



CAPITOL REVIEW

A WEEKLY LEGISLATIVE REPORT

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A Weekly Legislative Report

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[DAVE MOSMAN HALL OF FAME AWARD](#)

The Nezperce Prairie Grass Growers Association recognized **Donald Puckett** with the **David Mosman Hall of Fame Award**. Mr. Puckett started working at Jacklin Seed in 1981 in Nezperce. In 1989 Don moved to the new plant built by Jacklin and was named plant foreman in 2014. Don was a skilled seed miller and a thoughtful teacher, passing his skills and values in mill operations to many young employees. Don believed in working with care and precision to do the best job possible for the growers. Don retired in 2021. The David Mosman Hall of Fame Award is presented annually to a grass seed industry leader in honor of the late **David Mosman** who served as a grower, board member, board president and leader in the grass seed industry.

[PORTS OF ENTRY](#)

Idaho agriculture transports a great deal of commodities, both raw and processed by truck. **H412** would allow trucks to bypass a Port of Entry because of new technology which includes in-road scales and license plate scanners to check for registration and permits. We have all witnessed Ports of Entry where dozens of trucks are waiting in line to be processed. Waiting is lost time, which results in loss of money which impacts the bottom dollar for farmers, ranchers and agriculture processing operations. **A test pilot was tried in Idaho** this past year by Idaho Department of Transportation with positive results. This means less manpower from ITD and still provides the records needed for entering our state.

[IMPORTANCE OF PRECINCT COMMITTEEMAN](#)

Trent Clark, retired from Monsanto and a former Chairman for the GOP party, addressed Food Producers of Idaho this week on a topic ***“What is the Political Climate in Idaho and What is on the Horizon?”*** Clark provided an excellent background paper on the importance of Precinct committee people in the election of officials at all levels of government. **NOTE:** if you would like copies of what Trent provided

Food Producers please contact Sydney at office@amgidaho.com and we will forward the documents to you.

[U OF I PUBLIC POLICY TOUR](#)

The **22nd annual University of Idaho Public Policy Tour** was conducted this past week for 11 students and two advisors and hosted by Food Producers of Idaho. Most of the students had some affiliation with the Agricultural Economics department in Moscow. It was a whirlwind of meetings, panels, visits and food with legislators and leaders in agriculture. The tour is jointly sponsored by Idaho agriculture commodity, farm and agribusiness groups and the University of Idaho College of Agricultural and Life Sciences.

[COMMERCIAL DRIVER'S LICENSE](#)

H414 revises provisions regarding commercial driver's license (CDL) for permit fees, eligibility and renewals. **H414** would allow a CDL holder to extend their license **from 4 years to 8 years** by registering online and assist commercial and non-commercial drivers through a reduction of renewal fees and administrative requirements. It also decreases the frequency of required renewal for CDL holders and incentivizes online renewal over in-person appointments by **providing a \$5 discount on all licensing fees**. This will decrease the costs, time, and administrative tasks required for CDL renewal. Farms, ranches, and processors who employ CDL holders will be positively impacted. Small farms, ranches, and dairies that operate commercial vehicles under Idaho's commercial farm vehicle exemption will not see as much of an impact based on scalability but will have the benefit of the online renewal provision and a few dollars less for registrations.

[NWACC RECOGNIZES LEGISLATORS](#)

The **Northwest Agriculture Cooperative Council** representing local and regional cooperatives in the Pacific Northwest recently joined forces with the FFA to host the annual NWACC/FFA Cenarrusa Day on the

Hill event in Boise. Nearly 400 attended the event, named in honor of former Secretary of State, Pete Cenarrusa. This annual award is given to Idaho legislators who have demonstrated outstanding leadership for Idaho agriculture and have been supportive of rural cooperatives. During the luncheon, NWACC recognized two legislators with the NWACC Friend of the Industry Award. Those recognized were:

Senator Linda Wright Hartgen is a graduate of Lewis-Clark State College with a B.S. in business management. She was employed with the **Idaho Supreme Court for 23 years**. Her agriculture background is a co-owner and operator of a farming and livestock business. Hartgen served Twin Falls County as their Clerk, a board member for the College of Southern Idaho Foundation Board, a member of the Kiwanis Club, CARES Board, PEO Sisterhood and multiple statewide court committees. Senator Hartgen is a 2020 graduate of Legislative Energy Horizon Institute. Senator Wright Hartgen is **chairman of the Senate Ag Affairs Committee**. Prior to moving to the Senate she served in the Idaho House for two terms from 2018-2022. Senator Hartgen also serves on Commerce and Human Resources and Judiciary and Rules Committee.

Representative Jerald Raymond was born in Rigby and raised in Menan, Idaho. Rep. Raymond is a graduate of Rigby High School and then enrolled for additional schooling at Ricks College. Rep. Raymond has been involved in all aspects of the livestock industry including artificial insemination (AI), embryo transfer, cow/calf management, and feedlot sectors. Rep. Raymond received the livestock industry service award from Ricks College and was recognized for his achievement in Applied Reproduction Strategies in Beef Cattle. Rep. Raymond is a **past president of the Idaho Cattle Association**, a former Jefferson County Commissioner and actively engaged in local civic and church activities. Rep. Raymond represents District 31 which includes Clark, Fremont, Jefferson and Lemhi County. He serves as **Vice Chairman of the Agricultural Affairs Committee**, and on the Resources and Conservation Committee and the Revenue and Tax Committee.

RANGELAND IMPROVEMENT LEGISLATION

H468 would assist in weaving several existing mechanisms together **to assist ranchers and stewards of the range in completing rangeland improvement projects**. These projects would be used for “range improvement and maintenance, the control of predatory and depredating animals, the control, management or extermination of invading species, range damaging organisms, and poisonous or noxious weeds, or any other management tool that benefits a grazing district, watershed protection, development,

distribution, and improvement, the general welfare of livestock grazing within a grazing district, and monitoring of rangeland improvement projects.” This is quite a wide variety of projects. H468 does not actually create a new board or a new department because it would take the existing range program at the Idaho State Department of Agriculture and give it broader authority to conduct more than monitoring and commenting duties. H468 authorizes the existing Central Board Grazing Committee to review applications that were submitted by producers to allocate funding. Funding could come from federal, state, or private sources. Creating a functional structure in statute is the first priority so that producers can be able to apply for assistance or resources for these types of funds.

GRAIN BIN TAX EXEMPTION

H446 would clarify that **machinery including augers, dryers, or fans used within, or attached to a grain bin**, are exempt from sales taxes. In the past, sales taxes have been collected on grain bin structures; but accessories that can be removed and moved to other locations without affecting the structural integrity have not. H446 would clarify the intent of the legislation. **Equipment used in the production or storage of agriculture should be exempted from sales tax**. The legislation was introduced this past week in the House Revenue and Taxation Committee. It is being proposed by Representative Doug Pickett.

IRRIGATION DISTRICT SPECIAL ASSESSMENTS

Irrigation districts have very unique authority as defined by Idaho Code. **For instance, ground water districts can levy a special assessment if a member does not follow their mitigation plan**. A mitigation plan is “a plan to prevent or compensate for material injury to holders of senior water rights caused by the diversion and use of water by the holders of junior priority ground water rights who are participants in the mitigation plan.” Over time, the statutory limit of \$100 per acre foot of excess water use currently in code, has lost effect due to inflation and increased commodity prices. This legislation, brings that limit up to current times and provides a disincentive to overuse of irrigation water. **The proposed legislation would raise the limit to \$300.00 per acre foot**. The legislation is sponsored by Representative Doug Pickett and was introduced in the House Resources and Conservation Committee this past week.

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