



➤ AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE

Hawaii Representative Lynn DeCoite, and Idaho Senator Lee Heider, the respective chair and vice chair of the CSG West Agriculture Committee, convened the committee on Thursday, July 18, 2019 during the CSG West Annual Meeting. The committee focused on the selected topics of food safety, the Food Safety Modernization Act, and cross border livestock and wildlife health.

Resource Experts presenting before the Committee were:

- Lynn Tengan – Nakamura, Associate Extension Educator, Department of Human Nutrition, Food & Animal Science at University of Hawaii, Manoa;
- Jeff Farrar, DVM, MPH, PhD, Director of Intergovernmental Relations and Partnerships, United States Food and Drug Administration;
- Toby Boudreau, Wildlife Bureau Chief, Idaho State Department of Fish and Game; and
- Bill Barton, DVM, Administrator and State Veterinarian, Animal Industries Division, Idaho State Department of Agriculture

Across the West, food Safety and the Food Modernization Act are key concerns for legislators, producers and consumers. To assure a safe food supply, the Food Safety and Modernization Act mandated growing, harvesting, processing and packaging standards for all agriculture producers across the nation. These are federal standards enacted by congress, with the states assuming the inspection role to monitor and ensure producers meet the standards. While the food supply is safer and more plentiful than ever, consumer confidence is key to assuring a vital agriculture sector.

There are concerns that exemptions for smaller producers (less than \$5,000 per year) from these inspections create a window of risk. However, where inspection oversight exemptions exist, buyers in the market are adding their own requirements around food safety and handling, thereby mitigating some of this risk. Examples of these requirements are organic certifications, state requirements, as well as enhancements related to workers and processing. New technologies like Block Chain also make rapid recall response to contaminated food possible, which reduces the amount of illness and death from contamination like salmonella and listeria.





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The safety and health of livestock – wild and domestic – is an ever-present concern, particularly in the west where transboundary purchase and transport of these animals are commonplace transactions. Surveillance and testing of wild and domestic Cervidae for Chronic Wasting Disease is the key strategy for detecting and preventing the spread of the disease and the potential public harm from consumption of diseased animals. Chronic Wasting Disease is found in every location in the West - Montana, Wyoming, Canada and others. Idaho is currently the only state in the region that has not yet had a positive case, but it is considered only a matter of time before it turns up.

To provide early detection and mitigation, Idaho has implemented comprehensive surveillance programs to assure healthy stock for hunters and to ensure a safe supply of game meat for human consumption. The cultural and economic value of the hunting tradition depends upon maintaining the confidence of the hunting population in the stock. The sustainability of a healthy herd population is key to public confidence and requires surveillance protocols be effectively implemented. Each animal harvested through a hunt must be deboned and all brain and spinal tissue and organ meat disposed. Animal tissue samples are taken for testing to look for any presence of Chronic Wasting Disease. Current funding for these programs is provided through fees and assessments on producers and hunters.

