



CAPITOL REVIEW

A WEEKLY LEGISLATIVE REPORT

ASSOCIATION MANAGEMENT GROUP : RICK WAITLEY / ROGER BATT / BENJAMIN KELLY
55 SW 5TH AVENUE, SUITE 100 MERIDIAN, ID 83642 PH: 208-888-0988 FX: 208-888-4586

A Weekly Legislative Report

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AG ALL STAR LEGISLATORS NAMED

Seventy-six legislators were named Ag All Stars by Food Producers of Idaho based on their voting records on agriculture and natural resource legislation in the 2018 Idaho Legislative Session. Food Producers of Idaho, representing 45 agriculture commodity and farm organizations in Idaho, annually honors legislators for their voting record on issues supported or opposed by the organization. The first year a legislator is honored, the award is an Idaho Ag License plate that reads, "ALSTR". Each year after the initial award, a smaller plate with that year engraved on it is presented to each honoree.

Ag All Star legislators are important to Idaho's agriculture and natural resource industries. The award has been presented for the last fifteen legislative sessions. Every issue identified as a tracked issue by the Food Producers organization may be an issue that will be used on the organization's scorecard at the end of the Legislative Session. Those that were honored included:

2018 Senators (24 All Stars)

- | | |
|------------------|--------------------|
| Jeff Agenbroad * | Abby Lee * |
| Kelly Anthon * | Patti Anne Lodge * |
| Steven Bair * | Fred Martin |
| Clifford Bayer | Dean Mortimer |
| Bert Brackett * | Bob Nonini |
| Carl Crabtree * | Jim Patrick * |
| Jim Guthrie * | Jim Rice * |
| Marv Hagedorn | Jeff Siddoway * |
| Mark Harris * | Mary Souza * |
| Lee Heider * | Steven Thayn |
| Brent Hill | Steve Vick |
| Todd Lakey * | Chuck Winder * |

2018 Representatives (52 All Stars)

- | | |
|-----------------------|----------------------|
| Paul Amador * | Mike Kingsley * |
| Neil Anderson | Thomas Loertscher |
| Robert Anderst * | Luke Malek * |
| Vito Barbieri | Pat McDonald * |
| Scott Bedke | Ron Mendive |
| Maxine Bell * | Steven Miller |
| Megan Blanksma * | Jason Monks |
| Judy Boyle | Dorothy Moon * |
| Van Burtenshaw * | Mike Moyle |
| Greg Chaney * | <u>Ronald Nate</u> |
| Don Cheatham | Kelley Packer * |
| Lance Clow | Joe Palmer |
| Gary Collins * | Dell Raybould |
| Brent Crane | Eric Redman * |
| Thomas Dayley | <u>Heather Scott</u> |
| Gayann DeMordaunt * | Paul Shepherd |
| Sage Dixon | Thyra Stevenson * |
| <u>Barbara Ehardt</u> | <u>Scott Syme</u> |
| Terry Gestrin | Jeff Thompson |
| Marcus Gibbs * | Caroline Troy * |
| Karey Hanks * | John Vander Woude |
| Stephen Hartgen * | Julie VanOrden * |
| James Holtzclaw * | Fred Wood * |
| Wendy Horman * | Rick Youngblood * |
| Clark Kauffman * | Christy Zito * |
| Ryan Kerby * | Bryan Zollinger * |

* Received award every year eligible
Underline indicates first-time recipient.

FRESHMAN LEGISLATORS GO TO SCHOOL

While veteran legislators were attending the Ag All Star event, freshman legislators were attending a similar event to learn about Idaho private property and trespass laws. The event was coordinated through Food Producers of Idaho in conjunction with the All Star event. Braden Jensen, with Idaho Farm Bureau,

presented a “Trespass Law 101” course to bring new legislators up to speed with the legislation that was passed in the 2018 Session. Recognizing that there could be additional legislation addressing this issue in 2019, the Idaho Property Rights Coalition felt it would be a good plan to provide an educational forum for new legislators.

SHORTAGE OF HAY IN IDAHO

Not all of our issues are centered at the Capitol. For the past two weeks, Benjamin Kelly has been working with the University of Idaho and the Idaho Department of Transportation to coordinate some adjustments to haul larger loads of round bales in Idaho to meet demand for hay as a result of an inadequate supply. University of Idaho Extension Hay and Forage Specialist Dr. Glenn Shewmaker wrote the following:

I have heard there is little feeder quality hay left in the Magic Valley or Eastern Idaho. The southern part of the state experienced abnormal drought the summer of 2018, so dryland hay production and grass meadow hay production was down significantly. In addition, more hay has been moved from Idaho to Utah, Nevada, and California this year. My understanding is that Montana has extra hay but much of it is in round bales. Therefore, it will be important for beef producers to have access to this hay. Hauling round bales requires extra width and length for trucks to get enough of a load; even then, I hear that freight on 4x4x8 rectangular bales costs \$40/ton. It might be double that with round bales unless trucks can get a good load.

As a result, the Idaho Department of Transportation responded with the following notice: **Round Hay Bales Extra Length/Excess**

Weight Permits Temporary

Due to a Hay Shortage, as verified by the Idaho Hay and Forage Association, an economic hardship has been granted to allow the movement of Round Hay Bales on Extra Length/Excess Weight Combinations. The highlights of the temporary permit are as follows:

- *The permit allows for 115’ combination on black and red routes only.*
- *The vehicle must meet signing and flagging requirements for safety and meet the off-track requirements for the route they are on.*
- *The permits will be valid for 90 days from the time of issuance.*
- *The permit can only be issued from the permit office and the hours of operation are 7:30 am to 5:00 pm, Monday through Friday.*
- *These permits are in addition to any Extra Length/Excess Weight permit a vehicle may have due to the added safety requirements for the temporary permit.*

If you have specific questions, please contact Craig Roberts at ITD by calling 208-334-8292. **NOTE:** If you need to see a copy of the entire report from Craig Roberts, please contact our office at 208-888-0988.

FARMLAND ANNEXATION & OWNER CONSENT

Rep. Mike Moyle has proposed a bill that would require the owners of agricultural land provide written consent prior to being annexed. H25 would add language that if land that is 5 acres or greater and is actively devoted to agriculture as defined by Idaho Code, a city must have the express written permission of the owner for that land to be annexed. The provision would include agricultural land surrounded or bound on all sides by lands within a city.

Currently there are provisions in Idaho’s Right to Farm Act that specifically protect agricultural operations that may have been encroached upon by urban sprawl and large tracks of land developed for housing. H25 adds further protection to the laws that already govern annexation and property taxes. The provisions on property taxes for agriculture land can be found in Idaho Code 63-604(1) and makes it clear that land which is actively devoted to agriculture shall be eligible for appraisal, assessment and taxation as agricultural property each year. H25 would add language to Idaho Code 50-222 which addresses annexation by cities. In Rep. Moyle’s opinion it has been an abuse of power when farms have been annexed and that the recurrences are becoming more common. There is also a likelihood that as we get closer to the 2020 Census, we may see increased efforts towards annexation because of cities desire to increase their populations to qualify for more federal aid.

FORMER AMG INTERN RETURNS AS LOBBYIST

Dain Johnson will be working with Batt Associates for the 2019 Legislative Session. Dain is from Caldwell, Idaho, where he grew up working on his family’s horse ranch and custom combine businesses. After graduating from home school, he went on to attend the College of Western Idaho (CWI) in Nampa, graduating Summa Cum Laude with his Associate of Arts in political science. Dain became a Vandal in the spring of 2016 and graduated from the University of Idaho with a Bachelor of Science in Agricultural Economics.

In addition to agriculture, he has an interest in government and ag policy. This led to working in several internship positions in Idaho state government, including the governor’s office and a previous legislative session with Batt Associates.

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