SUMMARY *of* PROCEEDINGS

JOINT AGRICULTURE, STATE AND PUBLIC LANDS & WATER RESOURCES COMMITTEE

COMMITTEE MEETING INFORMATION

July 28, 2026 | 8:30 AM
Thyra Thomson State Office Building, Round House Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Room 3024
444 W Collins Drive
Casper, Wyoming

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT

Senator Bob Ide, Co-chairman
Representative Dalton Banks, Co-chairman
Senator Barry Crago
Senator Taft Love
Senator Troy McKeown
Senator Laura Pearson
Representative Bob Davis
Representative Justin Fornstrom
Representative Steve Johnson
Representative Pepper Ottman
Representative Karlee Provenza
Representative Mike Schmid
Representative Tomi Strock
Representative John Winter

LEGISLATIVE SERVICE OFFICE STAFF

Anna Johnson, Legislative Attorney
Savannah Collins, Legislative Attorney
Clayton Caldwell, Research Analyst
Katie Talbott, Legislative Editor/House Chief Clerk

OTHERS PRESENT AT MEETING

Please refer to **Appendix 1-02** to review the Committee Sign-in Sheet for a list of other individuals who attended the meeting.

The Committee Meeting Summary of Proceedings (meeting minutes) is prepared by the Legislative Service Office (LSO) and is the official record of the proceedings of a legislative committee meeting. This document does not represent a transcript of the meeting; it is a digest of the meeting and provides a record of official actions taken by the Committee. All meeting materials and handouts provided to the Committee by the Legislative Service Office, public officials, lobbyists, and the public are on file at the Legislative Service Office and are part of the official record of the meeting. An index of these materials is provided at the end of this document and these materials are on file at the Legislative Service Office. For more information or to review meeting materials, please contact the Legislative Service Office at (307) 777-7881 or by e-mail at lso@wyoleg.gov. The Summary of Proceedings for each legislative committee meeting can be found on the Wyoming Legislature's website at www.wyoleg.gov.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Joint Agriculture, State and Public Lands & Water Resources Interim Committee met for one day in Casper. The Committee considered legislation relating to the Veterinary Practice Act that would allow laypersons to perform testing and diagnose pregnancy in livestock. Director True of the Wyoming Livestock Board provided an update on electronic identification of cattle and the availability of tags. The Committee voted to sponsor legislation concerning orphaned water rights in subdivisions and efforts continued to amend the Wyoming Food Freedom Act to allow for additional exemptions. The Committee requested information and a bill draft regarding trespassing livestock grazing on federal lands that cross onto private lands. The next committee meeting is scheduled for September 21, 2026.

The Committee voted to sponsor the following bills during the 2027 General Session:

- 27LSO-0066.7 Water rights-subdivisions
- 27LSO-0141.3 Food Freedom Act-producer retailers, as amended

CALL TO ORDER (JULY 28, 2026)

Co-chairman Banks called the meeting to order at 8:30 AM. The following sections summarize the Committee proceedings by topic. Please refer to **Appendix 1-01** to review the Committee Meeting Agenda. This meeting can be viewed on YouTube – Joint Agriculture, State and Public Lands & Water Resources, July 28, **AM**, and **PM**.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Minutes from the June 11-12, 2026 committee meeting were approved, **Appendix 1-03.**

LIVESTOCK PREGNANCY EXAMINATIONS

Livestock Pregnancy Check Certifications by State

Clayton Caldwell, Legislative Service Office (LSO), Research Analyst, presented information regarding states that authorize some form of livestock pregnancy determinations by non-veterinarians, **(Appendix 2-01)**.

Veterinary Practice Act - Amendments

Anna Johnson, Staff Attorney, LSO, presented 27LSO-0076 Bovine pregnancy determinations by non-veterinarians, **Appendix 2-02**, which would create a certification process for individuals seeking to perform bovine pregnancy exams without a veterinary license.

Practitioner and Producer Insurance Coverage

The Committee received testimony from Daniel York of Tegeler and Associates regarding liability and insurance implications associated with laypersons performing pregnancy checking on livestock. Discussion focused on whether professional liability coverage would be available to certified lay practitioners and whether veterinarians providing competency certifications could incur additional liability. Testimony indicated that general liability policies may not always cover professional services and that responsibility would depend upon individual contractual arrangements and insurance policies.

Wyoming State Veterinarian and Wyoming Board of Veterinary Medicine

Dr. Hallie Hasel, Wyoming State Veterinarian, emphasized the role veterinarians play in herd health monitoring and disease surveillance. Dr. Ben Osborne, Wyoming Board of Veterinary Medicine, described

how pregnancy checking operations in the fall are an important source of income for veterinary practices. Dr. Osborne commented on how lay palpators may impact pregnancy checking operations by veterinarians in Wyoming and could delay disease detection and reporting. He expressed concerns regarding regulatory oversight, accountability and potential liability for veterinarians required to certify non-veterinary practitioners. Dr. Osborne stated that pregnancy diagnosis is a skill requiring substantial practical experience and suggested that minimum proficiency standards contemplated by some states may not provide sufficient preparation. He also emphasized the importance of proper training to prevent injury to livestock and maintain animal welfare standards. Kylie Dorr, Executive Director, Board of Veterinary Medicine, was available for questions.

Considerable discussion took place concerning the definition of employee and the reporting requirements for employees and employers regarding the ability to perform pregnancy checking on cattle other than their own.

Public Comment

The following people provided comment:

- Cameron Treeby, Casper
- Karin Clark, Wyoming Farm Bureau Federation (WyFB)
- Travis Clyde, Sweetwater County
- Jim Magagna, Wyoming Stockgrowers Association (WSGA)
- Era Aranow, Rocky Mountain Farmer's Union (RMFU)
- Senator Boner, Senate District 02
- Hadessa Clyde, Sweetwater County

Committee Directives

The Committee took no action on 27LSO-0076 Bovine pregnancy determinations by non-veterinarians. The Committee voted for a new draft to be presented in September that would include exemptions in the Wyoming Veterinary Practice Act to allow laypersons to perform pregnancy exams on cattle and sheep.

UPDATE ON ELECTRONIC IDENTIFICATION OF CATTLE

Steve True, Director of the Wyoming Livestock Board (WLSB), and Dr. Hasel provided an update on federal and state electronic identification (EID/RFID) requirements. Mr. True explained that EID requirements are primarily tied to interstate movement and disease traceability and vary based on an animal's age, purpose and destination. Breeding animals moving interstate are generally subject to federal identification requirements, while some animals moving through feeding channels may be exempt. He noted that EID tags may be applied by producers, private veterinarians or market veterinarians. Market veterinarians cannot issue certificates of veterinary inspection for animals requiring EID tags until proper identification is in place and may apply tags at livestock markets when necessary for interstate movement.

There was no public comment and no committee action.

ORPHANED WATER RIGHTS

Ms. Johnson, reviewed 27LSO-0066 Water rights-subdivisions, **(Appendix 5-01)**, which would require owners or subdividers within an irrigation district to notify the irrigation district of the intended disposition of water rights at least 60 days before submitting related documents to the State Engineer or Board of Control. The bill draft establishes a process requiring cooperation between the subdivider and irrigation district, provides for district court review if agreement cannot be reached after a good-faith effort and

applies the requirements to subdivision exemptions and subdivisions created within irrigation districts statewide.

Brandon Gebhart, Wyoming State Engineer, explained that the legislation would apply statewide and noted that recent legislative changes have improved the process for addressing water rights associated with subdivisions.

Steve Lynn and Gail Whitman, Wyoming Association of Irrigation Districts (WAID), indicated that the proposal promotes communication between irrigation districts and developers, helps prevent the abandonment of water rights and provides irrigation districts an opportunity to identify alternative uses for water rights before they are lost.

Keith Kennedy, speaking on behalf of WAID, suggested that language requiring good-faith efforts by all parties could provide additional assurance for developers. He characterized the proposal as an incremental step toward protecting Wyoming water rights while maintaining existing water management structures.

No public comment was received.

Committee Action

The Committee moved to sponsor 27LSO-0066.7 Water rights-subdivisions during the 2027 General Session. The motion passed on a roll call vote with all members voting in favor of the motion.

WYOMING FOOD FREEDOM AMENDMENTS

Ms. Johnson presented 27LSO-0141.3 Food Freedom Act-producer retailers, **(Appendix 6-03)**, which would authorize the director of the Department of Agriculture to provide exemptions to the requirements of the Wyoming Food Freedom Act. Discussion focused on commercial food establishments using homemade food ingredients, the relationship between Wyoming law and federal food safety regulations and the implementation of legislation enacted during previous sessions.

Director Doug Miyamoto and Deputy Director Joe Budd, Wyoming Department of Agriculture (WDA), provided testimony regarding the practical effects of the proposed amendments. Director Miyamoto discussed the proposed exemption authority provided in the draft and indicated it was similar to exemption authority granted to the Department in other areas requiring inspections.

Brad Tyndall, Wyoming Food Coalition (WFC) and President of Central Wyoming College, introduced Ally Reeder, Executive Director of the WFC, and Sadie Clarendon, Communications Director of the WFC. The group presented information regarding the WFC in a memo and slides, **(Appendix 6-01) (Appendix 6-02)**. The WFC cautioned against adding additional complicated layers to the existing Food Freedom Act.

Public Comment

The following people provided comment:

- Steve Doyle, farmer, Fremont County
- Jim Magagna, WSGA
- Justin Schilling, WyFB
- Era Aranow, RMFU
- Leah Smith, retired health inspector

Committee Action

The Committee voted to sponsor 27LSO-0141.3 – Food Freedom Act-producer retailers during the 2027 General Session. The motion passed on a roll call vote with all members voting in favor of the motion except Representatives Davis and Provenza, who voted against the motion. The Committee adopted the following amendment:

Page 4-lines 5-26	Delete entirely
Page 5-lines 1-2	Delete entirely.

LIVESTOCK FENCING IN WYOMING

Savannah Collins, LSO, reviewed Wyoming's livestock trespass and fencing laws and compared them with neighboring states **(Appendix 7-01)**.

Director True, WLSB, provided context on the limits of current fencing law and the WLSB's authority. The Livestock Board's primary role is to identify ownership and handle estray-related issues.

Mr. Magagna, WSGA, provided comments on implementing criminal penalties for animal trespassing. Mr. Magagna described the ability of landowners to build legal wire fencing and require animal owners to contribute 50 percent of the cost of fencing maintenance and repair. He further suggested reviewing the definition of a legal fence.

Public Comment

The following people provided comment:

- John Erramouspe, Farson

Committee Action

The Committee discussed exploring changes to fence laws, assigning greater responsibility for fence damage and examining livestock-owner obligations on federal grazing lands.

The Committee voted to create a bill draft for consideration at their next meeting that would add a subsection to W.S. 11-28-106 requiring fencing to prevent livestock trespass from federal lands onto private property and imposing liability on livestock owners consistent with existing provisions for livestock trespass from state lands.

MEETING ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Co-chairman Ide adjourned the meeting at 5:40 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Representative Dalton Banks, Co-chairman

Committee Meeting Materials Index

Index Number	Agenda Item	Document Description	Document Provider
1-01		Agenda	Legislative Service Office
1-02		Sign-In Sheet	Legislative Service Office
1-03	Call to Order	Joint Ag - June 11-12, 2026 Minutes	Legislative Service Office
2-01	Livestock Pregnancy Examinations	LSO Memo - Livestock Preg Checking Certification by State	Legislative Service Office
2-02	Livestock Pregnancy Examinations	27LSO-0076 v0.6 Bovine pregnancy determinations by non-veterinarians.	Legislative Service Office
5-01	Orphaned Water Rights	27LSO-0066 v0.7 Water rights-subdivisions.	Legislative Service Office
6-01	Wyoming Food Freedom Amendments	Memo - Wyoming Food Coalition	Wyoming Food Coalition
6-02	Wyoming Food Freedom Amendments	Wy Food Coalition Presentation	Wyoming Food Coalition
6-03	Wyoming Food Freedom Amendments	27LSO-0141 v0.3 Food Freedom Act-producer retailers.	Representative Johnson
7-01	Livestock Fencing in Wyoming	LSO Memo - Breach of Enclosure	Legislative Service Office

WYOMING LEGISLATIVE SERVICE OFFICE • 200 West 24th Street • Cheyenne, Wyoming 82002
TELEPHONE (307) 777-7881 • E-MAIL lso@wyoleg.gov • WEBSITE www.wyoleg.gov