

MINUTES  
**HOUSE AGRICULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE**

**DATE:** Wednesday, February 20, 2019  
**TIME:** 1:30 P.M.  
**PLACE:** Room EW42  
**MEMBERS:** Chairman Boyle, Vice Chairman Troy, Representatives Dayley, Kerby, Stevenson, Zito, Andrus, Giddings, Goesling, Marshall, Nichols, Raymond, Erpelding, Toone, Abernathy  
**ABSENT/  
EXCUSED:** Rep. Giddings, Rep. Dayley, Rep. Raymond  
**GUESTS:** Betty Munis, Forest Products Comm.

**Chairmman Boyle** called the meeting to order at 1:32 p.m.

**Rep. Abernathy** made a motion to approve the minutes of the Thursday, February 14, 2019 meeting. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

**Betty Munis**, Director of Idaho Forest Products, stated their mission is to provide programs to increase public understanding, acceptance and support of responsible forestry and recognition of the economic, environmental and social benefits of Idaho's forest products industry. She explained the benefits of a working forest to Idaho in gross state product, tax revenue, timber sales, and jobs. She reviewed the 2018 income and the program expenses with the committee. She explained the ways they are using mass media including television, radio, public service announcements, billboards and websites and social media. She reported on the highlights of their educational programs this past year including the stems outreach program reaching over 2,400 students. She spoke concerning health issues in Idaho forests stating Idaho has the highest percentage of forest at risk. She said wood is making a renaissance in building materials because of it's low carbon footprint, energy efficiency, and local availability.

**Rick Naerebout**, Chief Executive Officer, reported 40% of the state's dairy producers are milking 500 cows or less, indicating Idaho still has a good portion of smaller dairies in production. He said most of the smaller dairies are a family production and often go out of production when the current generation retires. The largest growth is in the larger operations of dairy producers. He stated even though there is a shrinking of the industry in number of dairies, the numbers remain stable and Idaho has not been affected as deeply as other dairy producing states. With steady growth in the industry, he explained the need for more processing plants.

**Mr. Naerebout** said the biggest concern in the industry today is the shrinking labor force. Without immigration labor from years past, there would not be the successful dairy industry we have today. He explained the areas of importance in immigration reform to stabilize the workforce now in place and for the future of the industry.

**Mr. Naerebout** addressed issues dealing with the environment. He said they are part of newly formed water quality coalition beginning in South Central Idaho. He said they are working collectively with other agriculture coalitions to find proactive solutions.

**Mr. Naerebout** explained the partnership formed between themselves, U of I and the **Whiteside's** family to develop the future site of the CAFE (Center for Agriculture, Food and the Environment) project. He said the projected date of completion is in 2024.

In response to a committee question, **Mr. Naerebout** said it is expected going forward, the majority of the migrant work force will come from places other than Mexico.

**ADJOURN:** There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting was adjourned at 2:32 p.m.

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Representative Boyle  
Chair

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Joan Majors  
Secretary