

2024 Food Producers of Idaho – Legislative Summary

67th Idaho Legislature, Second Session

* All Legislation that Food Producers of Idaho takes a position on will be tracked for the FP Scorecard.

Shading indicates Food Producers' latest action on legislation.

Bill #	Description	House	Senate	Final
H396* FP OPPOSE	Adds to existing law to establish provisions regarding the prohibition of mask mandates. NOTE: Food Producers of Idaho is opposed to H396 relating to mask mandates. The language in H396 would prohibit state facilities from requiring a face mask, face shield or face covering as a condition of entry or employment, regardless of the reason for the requirement (i.e. even if unrelated to preventing spread of an infectious disease). This would place undue health and safety risks upon our university research labs and state-operated diagnostic and testing labs. In addition, it would create conflict with state inspectors entering private manufacturing facilities where safety protocols are in place to prevent contamination of food products.	State Affairs		
H403* FP SUPPORT	Amends existing law to establish provisions regarding a reduction in the number of supervisors and to revise provisions regarding terms of office, the filling of vacancies, and quorums.	3 rd Reading		
H412* FP SUPPORT	Amends existing law to provide for the use of technology and procedures to allow vehicles that meet established criteria to lawfully bypass a port of entry. NOTE: H412 aids agriculture by allowing trucks to stay on the road using technology such as in-road scales and license plate scanners to check for registration and permits. This will prevent wasted fuel from having to idle at the port and accelerate to leave. More importantly time will be saved as trucks can be stalled at ports from bottlenecks from every truck having to stop. With this bill, commodities will stay on the road and drivers can get the product farther, quicker.	2/5 70-0-0	2 nd Reading	
H414* FP SUPPORT	Amends existing law to revise provisions regarding commercial driver's license permit fees, eligibility, and renewal. NOTE: H414 will benefit commercial and non-commercial drivers through a reduction of renewal fees and administrative requirements. Farmers, ranchers, and processors who employ CDL holders will benefit significantly from decreased renewal costs and administrative requirements by extending the CDL validity from four to eight years.	2/5 69-1-0	2 nd Reading	
H416* FP OPPOSE	Adds to existing law to prohibit the state government and its employees from paying membership fees or dues. NOTE: H416 would significantly limit the ability of commodity boards or commissions to use their grower funds to fulfill their legislative mandate to research, educate, protect, and promote Idaho's numerous commodities.	State Affairs		
H446	Adds to existing law to provide a sales tax exemption for grain bin equipment.	Rev & Tax		
H456	Amends existing law to remove a provision regarding digital copies of agreements entered into by state officers and agencies and to authorize the State Controller to develop a policy regarding agreements.	State Affairs		
H463	Adds to existing law to prohibit state agencies from donating to or sponsoring a nongovernmental event or organization and to provide exceptions.	State Affairs		
H467	Amends existing law to revise provisions regarding certain special assessments.	Resource & Conserv		
H468* FP SUPPORT	Adds to existing law to establish the Rangeland Improvement Act. NOTE: H468 assist producers in seeking resources and funding to carry out grazing improvement projects. These projects could consist of rangeland improvement and maintenance through the development of water sources or additional fencing. In addition, funding and resources could be used to help producers in the control of predator and depredate animals; or the control, management, or extermination of noxious weeds or invasive species.	Resource & Conserv		
H472	Amends existing law to revise provisions regarding the inspection of private premises.	Ag Affairs		
H473* FP SUPPORT	Adds to existing law to provide for agricultural protection areas.	Local Gov't		
H474	Adds to existing law to provide for false reports of damage claims related to pesticides and chemigation	Ag Affairs		
S1230	Amends existing law to authorize an importer of wine to ship directly to a retailer.		State Affairs	
S1245* FP SUPPORT	Adds to existing law to allow certain labels to satisfy any requirements for a warning regarding health or safety or any other provision or doctrine of state law. NOTE: This legislation protects the agricultural pesticide products our farmers and ranchers depend upon from litigation based on "failure to warn." The legislation does not preclude lawsuits from being filed, rather it removes the "failure to warn" claim as justification because under the laws of the state of Idaho, the pesticide label, or most recent human health assessment under FIFRA, or carcinogenicity classification by the EPA would satisfy all warnings for health and safety.		3 rd Reading	
S1258	Amends existing law to establish requirements regarding the vacation of public rights-of-way that furnish access to state or federal public lands or waters.		3 rd Reading	

SCR111* FP SUPPORT	<p>Authorizes the State Board of Education to commence preliminary conversations with the state of Utah to establish an operating agreement for Idaho students to participate in Utah's veterinary program.</p> <p>NOTE: SCR111 authorizes the Idaho Board of Education to engage in discussions for additional veterinary education opportunities for Idaho students. Because Idaho does not have a 4-year veterinary program, Idaho students must study out of state. Utah's geographic proximity to southern Idaho makes it a logical potential candidate for another partnership program. There is a shortage of large animal veterinarians and this would create more opportunity for the education of those potential veterinarians.</p>	Ag Affairs	Adopted	
DEQ Budget* FP SUPPORT	<p>FP supports the CAFO Improvement Fund as it has been very successful the past two years. It is controlled by a committee of seven, with four coming from the beef and dairy industries. There have been 68 applications made requesting over \$26 million in grant funding. The committee has been able to award 27 projects, totally utilizing the state's \$10 million in appropriations, and the beef and dairy producers have matched the states money with \$28 million of their own dollars. The Gem State Air Quality Initiative would provide federally funded grants for voluntary, non-regulating pollution reduction projects in Idaho with direct and measurable impacts. Project areas include supporting the use of agriculture practices that improve soil health and sequester carbon, manure and feed management for livestock, and energy efficiency upgrades to facilities in the dairy and food processing sectors.</p>	Appropriations	Finance	
ISDA Budget* FP SUPPORT	<p>FP supports the Idaho State Department of Agriculture FY 25 budget request for a Veterinary Medical Officer (\$215,000); Dairy Inspectors (\$284,600); Seed Lab Personnel (\$88,800); Idaho Preferred Operating Enhancement (\$67,500); Storage Building Construction (\$1,500,000); International Trade Support with Japan (\$60,000); Resilient Food Systems Grant (\$6,184,900); CEC for Fruits & Vegetables Inspectors (\$94,500); Honey Commission Increase (\$5,700); Grazing Improvement Project (\$500,000); and Quagga Mussel Resources (\$6,569,900).</p>	Appropriations		
ISWCC Budget* FP SUPPORT	<p>FP supports the Governor's FY25 budget request for \$1,000,000 for the Water Quality Program for Agriculture (WQPA) administered by the Idaho Soil and Water Conservation Commission (ISWCC). The WQPA is an effective and successful grant program that provides financial assistance to locally led organizations to implement agricultural best management practices and watershed improvement projects.</p>	Appropriations	Finance	
IDWR Budget* FP SUPPORT	<p>FP supports the Governor's FY25 budget request of \$30 million for the water infrastructure projects. These funds are used to address water challenges throughout Idaho. Projects include aging infrastructure repair, Boise River water delivery improvements including telemetry, replacement of diversion structures, recharge on the Eastern Snake Plain, and water supply projects in Lewiston. Importantly, the value of the projects completed using these funds has far exceeded the money provided by the legislature. For example, the \$25 million in aging infrastructure grants made available following the 2023 appropriation have been used to help fund projects valuing well over \$75 million. The \$30 million line item for water infrastructure projects will continue the long-standing support of Idaho's legislature in ensuring that our water infrastructure can continue serving the citizens of this state for future generations.</p>	Appropriations	Finance	
Workforce Develop Council Budget* FP SUPPORT <i>Abstained: Idaho Farm Bureau</i>	<p>FP supports the Governor's FY 25 recommendation of \$75 million for full funding of the Launch Program. There are 31 in demand occupations supporting the agriculture industry and 138 programs that support the agricultural industry. At the current time there are 1,165 contingent Launch awards to students who are seeking occupations that support the agriculture industry.</p>	Appropriations	Finance	
U of I CALS Budget* FP SUPPORT	<p>FP supports the Governor's FY 25.</p>	Appropriations		