

MINUTES  
**HOUSE AGRICULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE**

**DATE:** Monday, February 22, 2016

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

**PLACE:** Room EW42

**MEMBERS:** Chairman Andrus, Vice Chairman Boyle, Representatives McMillan, Batt, Bell, Dayley, Miller, Romrell, VanOrden, Burtenshaw, Kerby, Troy, Pence, Erpelding (Lachiondo)

**ABSENT/  
EXCUSED:** None

**GUESTS:** Kelly Olsen, Idaho Barley Commission; Pamm Juker, Idaho Dept. of Ag; Patrick Guzzle, IDHW Food Protection; Benjamin Kelly, Idaho Weed Control Association, Food Producers of Idaho; Elizabeth Criner, NWFPA; Dennis Tanikuni, Idaho Farm Bureau; Brent Olmstead, Milk Producers of Idaho; Stacy Satterlee, IGPA;

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

**Chairman Andrus** welcomed **Rep. Lachiondo** to the committee and thanked her for substituting for **Rep. Erpelding** during his absence.

**Chairman Andrus** welcomed **Sabrina Castellanos** as the new page for the Agricultural Affairs Committee.

**H 469:** **Rep. Thomas Dayley**, stated the change to this legislation is in relationship to the collection, removal and movement of noxious weeds and defines privately funded research facilities. Rep. Dayley referred to the statutes which define the collection and removal of noxious weeds to facilities within Idaho. He also clarified the treatment of viable noxious weeds as determined by the department so as not to reintroduce them into the environment.

**Benjamin Kelly**, Idaho Weed Control Association, spoke **in support** of the legislation.

**MOTION:** **Rep. Romrell** made a motion to send **H 469** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation. **Motion carried by voice vote.** **Rep. Dayley** will sponsor the bill on the floor.

**H 499:** **Rep. Kauffman** explained the back ground of how and why this legislation came to the Dept. of Agriculture. He explained the state has two agencies with authority over food safety inspections; the Dept. of Health and Welfare and the Dept. of Agriculture.

**Elizabeth Criner**, Northwest Food Processors Association, stated currently in the absence of other government oversight, food safety falls primarily under the jurisdiction of the Idaho Department of Health and Welfare. However, for food processors the primary oversight for food safety and inspection falls within the jurisdiction of the Federal Food and Drug Administration (FDA), under the authority of the Food Safety and Modernization Act (FSMA). Ms. Criner said as FSMA implementation proceeds, there is an expectation that the FDA will rely more heavily on the states with respect to food safety inspections. This legislation establishes the Idaho State Department of Agriculture (ISDA) as the delegated state authority for food regulation of any non-retail activities subject to FSMA. Ms. Criner said the bill also allows for the process to take place at a later date that would transition the food safety oversight and inspections for food processors from IDHW over to ISDA.

In answer to a committee question **Ms. Criner** said the FDA had no objection to the changes included in this legislation.

**Benjamin Kelly**, Food Producers of Idaho, spoke **in support** of the legislation.

**MOTION:**

**Rep. Miller** made a motion to send **H 499** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation. **Motion carried by voice vote.** **Rep. Kauffman** will sponsor the bill on the floor.

**Kelly Olsen**, Idaho Barley Association, stated this year was a big recovery from the previous year where the barley growers suffered huge losses due to the unusual weather. She said because of more favorable conditions, this years harvest yield was much improved. Idaho remains the leading barley producer in the US with 550,000 harvested acres. The average yield was up 3% which is a new record. Farm-gate receipts were up 7% making barley the 5th largest cash crop in Idaho. Ms. Olsen said about 85% of the barley grown in Idaho is used for malt beer.

**Ms. Olsen** explained the UI endowed Barley Agronomist, **Dr. Christopher Rogers** has successfully applied for and received several grants including from UI, IBC, Anheuser Busch, MillerCoors and Brewers Association.

**Ms. Olsen** said recent education programs stressed the heart-healthy benefits of eating barley as a regular part any diet. Barley has 18% fiber content, lowers bad cholesterol, and is a low glycemic carbohydrate. She said the two most popular uses for barley in Japan are for a seeping tea and as a rice extender.

**ADJOURN:**

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

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Representative Andrus  
Chair

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Joan Majors  
Secretary