

MINUTES
HOUSE AGRICULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

DATE: Monday, February 26, 2024

TIME: 1:30 P.M.

PLACE: Room EW42

MEMBERS: Chairman Andrus, Vice Chairman Raymond, Representatives Boyle, Cannon, McCann, Ehlers, Gallagher, Garner, Nelsen, Pickett, Sauter, Mathias, Roberts, Achilles

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

H 612: **Rep. Boyle** explained that **H 612** would grant the Wolf Depredation Control Board the authority to compensate for depredations. Presently, the board's jurisdiction is limited to the lethal control of wolves in Idaho. This expansion would enable them to allocate funds to ranchers who experience losses caused by these animals.

MOTION: **Rep. Raymond** made a motion to send **H 612** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation. **Motion carried by voice vote.** **Rep. Boyle** will sponsor the bill on the floor.

Dexton Lake, Farm Bureau, and **Cameron Mulroney**, Idaho Cattle Association, spoke in support of **H 612**.

**DOCKET NO.
11-0201-2301:** **Cody Burlile**, Idaho State Brand Inspector (ISBI), said the Idaho Brand Board relies on dedicated funds, but fluctuating expenses, driven by inflation and operational costs, have led to deficits in recent years. Without fee adjustments, the Board anticipates continued deficits in FY 2024.

MOTION: **Rep. McCann** made a motion to approve **Docket No. 11-0201-2301.** **Motion carried by voice vote.**

Cody Burlile, ISBI, explained the Board safeguards livestock welfare and prevents theft. It verifies ownership, enforces laws, and collaborates with stakeholders for efficient operations. Idaho, with over 2.5 million cattle, ranks among the top cattle states, with its dairy industry third nationally. Livestock is Idaho's second-largest agriculture sector.

In FY 2023, a total of 2,151,365 livestock were inspected, with 139 stray livestock recovered. Additionally, 18,026 brands were recorded during the period. The number of livestock dealer licenses issued was 174, along with a corresponding number of dealer representatives.

ADJOURN: There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting adjourned at 1:50 p.m.

Representative Andrus
Chair

Jayne Feik
Secretary