wednesday, January 28, 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:** Beiswenger

**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 1:27 p.m.

**MOTION:** **Rep. McCann** made a motion to approve the minutes of the January 26, 2026 meeting. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

**Jamey Higham**, President and CEO of the Idaho Potato Commission (IPC), established in 1937, presented the Commission's annual legislative report. He reviewed the FY2025 audit and provided projections of income and expenditures and outlined key challenges facing the Idaho potato industry. These include trade uncertainty with major export partners in Canada, Mexico, and Asia, increased competition from India and China, and ongoing market pressures as input costs remain high despite moderating inflation and market prices declining from historic highs. Mr. Higham also noted nutrition-related challenges stemming from recently released Dietary Guidelines and the potential impacts of GLP-1 medications on consumer demand. Additional challenges discussed included labor availability, succession planning, weather variability, disease pressures, urbanization, and considerations for the 2025–2026 IPC commercial program.

In response to committee questions, **Sam Eaton**, Vice President at IPC, stated Mexico and Canada remain the industry's primary export markets under USMCA, which has largely shielded U.S. potato exports from direct tariff impacts this year. While some relational effects have been observed, potato exports themselves have not been significantly affected by tariffs. However, growers are experiencing indirect impacts through higher input costs, including tariffs on imported equipment and fertilizers. Exports to other markets, such as Taiwan and Vietnam, are subject to higher tariffs but remain limited in volume.

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

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Representative Raymond  
Chair

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Jayne Feik  
Secretary

AGENDA  
**HOUSE AGRICULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE**  
8:30 A.M.  
Room EW42  
Friday, January 30, 2026

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

SUBJECT	DESCRIPTION	PRESENTER
<a href="#">HJM 10</a>	Artificial sweeteners	Rep. Crane (12)

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

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Chairman Raymond	Rep Pickett	Rep Mendive
Vice Chairman Shirts	Rep Sauter	Rep Hall
Rep Cannon	Rep Miller	Rep Healey
Rep McCann	Rep Beiswenger	Rep Mathias
Rep Garner	Rep Dygert	Rep Haws
Rep Nelsen	Rep Leavitt	

COMMITTEE SECRETARY

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MINUTES  
**HOUSE AGRICULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE**

**DATE:** Friday, January 30, 2026

**TIME:** 8:30 A.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:** Reps. Miller, Hall, Sauter, Healy

**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 8:30 a.m.

**MOTION:** **Rep. Haws** made a motion to approve the minutes of January 28, 2026. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

**HJM 10:** **Rep. Crane(12)** presented **HJM 10**, urging Congress, HHS, and USDA to prioritize real sugar over artificial sweeteners in federally supported school meals. Current federal rules allow lab-created sweeteners such as aspartame and sucralose, which are increasingly appearing in school food products. Idaho, the nation's second-largest sugarbeet producer, offers a natural, plant-based alternative which aligns with the MAHA agenda while supporting a billion-dollar agricultural industry and thousands of rural jobs. The memorial does not regulate parents, school districts, or vending machines, but serves as a request to prioritize real sugar in school lunch programs.

**Samantha Parrott**, Executive Director of the Snake River Sugarbeet Growers Association, spoke **in support of HJM 10**. She stated the memorial supports Idaho agriculture and encourages Congress to prioritize real sugar in federally supported school meals. Ms. Parrott noted concerns about the increasing use of artificial sweeteners in school foods and emphasized sugar from sugar beets is a natural, plant-based ingredient.

**Galen Lee**, fourth generation sugarbeet grower, spoke **in support of HJM 10**, saying Idaho sugarbeets provide a real, plant-based ingredient grown safely at home. Sugar helps nutritious food taste good so kids will eat it, and replacing sugar with artificial sweeteners doesn't always improve nutrition. This memorial simply asks Congress to prioritize real ingredients in school meals.

**MOTION:** **Rep. Dygert** made a motion to send **HJM 10** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation. **Motion carried by voice vote.** **Rep. Crane(12)** will sponsor the bill on the floor.

**ADJOURN:** There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting adjourned at 8:38 a.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 EW05**  
**Monday, February 02, 2026**

For members of the public to observe the meeting, please click on the following link:  
<https://www.idahoptv.org/shows/idahoinsession/ew05/>

<b>SUBJECT</b>	<b>DESCRIPTION</b>	<b>PRESENTER</b>
DOCKET NO. <a href="#">02-0701-2501</a>	Idaho Hop Growers' Commission	Lloyd Knight, Deputy Director, Idaho State Dept. of Agriculture
<a href="#">02-0108-2401</a>	Grizzly Bear and Wolf Depredation	Lloyd Knight
<a href="#">02-0108-2501</a>	Grizzly Bear and Wolf Depredation	Lloyd Knight
<a href="#">02-0420-2501</a>	Brucellosis	Scott Leibsle, DVM, Idaho State Dept. of Agriculture
<a href="#">02-0424-2501</a>	Tuberculosis	Scott Leibsle, DVM
<a href="#">02-0426-2501</a>	Public Exchange of Livestock	Scott Leibsle, DVM

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

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Chairman Raymond	Rep Pickett	Rep Mendive
Vice Chairman Shirts	Rep Sauter	Rep Hall
Rep Cannon	Rep Miller	Rep Healey
Rep McCann	Rep Beiswenger	Rep Mathias
Rep Garner	Rep Dygert	Rep Haws
Rep Nelsen	Rep Leavitt	

COMMITTEE SECRETARY

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MINUTES  
**HOUSE AGRICULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE**

**DATE:** Monday, February 02, 2026

**TIME:** 1:30 P.M.

**PLACE:** Room EW05

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

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

**MOTION:** **Rep. Haws** made a motion to approve the minutes of January 30, 2026. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

**Chairman Raymond** turned the gavel over to **Vice Chairman Shirts.**

**DOCKET NO. 02-0701-2501:** **Lloyd Knight**, Deputy Director, Idaho State Department of Agriculture (ISDA), presented **Docket No. 02-0701-2501**, concerning the Idaho Hops Commission. The rule was opened during the zero-based rulemaking process. Upon review, the Department and the Hops Commission determined the administrative rule language was duplicative of existing statute. Because the statute fully addresses the subject matter, the Hops Commission approved repeal of the rule. The pending rule before the committee is a repeal only, and no adoption is necessary.

**MOTION:** **Rep. Dygert** made a motion to approve **Docket No. 02-0701-2501**. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

**DOCKET NO. 02-0108-2401(T):** **Lloyd Knight** presented **Docket No. 02-0108-2401(T)**, and stated he would present two related dockets addressing grizzly bear and wolf depredation compensation. The dockets were presented together because they address the same subject matter and were implemented out of sequence due to statutory changes. **H 592** (2024) required ISDA to establish a compensation and conflict-prevention program, resulting in adoption of a temporary rule to allow claims to be paid. **H 82** (2025) clarified statutory provisions, enabling negotiated rulemaking and updates to definitions, compensation, investigation procedures, and conflict-prevention measures. Approval of both the temporary and pending rules was requested to allow the temporary rule to remain in effect through June 30, 2026, with the pending rule effective July 1, 2026.

**MOTION:** **Rep. McCann** made a motion to approve **Docket No. 02-0108-2401(T)**. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

**DOCKET NO. 02-0108-2501:** **Lloyd Knight** explained **Docket No. 02-0108-2501** was presented jointly with the previous docket and involves the same depredation compensation program.

**MOTION:** **Rep. Dygert** made a motion to approve **Docket No. 02-0108-2501**. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

**DOCKET NO. 02-0420-2501:** **Dr. Scott Leibsle**, Administrator of Division of Animal Industries, State Veterinarian, ISDA, presented **Docket No. 02-0420-2501**, regarding Brucellosis. He summarized Idaho's Brucellosis program, including surveillance in the Designated Surveillance Area near Yellowstone National Park, and reported no herds are currently under quarantine. The program includes mandatory vaccination, live-animal testing, and slaughter surveillance. The proposed rule is a zero-based rewrite resulting from negotiated rulemaking, removing duplicative and obsolete provisions with no substantive changes to program requirements.

**MOTION:** **Rep. McCann** made a motion to approve **Docket No. 02-0420-2501**. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

**DOCKET NO. 02-0424-2501:** **Dr. Scott Leibsle** presented **Docket No. 02-0424-2501** and provided an overview of Idaho's tuberculosis (TB) surveillance program, explaining TB is caused by Mycobacterium bovis and is transmitted through respiratory exposure and, in humans, through consumption of unpasteurized milk from infected cattle. He noted the proposed rule is a zero-based rulemaking rewrite. Negotiated rulemaking meetings were held in June and July with strong stakeholder participation. The revisions remove duplicative and outdated language and update statutory and federal references, with no changes to regulatory scope or program requirements.

**MOTION:** **Rep. Leavitt** made a motion to approve **Docket No. 02-0424-2501**. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

**DOCKET NO. 02-0426-2501:** **Dr. Scott Leibsle** presented **Docket No. 02-0426-2501**, summarizing Idaho's eight public markets, two buying stations, and trader lots. Negotiated rulemaking meetings on June 30 and July 14 included market and buying station representatives, who approved minor changes. Updates require buying stations and trader lots to submit an annual permit renewal at no cost and allow public markets to submit a single daily electronic sales report instead of individual forms, reducing administrative burden. All other revisions are non-substantive clarifications.

**MOTION:** **Rep. Raymond** made a motion to approve **Docket No. 02-0426-2501**. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

**Chairman Shirts** turned the gavel back over to **Chairman Raymond**.

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

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Representative Shirts  
Chair

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Jayne Feik  
Secretary

AGENDA  
**HOUSE AGRICULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE**  
**1:30 P.M.**  
**Room EW42**  
**Wednesday, February 04, 2026**

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>
DOCKET NO. <a href="#">02-0601-2501</a>	Production and Distribution of Seed	Andrea Thompson, Idaho State Dept. of Agriculture, Administrator, Plant Industries Division
<a href="#">02-0602-2501</a>	Registrations and Licenses	Andrea Thompson
<a href="#">02-0606-2501</a>	Planting of Beans	Andrea Thompson
<a href="#">02-0609-2502</a>	Invasive Species and Noxious Weeds-Adoption of Temporary Rule	Andrea Thompson
<a href="#">02-0609-2503</a>	Invasive Species and Noxious Weeds	Andrea Thompson

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

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Chairman Raymond	Rep Pickett	Rep Mendive
Vice Chairman Shirts	Rep Sauter	Rep Hall
Rep Cannon	Rep Miller	Rep Healey
Rep McCann	Rep Beiswenger	Rep Mathias
Rep Garner	Rep Dygert	Rep Haws
Rep Nelsen	Rep Leavitt	

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:** Wednesday, February 04, 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:** Beiswenger

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

**MOTION:** **Rep. Haws** made a motion to approve the minutes of February 2, 2026. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

**MOTION:** **Chairman Raymond** turned the gavel over to **Chairman Shirts**.

**DOCKET NO. 02-0601-2501:** **Andrea Thompson**, Idaho State Department of Agriculture (ISDA), Administrator, Plant Industries Division, presented **Docket No. 02-0601-2501**, the Production and Distribution of Seed. The proposed rule updates Idaho seed regulations by aligning sampling, testing, licensing, and noxious weed standards with nationally and internationally recognized references, while removing redundant regulatory text through incorporation by reference. The rule also repeals Subchapters B (Rapeseed/Canola) and C (Bluegrass), which stakeholders agreed are obsolete and no longer necessary. These changes improve regulatory clarity, efficiency, and consistency with current industry practices.

**MOTION:** **Rep. McCann** made a motion to approve **Docket No. 02-0601-2501**. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

**DOCKET NO. 02-0602-2501:** **Andrea Thompson** presented **Docket No. 02-0602-2501**, Registrations and Licenses. The Association of American Feed Control Officials (AAFCO) and the Association of American Plant Food Control Officials (AAPFCO) publish manuals incorporated by reference into Idaho State Department of Agriculture rules. These references are updated annually to reflect current publications and maintain consistency with national standards. Two updated publications are incorporated for the Commercial Feed, Commercial Fertilizer, and Soil and Plant Amendments subchapters, including refinements to definitions and technical standards required by state law and national coordination.

**MOTION:** **Rep. Pickett** made a motion to approve **Docket No. 02-0602-2501**. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

**DOCKET NO. 02-0606-2501:** **Andrea Thompson** presented **Docket No. 02-0606-2501**, the Planting of Beans. These rules are being presented for approval with amendments which were identified as necessary to address concerns brought to the agency by industry stakeholders regarding clarification needed around the seed imported to Idaho to be planted to produce edible beans. The amended language has been recommended and supported by industry. Negotiated rulemaking meetings were held on July 21 and July 28 with broad stakeholder participation.

**MOTION:** Rep. Cannon made a motion to approve **Docket No. 02-0606-2501**. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

**DOCKET NO. 02-0609-2502:** Andrea Thompson presented **Docket No. 02-0609-2502**, Invasive Species and Noxious Weeds. This rulemaking has two purposes: (1) to remove the prohibition on watercraft in the Quagga mussel treatment area of the Snake River from Hansen Bridge to Pillar Falls, and (2) to add Golden mussel to the EDRR Invasive Species list. Golden mussel is an aggressive aquatic bivalve recently found in California water delivery systems, where infestations have disrupted irrigation and municipal water supplies. Because it poses a greater risk of spread and establishment than quagga mussel in Idaho, adding Golden mussel to the EDRR list ensures adequate legal authority for prevention and response.

**MOTION:** Rep. Dygert made a motion to approve **Docket No. 02-0609-2502**. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

**DOCKET NO. 02-0609-2503:** Andrea Thompson explained **Docket No. 02-0609-2503** was presented jointly with the previous docket. This rule mirrors the temporary rule in **Docket No. 02-0609-2502**, which was immediately needed to protect public health and safety and reduce a regulatory burden. Should the pending rule be approved, it will become final and effective on July 1, 2026.

**MOTION:** Rep. Miller made a motion to approve **Docket No. 02-0609-2503**. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

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

**ADJOURN:** There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting adjourned at 2:01 p.m.

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Representative Shirts  
Chair

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Jayne Feik  
Secretary

AGENDA  
**HOUSE AGRICULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE**  
**1:30 P.M.**  
**Room EW42**  
**Tuesday, February 10, 2026**

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 32854</a>	Airborn Shooting, Coyotes, Wolves	Rep. Shirts
<a href="#">RS 32855</a>	Certificates of Free Sale	Rep. Shirts

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

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Chairman Raymond  
Vice Chairman Shirts  
Rep Cannon  
Rep McCann  
Rep Garner  
Rep Nelsen

Rep Pickett  
Rep Sauter  
Rep Miller  
Rep Beiswenger  
Rep Dygert  
Rep Leavitt

Rep Mendive  
Rep Hall (Stone)  
Rep Healey  
Rep Mathias  
Rep Haws

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:** Tuesday, February 10, 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, Beiswenger  
**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 February 4, 2026. **Motion carried by voice vote.**  
**RS 32854:** **Rep. Shirts** presented **RS 32854**, explaining the proposed legislation would amend existing law governing airborne control of unprotected or predatory animals by designating the Director of the Department of Agriculture as the permitting authority. The proposed legislation would authorize no-cost permits for certain species, require landowner permission and reporting, limit permit use, establish civil penalties for violations, nullify existing administrative rules, declare an emergency, and take effect July 1, 2026.  
**MOTION:** **Rep. Healey** made a motion to introduce **RS 32854**. **Motion carried by voice vote.**  
**RS 32855:** **Rep. Shirts** presented **RS 32855**, explaining the proposed legislation would amend existing law relating to the promotion and certification of Idaho agricultural products by authorizing the Department of Agriculture to issue certificates of free sale. The proposed legislation would clarify the roles of commodity commissions, limit liability for joint promotional activities, establish application requirements and fees, nullify existing administrative rules, declare an emergency, and take effect July 1, 2026.  
**MOTION:** **Rep. Leavitt** made a motion to introduce **RS 32855**. **Motion carried by voice vote.**  
**ADJOURN:** There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting adjourned at 1:40 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**  
**Thursday, February 12, 2026**

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 33192</a>	Milk Testing	Rep. Vander Woude
	Idaho Soil and Water Conservation Commission	Mat Weaver, ISWCC Acting Administrator
	Langdon Group	Bryant Kuechle, Executive Director

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

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Chairman Raymond  
Vice Chairman Shirts  
Rep Cannon  
Rep McCann  
Rep Garner  
Rep Nelsen

Rep Pickett  
Rep Sauter  
Rep Miller  
Rep Beiswenger  
Rep Dygert  
Rep Leavitt

Rep Mendive  
Rep Hall (Stone)  
Rep Healey  
Rep Mathias  
Rep Haws

COMMITTEE SECRETARY

Jayne Feik  
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MINUTES  
**HOUSE AGRICULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE**

- DATE:** Thursday, February 12, 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:** Reps. Haws, 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 Shirts** called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m.
- MOTION:** **Rep. Sauter** made a motion to approve the minutes of February 10, 2026. **Motion carried by voice vote.**
- RS 33192:** **Rep. Vander Woude** presented **RS 33192** explaining all milk and cream purchased or sold in Idaho, based on milkfat, protein, lactose, solids nonfat, somatic cell count, or any other quality parameter, shall be tested using methods approved by the Director of the Idaho State Department of Agriculture. Samples shall be taken from each shipment by a department-authorized milk hauler and maintained in a tamper-evident location between thirty-three (33) and forty-five (45) degrees Fahrenheit. Samples may be tested by the buyer, seller, or the Department at any time. The Department is authorized to audit payments to ensure compliance with established requirements.
- MOTION:** **Rep. Leavitt** made a motion to introduce **RS 33192**. **Rep. Nelsen** invoked Rule 80 Stating a conflict of interest. **Motion carried by voice vote.**
- Mat Weaver**, Idaho Department of Water Resources (IDWR), Director, Idaho Soil and Water Conservation Commission (SWCC), Acting Administrator, explained the situational assessment and stakeholder survey identified key themes related to agency perceptions (regulatory vs. voluntary roles), appropriate agencies for potential merger, organizational structure, statutory considerations, and the roles of SWCC commissioners and staff. Additional themes included information and outreach needs, preservation of SWCC's non-regulatory identity, and areas to avoid in a merger. Stakeholders also highlighted potential gains such as improved data and knowledge sharing, administrative efficiencies, and enhanced recruitment and retention, while emphasizing the importance of protecting funding, CREP administration, office resources, political positioning, and effective public communication.
- Bryant Kuechle**, The Langdon Group, Executive Director, said the SWCC evaluated potential efficiencies, including a merger with the IDWR. Following stakeholder interviews, public outreach, and a formal situational assessment conducted by the Langdon Group (Aug.–Nov. 2025), the final report concluded if SWCC merges with another agency, IDWR is the appropriate partner due to programmatic alignment, technical capacity, and administrative efficiencies. Recommendations preserve SWCC's non-regulatory authority, commission structure, branding, budget protections, and legislative reporting, while consolidating support services where appropriate.

**ADJOURN:** There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting adjourned at 2:08 p.m.

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Representative Shirts  
Chair

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Jayne Feik  
Secretary

**AMENDED AGENDA #1**  
**HOUSE AGRICULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE**  
**1:30 P.M.**  
**Room EW42**  
**Monday, February 16, 2026**

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

SUBJECT	DESCRIPTION	PRESENTER
<a href="#">H 503</a>	Soil and Water Conservation Commission	Rep. Manwaring
<a href="#">SCR 115</a>	SWCC and IDWR Consolidation	Rep. Miller
	Idaho Soil and Water Conservation Commission	Mathew Weaver, ISWCC Acting Administrator
	Idaho Soil and Water Commission	George Hitz, ISWCC, Deputy Administrator
	Idaho Association of Soil Conservation Districts	Tori O'Neal, IASCD President, Board of Directors
	Idaho Wheat Commission	Britany Hurst Marchant, Executive Director, Idaho Wheat Commission

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

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Chairman Raymond	Rep Pickett
Vice Chairman Shirts	Rep Sauter
Rep Cannon	Rep Miller
Rep McCann	Rep Beiswenger
Rep Garner	Rep Dygert
Rep Nelsen	Rep Leavitt

COMMITTEE SECRETARY

Jayne Feik  
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Phone: 332-1137  
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MINUTES  
**HOUSE AGRICULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE**

- DATE:** Monday, February 16, 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:** 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 February 12, 2026. **Motion approved by voice vote.**
- Rep. Dygert** introduced Idaho FFA state officers; **Matthew Waite, Lizzy Mueller, Emily Sorenson, Gabe Kitamura, Anna Hernandez, and Alie Misenheimer.** **Chairman Raymond** put the committee at ease to congratulate the officers. **Rep. Dygert** introduced **Hadley Brown**, the National FFA Creed Speaking Competition winner. **Chairman Raymond** put the committee at ease to congratulate Ms. Brown.
- H 503:** **Rep. Manwaring** presented **H 503**, explaining the legislation moves the Idaho Soil and Water Conservation Commission (ISWC) under the Idaho Department of Water Resources (IDWR) to cut administrative overlap and save money, while keeping the Commission's role and responsibilities the same. It's expected to save about \$107,000 in personnel costs, with possible additional savings in other areas.
- Braden Jensen**, representing the Idaho Farm Bureau, and **Mat Weaver**, Acting Administrator of the ISWC and Director of the IDWR, spoke **in a neutral capacity** regarding **H 503**.
- Tori O'Neal** spoke **in support** of **H 503**.
- MOTION:** **Rep. Mathias** made a motion to send **H 503** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation. **Motion carried by voice vote.** **Rep. Manwaring** will sponsor the bill on the floor.
- SCR 115:** **Rep. Miller** presented **SCR 115**, in support of consolidating the Soil and Water Conservation Commission with the Idaho Department of Water Resources to improve efficiency while preserving each entity's core mission. The resolution encourages collaboration among the Governor, the Idaho Association of Soil Conservation Districts Board, the Legislature, and the Department's Director. The consolidation is expected to streamline administration, reduce duplication, and save an estimated \$107,000 in General Fund personnel costs.
- MOTION:** **Rep. Mendive** made a motion to send **SCR 115** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation. **Motion Carried by voice vote.** **Rep. Miller** will sponsor the bill on the floor.

**Mathew Weaver**, Acting Administrator of the Idaho Soil and Water Conservation Commission and Director of the Department of Water Resources, presented the FY 2025 Annual Performance Report, highlighting the Commission's support for Idaho's 50 conservation districts through voluntary, nonregulatory programs. Core functions include financial and technical assistance, conservation loan administration, aquifer and water quality initiatives, and coordination with state, federal, and local partners.

**George Hitz**, Deputy Administrator, reviewed FY 2025 performance and financial results, reporting \$1.58 million distributed to conservation districts and \$2.5 million invested in 16 Water Quality for Agriculture projects. Staff assisted nearly 3,000 landowners, provided extensive technical support, advanced CREP enrollment, and implemented conservation practices on more than 43,000 acres. He also noted strong district satisfaction.

**Tori O'Neal**, President of the Idaho Association of Soil Conservation Districts, highlighted locally led conservation projects—including flood-to-pivot conversions, stock tanks, the Rotary Bridge project, and wildfire response—and emphasized the two-thirds state, one-third landowner cost-share model. In 2025, outreach reached 6,482 students, demonstrating voluntary, family-driven conservation remains effective across generations.

**Britany Hurst Marchant**, Executive Director of the Idaho Wheat Commission, reported the self-funded, grower-governed Commission (FY25 budget: \$3.6 million) supports Idaho's family-run wheat industry through research, marketing, and education. In 2025, Idaho led the nation with 93.5 bushels per acre, producing 106 million bushels—all No. 1 grade—with about half exported to expand markets and ensure long-term industry viability.

**ADJOURN:** There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting adjourned at 3:09 p.m.

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Representative Raymond  
Chair

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Jayne Feik  
Secretary

**AMENDED AGENDA #1**  
**HOUSE AGRICULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE**  
**1:30 P.M.**  
**Room EW42**  
**Wednesday, February 18, 2026**

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

SUBJECT	DESCRIPTION	PRESENTER
	College of Agricultural and Life Sciences (CALs), University of Idaho (UI) Update.	Rachael Bickerton, Director of Government and External Relations, CALS, UI
	Idaho Water Resources Research Institute	Dr. Kendra Kaiser, Director, IWRRI, Assistant Professor, CALS, UI
<a href="#"><u>H 630</u></a>	Airborne Shooting, Coyotes, Wolves	Rep. Shirts
<a href="#"><u>H 631</u></a>	Ag, Certificates of Free Sale	Rep. Shirts

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

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Chairman Raymond	Rep Pickett	Rep Mendive
Vice Chairman Shirts	Rep Sauter	Rep Hall
Rep Cannon	Rep Miller	Rep Healey
Rep McCann	Rep Beiswenger	Rep Mathias
Rep Garner	Rep Dygert	Rep Haws
Rep Nelsen	Rep Leavitt	

COMMITTEE SECRETARY

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

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

AGENDA  
**HOUSE AGRICULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE**  
**1:30 P.M.**  
**Room EW42**  
**Tuesday, February 24, 2026**

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 662</a>	Milk and Cream Testing Idaho Beef Council	Rep. Vander Woude J.W. Wood, Chair

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

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Chairman Raymond  
Vice Chairman Shirts  
Rep Cannon  
Rep McCann  
Rep Garner  
Rep Nelsen

Rep Pickett  
Rep Sauter  
Rep Miller  
Rep Beiswenger  
Rep Dygert  
Rep Leavitt

Rep Mendive  
Rep Hall (Stone)  
Rep Healey  
Rep Mathias  
Rep Haws

COMMITTEE SECRETARY

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MINUTES  
**HOUSE AGRICULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE**

**DATE:** Tuesday, February 24, 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:** Healy, Sauter, Cannon, Shirts

**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 February 18, 2026 meeting. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

**H 662:** **Rep. Vander Woude** presented **H 662**, explaining all milk and cream purchased or sold in Idaho must be tested using methods approved by the Director of the Idaho State Department of Agriculture. Samples must be collected by a department-authorized hauler, maintained under tamper-evident and temperature-controlled conditions, and may be tested by the buyer, seller, or the Department. The Department is authorized to audit payments to ensure compliance.

**MOTION:** **Rep. Nelsen** made a motion to send **H 662** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation. **Rep. Vander Woude** declared Rule 80. **Motion carried by voice vote.** Rep. Vander Woude will sponsor the bill on the floor.

**J.W. Wood**, Chairman, Idaho Beef Council (IBC), explained the IBC is governed by an eight-member board representing cow/calf, CattleWomen, feeder, auction, and dairy sectors, nominated by industry groups and appointed by the Governor. The board provides oversight to ensure checkoff dollars are used effectively to strengthen Idaho's beef industry. Representing approximately 7,400 farms statewide, the Council serves as a unified voice to promote the Idaho beef story and reinforces its commitment to producing beef "Raised Right, Right Here."

**Jodi Mink**, Vice Chairman, IBC, reported on recent initiatives, including participation in the national "Real People, Real Stories" campaign highlighting Idaho ranch families; continued investment in retail meat education in partnership with industry and university leaders; expansion of the Beef Quality Assurance program through a new CEU-style format and Spanish-language trainings; a statewide Winter Olympics campaign promoting ranchers' role in stewardship and rural economies; and ongoing collaboration with the Idaho Food Bank through Beef Counts, which has provided more than 2.8 million servings of beef to Idahoans in need since 2010.

**ADJOURN:** There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting adjourned at 1:59 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**  
**Thursday, February 26, 2026**

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 Wine Commission	Roger Batt, Legislative Educator, Idaho Wine Commission
	IWC	Moya Dolsby, Executive Director, Idaho Wine Commission
	IWC	James Nederend, Board Chair, Idaho Wine Commission Board of Directors, Koenig Vineyards

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

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Chairman Raymond	Rep Pickett
Vice Chairman Shirts	Rep Sauter
Rep Cannon	Rep Miller
Rep McCann	Rep Beiswenger
Rep Garner	Rep Dygert
Rep Nelsen	Rep Leavitt

COMMITTEE SECRETARY

Jayne Feik  
Room: EW11  
Phone: 332-1137  
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MINUTES  
**HOUSE AGRICULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE**

**DATE:** Thursday, February 26, 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, Pickett, 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 Raymond** called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m.

**MOTION:** **Rep. Haws** made a motion to approve the minutes of February 24, 2026. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

**Roger Batt**, Idaho Grape Growers and Wine Producers Commission (IGGWPC), Legislative Educator, discussed key challenges facing the Idaho wine industry, including winery land use, water supply limitations, and labor availability. Members noted zoning regulations can restrict winery development, ongoing water constraints pose risks to vineyard sustainability, and labor shortages continue to impact operations and long-term growth.

**Julianne Germaine**, Legislative Affairs and Grant Manager, IGGWPC, outlined 2025 priorities, including expanded outreach through blogs, consumer communications, social media, and media relations. Planned initiatives include a year-long Tempranillo marketing campaign, hosted media visits to the Lewis-Clark Valley, Eagle Foothills, and Snake River Valley AVAs, a 2025 harvest release, a tasting room field trip to Walla Walla, Washington, and 27 educational seminars supported by the Idaho State Department of Agriculture Specialty Crop Block Grant. The Commission reported receiving \$125,000 in grant funding for 2025.

**James Nederend**, Board of Directors, IGGWPC, and representative of Koenig Vineyards, spoke regarding the economic and agricultural impact of Idaho's wine and grape industry. He described the transition from a single dominant producer to approximately 65 small, family-owned wineries, emphasizing diversification, high-value production, and value-added agriculture. Wine grapes were noted to generate higher gross revenue per acre than many traditional crops while requiring relatively low water use, with vineyards typically irrigated eight to ten times per year. The industry was characterized as complementing existing agriculture, supporting family farm viability, preserving farmland, and contributing to rural economic development through agritourism and local partnerships.

**ADJOURN:** There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting adjourned at 1:51 p.m.

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Representative Raymond  
Chair

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Jayne Feik  
Secretary

**AMENDED AGENDA #1**  
**HOUSE AGRICULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE**  
**1:30 P.M.**  
**Room EW42**  
**Monday, March 02, 2026**

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 771</a>	Hemp products, retail	Rep. Shirts
<a href="#">H 772</a>	Industrial hemp, violations	Rep. Shirts
	Dairy West	Heidi Martin, COO, Dairy West  Don Gaalswyk, IDPC, Chair, Executive Committee Member for Dairy West

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

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Chairman Raymond	Rep Pickett
Vice Chairman Shirts	Rep Sauter
Rep Cannon	Rep Miller
Rep McCann	Rep Beiswenger
Rep Garner	Rep Dygert
Rep Nelsen	Rep Leavitt

Rep Mendive
Rep Hall (Stone)
Rep Healey
Rep Mathias
Rep Haws

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, March 02, 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 (Woller)

**ABSENT/  
EXCUSED:** Beiswenger

**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 committee to order at 1:30 p.m.

**MOTION:** **Rep. Sauter** made a motion to approve the minutes of February 26, 2026. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

**H 771:** **Rep. Shirts** said **H 771** regulates retail hemp sales, limits cannabinoids to naturally derived CBD, requires a \$600 license, allows inspections and testing, and sets civil penalties up to \$10,000 while giving the department rulemaking authority. Rep. Shirts requested **H 771** be held at the call of the chair for further consideration.

**Braden Jensen**, Idaho Farm Bureau Federation (IFBF), **Cameron Kalos**, Boise City Police Department (BCPD), **Hali Talbot**, BCPD, and **Pam Eaton**, Idaho Retail Association, spoke **in support of H 771**, saying the feedback from last year's hemp program hearing led to this legislation. While growers and processors are licensed and regulated, retail sales currently lack oversight. The bill would establish retail licensing and grant inspection authority to ISDA to ensure compliance with Idaho's 0% THC standard.

**Chanel Tewalt**, Director, Idaho State Department of Agriculture, clarified hemp and marijuana definitions are found in Title 22 (Hemp Act) and Title 37 (Controlled Substances Act) and must be read together. She stated the bill does not change product definitions but clarifies oversight. Hemp production is closely regulated, but retail products lack routine inspection; the bill would provide regulatory parity for retail oversight.

**MOTION:** **Rep. McCann** made a motion to **HOLD H 771** in the committee at the call of the chair.

**SUBSTITUTE MOTION:** **Rep. Dygert** made a substitute motion to **HOLD H 771** in the committee at the call of the chair for time certain.

**AMENDED SUBSTITUTE MOTION:** **Rep. Mathias** made an amended substitute motion to **HOLD H 771** in the committee for time certain, March 10, 2026.

**VOTE ON AMENDED SUBSTITUTE MOTION:** **Chairman Raymond** called for a vote on the amended substitute motion to **HOLD H 771** in the committee for time certain, March 10, 2026. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

**H 772:** **Rep. Shirts** explained under **H 772**, hemp producers are not considered negligent if the crop is grown for grain or fiber, reasonable efforts are made to follow THC limits, and total THC does not exceed 1% on a dry weight basis.

**Braden Jensen**, IFBF, spoke **in support** of **H 772**, saying this subsection clarifies hemp producers growing for grain or fiber do not commit a negligent violation if they make a reasonable effort to comply with state law and the hemp plan, and the crop tests at or below 1% THC.

**MOTION:** **Rep. Leavitt** made a motion to send **H 772** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation. **Motion carried by voice vote.** **Rep. Shirts** will sponsor the bill on the floor.

**Steve Seppi**, CEO, Dairy West, reviewed the organization's 15-cent-per-hundredweight checkoff structure, which supports national efforts through Dairy Management Inc. while maintaining regional investment. He reported Idaho ranks fourth nationally in milk production, with approximately 350 dairies producing 18.3 billion pounds annually, and noted the strong fiscal oversight guides fund allocation, including \$370,000 in unexpended revenue due to higher-than-anticipated production growth.

**Don Gaalswyk**, Chairman, Dairy West, addressed the committee and referenced communication from Agropur, acknowledging industry efforts to address plant-based protein competition through sustainability messaging. He characterized this as a positive outcome for Idaho producers.

**ADJOURN:** There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting adjourned at 2:52 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, March 10, 2026**

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 771</a>	Hemp products, retail	Rep. Shirts
<a href="#">S 1271aa</a>	Rats, health and safety nuisance Invasive Species	Rep. Berch Chanel Tewalt, Director, Idaho State Department of Agriculture
<a href="#">H 823</a>	County fair boards	Rep. Raymond

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

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Chairman Raymond  
Vice Chairman Shirts  
Rep Cannon  
Rep McCann  
Rep Garner  
Rep Nelsen

Rep Pickett  
Rep Sauter  
Rep Miller  
Rep Beiswenger  
Rep Dygert  
Rep Leavitt

Rep Mendive  
Rep Hall (Stone)  
Rep Healey  
Rep Mathias  
Rep Haws (Woller)

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:** Tuesday, March 10, 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:** Haws, Miller

**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. McCann** made a motion to approve the minutes of March 2, 2026. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

**H 771:** **Rep. Shirts** said **H 771** regulates retail hemp sales, limits cannabinoids to naturally derived CBD, requires a \$600 license, allows inspections and testing, and sets civil penalties up to \$10,000 while giving the department rulemaking authority. Rep. Shirts requested **H 771** be held in committee.

**MOTION:** **Rep. McCann** made a motion to **HOLD H 771** in committee. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

**S 1271aa:** **Rep. Berch** explained **S 1271aa** addresses the growing presence of invasive Norway rats and roof rats in Idaho, which pose risks to public health, agriculture, and infrastructure. He noted Idaho has not historically had established populations, and early, coordinated action could prevent permanent establishment and higher long-term costs. The bill declares these rats to be public nuisances and designates the Idaho Department of Agriculture (ISDA) to coordinate response efforts using existing authority and resources.

**Chenal Tewalt**, Director, ISDA, spoke regarding eradication of rats, saying it would need to go through rule making for the department to take action. There will need to be data obtained.

**Ben Miller**, Idaho Pest Management Association (IPMA), **Kirk Dean**, IPMA/Barrier Pest Control, **Casey Johnson**, IPMA, **Craig Nuthak**, President, IPMA, Nutrien Solutions, spoke **in opposition** of **S 1271aa**, saying professional applicators have licenses and training to manage these risks.

**Adam Schroeder**, Ada County, WPM, **Jimmy Hallyburton**, City of Boise, spoke **in support** of **S 1271aa**, noting concerns about a potential increase in rat populations. They emphasized the need for a coordinated plan involving public education, possible policy changes, and partnerships with private pest control operators to address infestations and clarify responsibility for abatement on public land.

**MOTION:** **Rep. McCann** made a motion to send **S 1271aa** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation.

**SUBSTITUTE MOTION:** **Rep. Leavitt** made a substitute motion to **HOLD S 1271aa** in committee.

**ROLL CALL  
VOTE ON  
SUBSTITUTE  
MOTION:**

**Rep. McCann** requested a roll call vote on **S 1271aa. Substitute Motion failed by a vote of 6 AYE and 9 NAY, 2 Absent /Excused. Voting in favor** of the motion: **Reps. Cannon, Pickett, Beiswenger, Dygert, Leavitt, and Mendive. Voting in opposition** to the motion: **Reps. Raymond, Shirts, McCann, Garner, Nelsen, Sauter, Stone, Healey, and Mathias. Reps. Miller and Haws** were absent/excused.

**ROLL CALL  
VOTE ON  
ORIGINAL  
MOTION:**

**Chairman Raymond** requested a roll call vote on **S 1271aa. Motion carried by a voice vote of 9 AYES and 6 NAYS, 2 Absent /Excused. Voting in favor** of the motion: **Reps. Raymond, Shirts, McCann, Garner, Nelsen, Sauter, Stone, Healey, and Mathias. Voting in opposition** to the motion: **Reps. Cannon, Pickett, Beiswenger, Dygert, Leavitt, and Mendive. Reps. Miller and Haws** were absent/excused. **Rep. Berch** will sponsor the bill on the floor.

**Chanel Tewalt**, Director, ISDA, highlighted Idaho's aggressive response to the invasion of the quagga mussel in the Snake River near Twin Falls, including what has been described as one of the largest open-water treatments of its kind in the United States. The state applied targeted copper-based treatments throughout affected river segments, paired with intensive sampling and monitoring. Natural barriers such as Shoshone Falls have helped contain the area of concern, and early results show a significant reduction in locations where larvae have been detected. The Director emphasized the goal remains for full eradication and said continued prevention, including boat inspections, will be critical to protecting Idaho's water systems and infrastructure.

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

**H 823:**

**Rep. Raymond** explained **H 823** repeals an outdated Idaho Code provision allowing county commissioners in certain higher-population counties to designate a county fair board as an advisory rather than governing body. He stated the bill removes the arbitrary population trigger, protects counties previously relying on the statute, and promotes clearer, more consistent governance for county fair boards. **Rep. Dygert** explained fair boards consist of individuals with diverse expertise who manage the many operational details involved in running county fairs. He expressed concern making fair boards advisory would shift those responsibilities to county commissioners, requiring them to manage highly specific decisions typically handled by the boards. He emphasized fair boards allow commissioners to maintain oversight while delegating day-to-day fair operations to knowledgeable local representatives.

**Braden Jensen**, spoke in support of **H 823**.

**MOTION:**

**Rep. Nelsen** made a motion to send **H 823** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation. **Motion carried by voice vote. Rep. Raymond** will sponsor the bill on the floor.

**ADJOURN:**

There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting adjourned at 3:22 p.m.

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Representative Raymond  
Chair

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Jayne Feik  
Secretary