

MINUTES
HOUSE AGRICULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

DATE: Monday, February 08, 2021

TIME: 1:30 P.M.

PLACE: Room EW42

MEMBERS: Chairman Kauffman, Vice Chairman Andrus, Representatives Boyle, Kerby, Giddings, Marshall, Nichols, Hanks, Cannon, Moon, von Ehlinger, Toone, Ruchti, Mathias

**ABSENT/
EXCUSED:** None

GUESTS: Rick Naerebout, IDA; Benjamin Kelly, Oilseed Commission; TK Kuwahara, IBC; Marv Patten, MPI

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

MOTION: **Rep. Mathias** made a motion to approve the minutes of Thursday, February 4, 2021. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

Chairman Kauffman turned the gavel over to **Vice Chairman Andrus.**

DOCKET NO. 43-0101-2000F: **Benjamin Kelly**, Administrator of Idaho Oilseed Commission, said this pending fee rule adopts and re-publishes the existing rule chapter previously submitted and reviewed by the Idaho Legislature. He said there are no changes to the pending fee rule and it does not impose or increase a fee beyond what has already been approved.

MOTION: **Rep. Toone** made a motion to approve **Docket No. 43-0101-2000F. Motion carried by voice vote.**

DOCKET NO. 51-0101-2000F: **TK Kuwahara**, Executive Director of Idaho Beef Council, explained there was only one rule chapter in this omnibus action which is an existing rule that has previously been reviewed and approved by the legislature. She said their approach to the omnibus was in line with the Red Tape Reduction Act from **Governor Little** to review the rules and identify and eliminate rules that are obsolete or unnecessary. She said over all the rule is lighter and easier for Idahoans to navigate with no substantive changes.

MOTION: **Rep. Cannon** made a motion to approve **Docket No. 51-0101-2000F.**

In response to a committee question, **Ms. Kuwahara** said when a refund is requested from the assessment, it is usually due to a need for extra funds for feed or the cost of business. She said they have less than 1% who ever ask for a refund.

VOTE ON THE MOTION: **Vice Chairman Andrus** called for a vote on the motion to approve **Docket No. 51-0101-2000F. Motion carried by voice vote.**

DOCKET NO. 11-0201-2000F: **Major Charlie Spencer**, representing Idaho Brand Board, said the proposed fee rule had previously been submitted and reviewed by the legislature. He said the fee rule does not impose a fee or change, or increase a fee or change, beyond what was previously submitted to and reviewed by the legislature in the prior rules.

MOTION: **Rep. Kauffman** made a motion to approve **Docket No. 11-0201-2000F. Motion carried by voice vote.**

Vice Chairman Andrus turned the gavel over to **Chairman Kauffman.**

Rick Naerebout, Chief Executive Officer, stated the mission of Idaho Dairywomen's Association is to protect Idaho's dairy industry through environmental, legal and legislative leadership. He explained the majority of the board is from the Magic Valley which represents the largest percentage of dairies and cows in the state. He pointed out the largest growth is occurring in dairies with 1000-2000 plus cows. He said there was a 4% increase in milk production this year which ranks Idaho 3rd in the nation. He explained 37,000 jobs in Idaho are related to the dairy industry with dairy bringing in \$9.1 billion in total sales to the state. He pointed out 90% of the on-dairy jobs are filled by foreign-born labor and said without those jobs none of the other jobs in dairy could exist. He talked about the environmental services and research being done and their goals for the future. He explained the goal of the Idaho Dairy Nutrient Management is to minimize nutrient loss to the environment by reducing soil erosion and improving water quality and to maximize nutrient utilization by increasing crop yields, enhancing water use efficiency, and improve soil health with manure application

In response to a committee question, **Mr. Naerebout** stated the Farm Workforce Modernization Act is a piece of legislation that was passed by the US House in Dec. 2019. It would have given the year round agriculture sector and their families who are here without status, legal protection and help in transitioning to legal status. This legislation was passed in the US House but failed in the Senate. He said it now has the opportunity within the first 100 days of this congress to be brought to the floor without going through the committee process.

ADJOURN: There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting was adjourned at 2:24 p.m.

Representative Kauffman
Chair

Joan Majors
Secretary