

MINUTES  
**SENATE AGRICULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE**

**DATE:** Tuesday, February 22, 2022

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

**PLACE:** Room WW53

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Chairman Burtenshaw, Vice Chairman Bayer, Senators Patrick, Den Hartog, Blair (Johnson), Ricks, Nelson, and Semmelroth

**ABSENT/ EXCUSED:** Senator Zito

**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 Burtenshaw** called the meeting of the Senate Agricultural Affairs Committee (Committee) to order at 8:01 a.m.

**INTRODUCTION:** **Chairman Burtenshaw** announced that Senate Page Katelyn Berry would be introduced at a later date.

**PASSED THE GAVEL:** Chairman Burtenshaw passed the gavel to Vice Chairman Bayer.

**DOCKET NO. 51-0101-2100F** **Notice of Omnibus Rulemaking (Fee Rule) - Proposed Rule**, p. 343. **T. K. Kuwahara**, Chief Executive Officer, Idaho Beef Council (IBC), introduced herself to the Committee. **Ms. Kuwahara** advised the rule docket included minor non-substantive language changes from last year and no changes to fees.

**MOTION:** **Senator Patrick** moved to approve **Docket No. 51-0101-2100F**. **Senator Den Hartog** seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**.

**PASSED THE GAVEL:** Vice Chairman Bayer passed the gavel to Chairman Burtenshaw.

**PRESENTATION:** **Idaho Beef Council Annual Update**. **Ms. Kuwahara** gave an overview of the IBC's composition, mission, goals, challenges, and ongoing education and outreach efforts (see Attachment 1). She noted that the IBC was not authorized to perform any lobbying activities. **Ms. Kuwahara** presented examples of promotional materials showcasing Idaho beef.

**DISCUSSION:** **Senator Blair** asked how the IBC addressed the public's increased focus on sustainability. **Ms. Kuwahara** answered that the IBC focused on ranchers' efforts to rotate grazing, improve plant health, conserve water supplies, and manage interactions with wildlife. **Senator Blair** inquired if the IBC discussed beef labeling such as grass fed, hormone free, and so forth. **Ms. Kuwahara** replied that the IBC could only state facts or provide nutritional labels. She pointed out that the IBC could educate consumers on the meaning of various label terms.

**PRESENTATION:** **Idaho Oilseed Commission (IOC) Annual Update**. **Erik Olson**, Chairman, IOC, introduced himself to the Committee. **Mr. Olson** gave a brief overview of his background and farming history. He listed Idaho's primary oilseed crops and the locations where they were grown in Idaho. **Mr. Olson** described the uses and positive attributes of oilseed crops. He noted the health benefits of canola oil. **Mr. Olson** mentioned a new crushing facility in Warden, Washington resulted in better access for producers. He discussed University of Idaho (UI) research into oilseed breeding and pest control. He noted issues with UI research funding.

**DISCUSSION:** **Senator Nelson** asked for more information about the funding difficulties. **Mr. Olson** replied that 2021 IOC assessments were down due to the drought. He stated the funding structure was problematic. **Mr. Olson** observed that producer assessments should not fund UI positions but instead should be used strictly for research projects. The Legislature should increase UI's budget to stabilize staff funding, he said.

**Chairman Burtenshaw** asked about the process to harvest canola. **Mr. Olson** said he used a regular combine with a direct cut system. He explained his no-till process to evenly spread the chaff rows for water savings and seed bed preparation.

**PRESENTATION:** **Idaho Rangeland Resources Commission (IRRC) Annual Update.** **Gretchen Hyde**, Executive Director, IRRC, introduced herself to the Committee. **Ms. Hyde** described the IRRC's mission, funding sources, goals, and outreach efforts (see Attachment 2). She discussed educational programs for children and teachers. **Ms. Hyde** presented a video developed to inform recreational users about respectful rangeland practices to minimize conflicts. She reported the results of an annual survey commissioned to gauge public sentiment on rangeland use.

**DISCUSSION:** **Chairman Burtenshaw** asked the amount of rangeland in Idaho. **Ms. Hyde** said 20 million acres was rangeland, comprising 54 percent of the State.

**WELCOME:** **State FFA Officer Team.** **Chairman Burtenshaw** welcomed Katie Hebdon, Future Farmers of America (FFA) State Vice President, and Cassie Moody, FFA State Sentinel, to the Committee. **Ms. Hebdon** reported that FFA members traveled to Boise to celebrate National FFA Week. **Ms. Moody** said National FFA Week was an opportunity for members to get together for meetings, projects, and agriculture advocacy. **Ms. Hebdon** described the FFA three-circle model of agriculture classroom education, application of learning outside the classroom, and a project to tie the learning together. **Ms. Moody** reviewed the history of her involvement in FFA.

**Senator Blair** asked about current FFA projects in Ms. Moody's home town of Deary. **Ms. Moody** answered that in addition to preparing for the FFA State competition in April, other projects included welding, metal shop, and livestock and horse judging.

**ADJOURNED:** There being no further business at this time, **Chairman Burtenshaw** adjourned the meeting at 9:13 a.m.

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Senator Burtenshaw  
Chair

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Jeanne Jackson-Heim  
Secretary