

MINUTES
HOUSE AGRICULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

DATE: Wednesday, March 02, 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

**ABSENT/
EXCUSED:** Rep. Kerby

GUESTS: Bob Naerebout, Idaho Dairymen; Rick Naerebout, Idaho Dairymen; Joel Van Lith, Wendell Buying Station; John Jameson, Idaho Wool Growers; Rich Garber, Idaho Grain Producers; Elizabeth Criner, NWFPA; Benjamin Kelly, Food Producers of Idaho; Dennis Tanikuni, Idaho Farm Bureau; Teri Murrison, ISWCC

Chairman Andrus called the meeting to order at 1:31 p.m.

S 1258: **Sen. Siddoway** explained this legislation deals with money used at the University of Idaho Caine Veterinary Teaching and Research Center, located near Caldwell, Idaho. The center will close at the end of 2016. He stated Idaho Code requires that one hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000) be transferred annually from the Fish and Game account to the University of Idaho Caine Veterinary Teaching and Research Center for disease research regarding the interaction of disease between wildlife and domestic livestock. He said this legislation will redirect these moneys to the University of Idaho College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, Department of Animal and Veterinary Science where this work will now be accomplished.

MOTION: **Rep. Romrell** made a motion to send **S 1258** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation. **Motion carried by voice vote.** **Rep. Troy** will sponsor the bill on the floor.

S 1214: **Sen. Brackett** stated this legislation closes a loophole in current code and rule that allows trichomoniasis test-eligible bulls to be removed from a trader lot and returned to the country for breeding purposes without the appropriate trichomoniasis testing. He said it also adds a new section of code definitions and livestock removal requirements for approved feedlots, approved trader lots, buying stations, livestock dealers and livestock markets. **Sen. Brackett** stated these definitions and removal requirements were found in various places in code and rule and now this legislation consolidates them in one code section.

Joel Van Lith, owner, Wendell Buying Station, spoke **in support** of the bill. He stated he was appreciative of the effort made to include those most affected by the legislation to be involved in drafting a solution. **Mr. Van Lith** said the bill protects against disease without putting undue burden on businessmen like himself. He stated the bill was clear and easily understood.

Dennis Tanikuni, Idaho Farm Bureau, spoke **in support** of **S 1214**.

MOTION: **Rep. Troy** made a motion to send **S 1214** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation. **Motion carried by voice vote.** **Rep. Burtenshaw** will sponsor the bill on the floor.

H 531: **Rep. Batt** explained this bill addresses breaches of biosecurity on agricultural facilities or operations in Idaho and sets fines and penalties.

Dennis Tanikuni, Idaho Farm Bureau, stated the legislation establishes fines for spreading or attempting to spread contagious or infectious diseases. He said the purpose of the bill is to provide the same level of protection to agriculture as aquaculture has in place.

Elizabeth Criner, North West Food Producers, and **Benjamin Kelly**, Food Producers of Idaho, both spoke **in support** of the bill.

MOTION: **Rep. VanOrden** made a motion to send **H 531** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation. **Motion carried by voice vote.** **Rep. Batt** will sponsor the bill on the floor.

HCR 49 **Rep. Batt** stated this concurrent resolution rejects proposed amendments to codified Section 301, including subsections 01, 02, and 03 of the Idaho State Wheat Commission Rules. She stated the elevator operators are opposed to having to list their growers names and addresses on the requested report.

MOTION: **Rep. Miller** made a motion to send **HCR 49** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation. **Motion carried by voice vote.** **Rep. Batt** will sponsor the bill on the floor.

Bob Naerebout, Executive Director of the Idaho Dairymen Association, stated since 1924, Idaho Dairymen Association has protected Idaho's dairy industry through environmental, legal and legislative leadership. In 2015, there were a total of 500 dairy operations in Idaho containing 563,292 milk cows. He said of the 500 dairy operations in Idaho, 18.1% are herds with 2,001 or more milk cows. Mr. Naerebout explained the highest concentration of dairies are contained in the 6 counties in the Magic Valley area. The 13 counties in Eastern Idaho and the 8 counties in the Treasure Valley make up the rest of the dairies. He spoke of how the dairies have changed beginning in 1970 when there were 8,500 dairies with 144,000 milk cows in Idaho. Today in 2016, there are fewer dairies (502) with a combine total of 566,611 milk cows. The trend is larger herds with less dairies. He spoke of how Idaho is a good fit for the dairy industry because of the abundant supply of feed available here. Milk production was up slightly in 2015.

Rick Naerebout, Idaho Dairymen Association, said the association is engaged in the immigration reform and refugee resettlement debate by putting financial and staff resources toward research and joining organizations which move the conversation forward. He said for milk to be profitable, it is necessary for it to be processed here. At this time we are about at capacity for processing and will need to increase the capacity in order to grow. Mr. Naerebout stated milk prices are expected to drop as the world market grows. He said recovery is not expected until sometime in 2017.

In response to a committee question, **Mr. Naerebout** said growth will come from increased production per cow rather than increasing the number of cows in a herd.

Kit Tillotson, President of Soil Conservation Association, said he was appreciative of the time allotted to present before the Agricultural Affairs Committee, to show the work they are doing around the state.

Steve Becker, Treasurer Idaho Association of Soil Conservation, stated in 2015 wild fires raged in over 200,000 acres in central Idaho. This began a collaborative effort among the five affected conservation districts to coordinate restoration efforts and pooling of resources. He said members were a combination of locally elected officials, state agencies and federal agencies. This, he said, began the process of developing a North Central Idaho wild fire restoration plan focusing on four main goals; public health/ safety, transportation and infrastructure, natural resources and hazard fuels reduction. Mr. Becker explained, over the past decade multiple entities have made significant contributions to the Clearwater region to protect water quality and fish habitat but because of the wildfires in 2015, many of these areas are subject to erosion rates and invasion of noxious weeds.

In response to committee questions as to why the Soda Fire is not listed, **Mr. Becker** said after a slow start they have now been able to put together a collaborative effort.

In response to another committee question, concerning how they would use requested grant money, **Mr. Becker** said they would work down through their priority list along with leverage grants from conservation districts which are already in place,

ADJOURN: There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting was adjourned at 2:46 p.m.

Representative Andrus
Chair

Joan Majors
Secretary