



AMERICAN FALLS FFA CHAPTER PORTFOLIO
Idaho FFA Association
Agricultural Issues Forum



Idaho State Capital



Idaho Ag Gag Law



Idaho District Court

Idaho's Ag Gag Law: Is it Constitutional?



Team Members:

**Maddie Wagoner, Mercedes Hall, Dawson Winder, Kodee Vining,
Katie Ward, Stockton Woodworth, Rylee Martin**

**Idaho FFA Career Development
Agricultural Issues Event
June 5, 2015
College of Southern Idaho, Fine Arts
Auditorium, Twin Falls, Idaho**

**American Falls FFA Chapter
American Falls High School
2966 South Frontage Road
American Falls, Idaho, 83211
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AMERICAN FALLS FFA CHAPTER PORTFOLIO

Idaho FFA Association

Agricultural Issues Forum



Issue Summary

- 1. List sample courses in which instruction occurred:** Ag 110: Leadership and Communication: critical thinking, problem solving and written communications. *Honors English* a survey of literature, grammar, writing practice and vocabulary study; plus a focus on developing critical thinking and analytical writing skills, while evaluating the writing strategies in composition and literature. *Ag 410 Personal Skill Development*: resume, job-seeking, and job keeping skills are part of the curriculum and learning environment along with the development of a sound Supervised Agricultural Experience Program; and participation in various Career Development Events will be emphasized.
- 2. Why is the issue important now?** The Ag Gag law has caused a debate about its intents to the 1st, 4th and 14th Amendments of the Constitution of the United States. Some people believe that this law violates their freedom of speech, mostly the animal rights groups; while other people feel that the law needs to be enacted as an extra cushion to the fourth amendment, equal protection laws, presented by Idaho legislators (Friedrich, 2014). Idaho's "Ag-gag" law prohibits photographing factory farms and slaughterhouses and raises serious constitutional issues that need to be evaluated, a federal district court judge recently ruled (Potter, 2013). Many opponents of the law believe they have the right to know how their food is being produced and further believe that production and processing facilities are not being inspected regularly enough (Friedrich, 2014). Agriculturalists believe ordinary citizens have no right to inspect their private facilities and publicize how they run their business (Flynn, 2014).
- 3. What is the nature of the issue?** In 2014 Idaho became the fourth state to pass the Ag-gag legislation. Iowa, Utah, and Missouri passed their versions of the "Ag gag" law in 2011 and 2012 (ASPCA n.d.). In 2013 ten more states created pending laws; protecting the rights of agriculturists making it illegal for private citizens to record videos that seek to expose animal cruelty or cause damage to an agricultural facility (Brown, 2014). Idaho's Ag-Gag law was passed and signed by Governor Otter on February 28, 2014. The results of which if one were convicted of interfering with agricultural production or processing is up to one year in jail and a fine of \$5000 (Patrick & Batt, 2014).
- 4. Who is involved in this issue?** Opponents argue that passing this bill will violate their first amendment rights, specifically the right to free speech. It makes it difficult for the individuals represented by the plaintiffs to get the information on animal abuse when they are not allowed to enter these facilities. This issue involves the entirety of Idaho's livestock industry and its processing, the Idaho Legislature and Governor Otter are the vast majority of who support the law. Conversely organizations that defend animal rights like The Animal Legal Defense Fund (ALDF), The Center of Food Safety, and many other animal rights organizations side with the plaintiffs. The plaintiffs say that the Ag-gag law violates animal rights because the abusers are not being punished for their abuse (ALDF, 2014). Defendants, meanwhile, are arguing that the Ag gag law protects the producer's constitutional right to privacy. They further argue that when the plaintiffs acquire the information on how the animals are abused through false pretenses or misrepresentation this violates the "equal protection" clause of the constitution. It specifically targets the plaintiffs and how they are forced to trespass onto the private land to get the information and are criminalized for such action.
- 5. How can the issue be defined?** The Idaho Ag Gag Law, Idaho Code Section 18-7042, creates the new crime – "interference with agricultural production." In essence, it criminalizes undercover investigations and videography at "agricultural production facilities." It raises First Amendment concerns because it restricts protected speech. ALDF's Equal Protection claim is also valid. Laws based on bare animus violate the Equal Protection Clause. ALDF alleges, as a factual matter, that the Idaho legislators acted with animus against animal-rights activists in passing section 18-7042. Finally, the State's passage of section 18-7042 presents ALDF with the immediate dilemma of choosing between complying with section 18-7042 and risking prosecution under the challenged provision by engaging in whistleblower conduct it says federal law explicitly encourages and protects. ALDF's preemption claims are therefore ripe for review. The ultimate question of whether section 18-7042 is unconstitutional remains (Winmill, 2014).
- 6. What is the historical background of this issue?** The very first Ag-Gag law was enacted 20 years ago in Kansas in

1990. The Kansas law K.S.A. 47-1825 – 1830, criminalizes "entering an animal facility to take pictures by photograph, video camera, or by any other means" with the intent of damaging the enterprise and without the consent of the owner (ASPCA n.d.). Idaho Senate bill 1337 was enacted after Mercy for Animal's a California based animal rights group went into Bettencourt Dairy's Dry Creek Dairy in Hansen Idaho and videotaped employees abusing the animals; the abusers were fined and the dairy immediately fired these five workers once the abuse was made public (Flynn, 2014). Idaho joined Iowa, Utah, and Missouri as the fourth state to enact the law. Idaho's Senate bill 1337 was enacted in February 2014 with 79 votes in favor, 24 descending, and two members absent creating Idaho Code 18-7042 once it was signed by Governor Otter (Flynn, 2014).

Idaho Code 18-7042 is heavily criticized by animal rights groups who seek to quickly shoot it down; the plaintiffs argue that the First Amendment; the right to free speech is being violated. The defendants argue that this law, a result of Idaho Senate Bill 1337, does not target free speech but how the people get the information. This law criminalizes the undercover videotaping and photography in agricultural operations. The defense insists this law is necessary to protect the producer's right to privacy. The plaintiffs contend that there have been privacy laws in place for years and are seldom challenged by any other business other than in the agricultural industry. The defendants further argue there is a need for this law because the current privacy laws were not being enforced (Winmill, 2014).

The Ag-gag laws, adopted by 8 states, are different in each state but all are based on the first law that was enacted by Kansas. Idaho's Ag-gag law is considered to be very vague. Montana's law is not strict only criminalizing entering an animal facility with the intent to commit a prohibited act. Montana also introduced a "quick reporting bill" in 2015 which states that if evidence of animal abuse fails to be reported within 24 hours then one commits the crime of cruelty to animals (ASPCA n.d.). Idaho's senate bill 1337 or the Ag-gag law criminalizes someone who goes into an agricultural facility by force, threat, misrepresentation, or trespass and obtains records of abuse in the agricultural facility or causes damage to the land and equipment in that facility (Patrick & Batt, 2014). This law was enacted to protect the agriculturalists but also countermands laws already enacted such as the State's current Animal Right's laws. The law makes it nearly impossible to expose another person of animal abuse (Carasik, 2014).

7. **What caused the issue?** In 2012 a video was released from Mercy for Animals at the Bennetcourt dairy showing workers' abusing the animals in the dairy (Parish, 2014). The Idaho Dairymen then sponsored Idaho's Senate Bill 1337 or the Ag-Gag law to be written. The law, IC 18-7042, written by Idaho's legislators is considered to be too far reaching by animal right's activists and was purposefully written extremely vague. Currently Idaho's Ag-gag law is being tried in the Federal District Court of Idaho as being unconstitutional (Winmill, 2014).
8. **What are the risks?** Risks posed by Idaho's Ag-gag law as reported by the plaintiffs include: unreported animal abuse, people not knowing how their food is being produced and processed, food safety concerns and health risks. Risks posed to individuals who violate the law include: physical injury by animals or equipment, property damage to production or processing facilities, fines and jail time. Animal abuse will now go unreported because the people who try to report abuse receive up to a year of jail time and fined \$5000 (Patrick & Batt, 2014). On the other hand the people convicted of animal abuse may only get up to six months of jail time. There are not enough Agricultural Inspectors in Idaho to insure the proper care and treatment of animals in Idaho's mega-farms. At best inspections happen once or twice annually. Producers and processors state that it is in their own best interests to properly care for and handle animals, "they lose money when they don't." So few inspectors creates doubt by the public; they cannot be certain of how their food is produced or processed. Many feel compelled to find out what is behind the locked gate; creating hazards for both the investigator and the producer/processor (Carlson, 2012).
9. **What are the benefits?** Idaho State Senate Bill 1337, has been debated for over a year. Many want to repeal the law while others want to keep it in place. This bill provides protection for agriculture facilities by not allowing anyone to get information illegally; by recording footage of any processes within the facility, it prohibits trespassing, and won't allow anyone to misrepresent themselves to get a job in the facility just so they can record wrong doing (Steenson, 2014). This bill stops anyone from obtaining information illegally; this protects personal property and privacy. It is strongly held by agricultural interests that Senate Bill 1337 supports their 4th Amendment rights (Flynn, 2014).
10. **Is there strong agreement on how the issue should be solved?** There is absolutely no agreement on how this issue should be resolved. Idaho is an Agriculture state and thus many support Senate Bill 1337, now IC 18-7042. While others are hugely concerned about animal rights and food safety. There seems to be no compromise between the two sides; which is why the issue is now in Idaho District Court. This is a nationwide issue with many states have considered an Ag Gag bill but the majority of the states do not pursue it or abandon it believing it is unconstitutional (ASPCA n.d.). A compromise is not likely. The issue is pending in Idaho Federal District Court (Winmill, 2014).

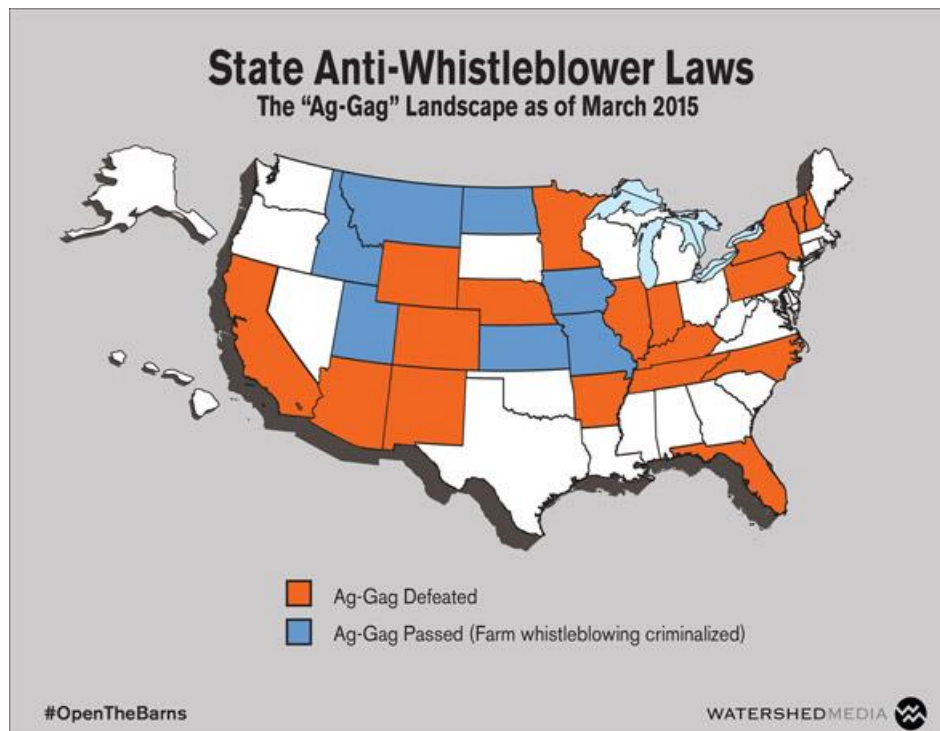


AMERICAN FALLS FFA CHAPTER PORTFOLIO



Ag Gag Dilemma Forum Fact Sheet *(used as forum handout)*

- 1990:** State of Kansas puts the first Ag Gag law into action; it criminalizes entering an animal facility to take pictures by photograph, video camera or by any other means that may harm the facility (ASPCA n.d.).
- 1991:** Montana passes the next Ag Gag law (ASPCA n.d.).
- 2011:** Ag Gag law is introduced in New York and in Minnesota, both failed (ASPCA n.d.).
- 2012:** Florida, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Missouri, Nebraska, and Utah introduce the Ag Gag law. Florida, Illinois, Indiana, and Nebraska all failed the Ag Gag law. Missouri, Utah, and Iowa passed the laws (ASPCA n.d.).
- 2013:** Arkansas, California, New Hampshire, New Mexico, Tennessee, Pennsylvania, and Vermont. All states failed the Ag Gag or the bill died before the bill made it to their legislature (ASPCA n.d.).
- 2014:** Arizona, Idaho, and Kentucky bring up the idea for an Ag Gag law. Arizona and Kentucky failed the bill while Idaho's bill passed. Idaho's Ag Gag Law originated from Senate Bill 1337 and was passed on February 28, 2014. It is the strictest Ag Gag Law in place (ASPCA n.d.).
- 2015:** Colorado, Washington, and Wyoming introduced the Ag Gag bill. Colorado and Wyoming failed the legislation, and Washington hasn't voted on the bill yet (ASPCA n.d.).



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American Falls FFA Ag Issues Forum Summary

Starred forums are documented in the following portfolio pages

Forum #	Forum Audience	Forum Date	Attendance	High or Low Quality
1	*Rotary Club	March 11, 2015	18	High Quality
2	*PEO Chapter	March 11, 2015	14	High Quality
3	*ISU AMST 101 Class	March 12, 2015	23	High Quality
4	AFHS Government Class	March 14, 2015	30	Med Quality
5	AFHS Government Class	March 14, 2015	22	Med Quality
6	*Ag Industry Leadership Judges	March 18, 2015	75	High Quality
7	*City Council	March 18, 2015	19	High Quality
8	Local Beef/Dairy Producers	April 22, 2015	9	High Quality
9	Parents and Teachers	April 29, 2015	47	Med Quality
10	*Lions Club	May 26, 2015	21	High Quality
11	State CDE	June 5, 2015	45	High Quality



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Forum 1, American Falls FFA Rotary Club, March 11, 2011, at Noon, **18 in attendance.**



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The Power County Press

March 18, 2015



Rotary Club hears FFA Ag Gag arguments

by Rylee Martin
Secretary

The American Falls Ag Issues team consisting of Maddie Wagoner, Mercedes Hall, Dawson Winder, Michael Mainord, Katie Ward, Stockton Woodworth and Rylee Martin presented their forum to the American Falls Rotary Club on Wednesday, March 11. The Ag Issues team presented their issue to the Rotary Club at their weekly noon meeting. The 14 members in attendance represented small and large businesses along with Harms Memorial Hospital and the American Falls School District.

The Ag Gag Law is obviously Pro Ag, but Is It Pro Society? There are many arguments involving the Ag Gag Law.

Those in favor of the Ag Gag Law claim that the current privacy laws are not enough to protect their privacy. Those in favor also insist that either agricultural facilities or family operated businesses and farms should have their privacy invaded.

Those who oppose the Ag Gag Law question if the law is constitutional. The opposing side feels that a credible agency should be responsible for documenting this horrendous abuse. These people believe that private agricultural facilities are operating unethically and abusing their animals.

The American Falls Ag Issues team thanks the Rotary Club for their generous hospitality, and for a wonderful meal served by the Fairview Inn. They certainly appreciate the first hand insight to this heavily debated issue.

Rotary hears ag gag issues

The American Falls FFA Ag Issues team presented their forum titled the, "Ag Gag Law. It Is Pro Ag, but Is It Pro Society?" to the Rotary Club on Wednesday March 11. The Ag Issues team consists of Maddie Wagoner, Mercedes Hall, Dawson Winder, Michael Mainord, Katie Ward, Stockton Woodworth and Rylee Martin. The team thanks the Rotary Club for their thoughtful questions and great encouragement.



March 11, 2015

Dear Mr. Beitia and Members of the FFA Ag Issues Team:

Once again, your group's presentation to the American Falls Rotary Club was very well-received, interesting, and at times a bit gripping. This year's issue, the pros and cons of the "ag gag" Idaho legislation, was particularly interesting to the members of our club. Your students' presentation was so compelling that the members of the club were still discussing the issues even as they were leaving. The students once again did an admirable job of presenting both sides of the issue, advocating both pro and con.

It is always interesting that these issues bring about a real-world experience for the kids when they present them to everyday citizens. As in the past, the club members advocated very strongly for their particular positions, with questions from both sides of the issue. It is our hope that the questions afterwards gave your students important practice for their competition to come.

Once again, thanks for the opportunity and know that you and your students have an open invitation to return.

Sincerely,

Ron R. Bolinger

American Falls Rotary Club



School District Superintendent, Dr. Ron Bolinger stated, "I am shocked that contaminated meat has been served to children in schools." While Dr. Brent Schwanevelt insisted that, "two wrongs do not make a right. People have no right to trespass on anyone's property!"



March 18, 2015



The Power County Press

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FFA ag team discusses Ag Gag Law with PEO

by Michael Mainord
Community Chair

The American Falls Ag Issues team consisting of FFA members Maddie Wagoner, Mercedes Hall, Dawson Winder, Michael Mainord, Katie Ward, Stockton Woodworth and Rylee Martin, presented their FFA Ag Issues forum to the Philanthropic Educational Organization (PEO)

on Wednesday, March 11, at their weekly 5 p.m. meeting.

The Ag Gag Law is definitely Pro Ag, but Is It Pro Society? Arguments consisted of the rights of the consumer as well as the rights of the producer. The Pro Ag side feels that their right to privacy is being infringed upon while the Pro Society side feels they

deserve to speak freely and know how their food is being produced.

Those in favor of the Ag Gag Law feel they need to protect their privacy and not have their personal businesses be micromanaged. There is a long accepted social contract; the people need to trust agricultural industries to uphold their end of this long implied contract.

Those who question if the law is pro society stress that they deserve to know how their food is being produced and feel the state is not doing enough to ensure that it has been. When animals are abused food quality decreases causing the animal to be-

come more stressed so the animal produces more lactic acid causing the meat to become less palatable and tough. This side feels that they need to ensure their food is being produced in a humane manner.

The team was then asked numerous questions pertaining to the subject by the ladies of the PEO, many of whom are teachers and were excited to see how their efforts in the younger grades turned out as the students have gotten older.

The FFA Ag Issues team thanks the PEO for their generous hospitality. They certainly appreciate the first hand insight to this heavily debated issue.

PEO and Ag Gag Law

The American Falls FFA Ag Issues team presented their forum to the Philanthropic Educational Organization (PEO) on the topic of the new Ag Gag Law: It Is Pro Ag, but Is It Pro Society? The Ag Issues team consists of Maddie Wagoner, Mercedes Hall, Dawson Winder, Michael Mainord, Katie Ward, Stockton Woodworth and Rylee Martin.



Marla Egbert, a retired fourth grade teacher stated, "I had half this team in class. I am so impressed as to how they grew up!" Anne Schroeder, a ranchers wife reflected that, "I guess I never fully appreciated how the things we do routinely could look to someone on the outside. I can see how the uninitiated may think something is abuse when in fact it is a common and acceptable procedure in the livestock industry."



Dual enrollment debate

The American Falls Ag Issues team presented their public forum to Doug Good's dual enrollment government class. The team faced many challenging questions from the class on the first, fourth and fourteenth Constitutional Amendments as they relate to Idaho's Ag Gag Law. Team members include Maddie Wagoner, Mercedes Hall, Dawson Winder, Michael Mainord, Katie Ward, Stockton Woodworth and Rylee Martin.



Chief US District Judge
B. Lynn Winmill

Ag Gag Law faces AFHS dual enrollment class

by Michael Mainord
Ag Issues team member

The American Falls FFA Chapter Ag issues team consists of Maddie Wagoner, Mercedes Hall, Dawson Winder, Michael Mainord, Katie Ward, Stockton Woodworth and Rylee Martin. The Ag Issues team presented their forum, "The Ag Gag Law: Is Pro Ag but is it Pro Society" to Mrs. Wight's and Mr. Good's dual enrollment government classes on Friday, March 13. There were 60 students in attendance.

The Ag Gag Law has two defined sides. The defendant states that it is an invasion of the producers'

privacy to obtain video and information about private agricultural properties, whereas the plaintiffs claim that the public deserves to know what is happening in regards to the production of their food. The plaintiffs also support the highly debated issue of animal rights.

When animals are used for food it is expected that the producers will care for the animals in a responsible and ethical manner. As the defendants in the case contend the producers in Idaho strive to always care for their animals correctly and responsibly as it is in their best interests.

As government the

students listen to the case presented to them to form multiple questions based on the first, fourth and fourteenth Constitutional Amendments. The debates with the FFA team became heated as did the debate among the classmates. It was a great topic and lent itself well to how laws are made and changed within our society. All students found it a meaningful learning experience.

The American Falls Ag Issues team thanks the government classes for their willingness to participate in this heavily debated issue. Thanks, too, Mrs. Wight and Mr. Good for allowing us into their classrooms.

News in the Lawsuit Against Idaho's AgGag Law

By: Will Potter, September 10, 2014

Ag-gag May Violate the First Amendment

Chief US District Judge B. Lynn Winmill said in his ruling that a ban on photography and videography is clearly a free speech issue. And if journalists or investigators lie on a job application, that's still fully protected speech.

Ag-gag May Violate the Equal Protection Clause

Under the law, it's illegal to film animal abuse without permission, but it's not illegal to film the farm owner's children, he notes.

"Likewise, the law only prohibits unauthorized filming, so it is more likely that those who wish to portray the agricultural facility in a positive light will be allowed to film while those critical of the industry will not," Judge Winmill writes. "By, in effect, privileging speech that is supportive of the agricultural industry, section 18-7042 impermissibly discriminates on viewpoint."



AMERICAN FALLS FFA CHAPTER PORTFOLIO

Forum 5, FFA Alumni & District Judges, March 18, 2015, at 12:00 pm, **75 in attendance**



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The Power County Press

March 25, 2015

FFA alumni hear Ag Gag law issues

by Riely Geritz
Chapter President

The American Falls Ag Issues team presented their agricultural issues forum to an assortment of FFA members, alumni and local agriculturists on Wednesday, March 18.

Their forum is entitled "The Ag Gag Law: Is Pro Ag but Is It Pro Society" and addresses the two distinct sides to the debate surrounding this piece of legislation. The law addresses privacy and the legality of unauthorized filming of ag facilities. Michael Mainord serves as a mediator between Rylee Martin and her two witnesses, Katie Ward and Stockton Woodworth, and Maddie Wagoner and her witnesses Dawson Winder and Mercedes Hall.

The forum is set up as a court case and provides four different viewpoints from the four witnesses, who represent different members of the agricultural sector involved in this issue. On one side, there is a senator and a dairy farmer who are in favor of protecting their privacy and not allowing uninvited guests to film their operations for the sake of safety and fairness. The other side, a food safety specialist and an animal rights advocate, worry about consumers not knowing what goes on in the production of their food and are concerned for the welfare of all creatures.

Questions surrounding this issue involve a person's "right" to gain employment under false pretenses with the intent of documenting unethical or inhumane practices by livestock producers and processors. The plaintiffs contend that the public has a right to know what goes on in these environments as the state of Idaho does not adequately provide for their inspection.

The defendants of the case claim these persons who enter facilities under false pretenses are their illegally and should be criminally charged as required by Idaho's new law. The issues prompted many questions from the FFA alumni as most of them are involved in agricultural production and processing.

The team thanks the alumni for their questions and looks forward to sharing the issues with more organizations in the near future.



AMERICAN FALLS LIONS CLUB

June 9, 2014

Dear Mr. Beitia and FFA Debate Team

The American Falls Lions Club enjoyed the debate entitled, "Ag Gag Law" presented by the FFA Debate Team at our May 26, 2015 Lions Club Meeting.

The team is very professional and was extremely well prepared for their debate on Idaho's Ag Gag Law. Both sides were very passionate with strong positions both opposing and supporting the Ag Gag Law. They could easily answer the numerous questions raised from both sides of the aisle with amazing ease. It showed that they had worked very hard in preparation for this difficult and politically sensitive issue.

I have personally seen the debate presented twice prior to this meeting and I was amazed at their improvement. The first time they seemed to stumble, but this time around they were on fire.

We have seen the FFA debate team perform in prior years and always thought they were top notch and could not be beat. But next year's team seems to have raised the bar. What a great program to train our next generation of leaders.

We wish the team all the best in their future endeavors.

Sincerely

Norman Wright,
American Falls Lions Club Program Director
1105 Falls Ave.
American Falls, Idaho 83211
208-226-5329

**Forum 10, AF Lions Club May 26, 2015,
at 7:00 pm, **21 in attendance.****

Bill of Rights:

Amendment I (1): Freedom of religion, speech, and the press; rights of assembly and petition
Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the **freedom of speech**, or of the press, or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.

Amendment XIV (14): Civil rights

Section 1. All persons born or naturalized in the United States, and subject to the jurisdiction thereof, are citizens of the United States and of the State wherein they reside. No State shall make or enforce any law which shall abridge the privileges or immunities of citizens of the United States; nor shall any State deprive any person of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law; nor deny to any person within its jurisdiction the **equal protection** of the laws.



A.F. council debates ag gag law

The American Falls Ag Issues teams (l to r) Rylee Martin, Stockton Woodworth, Katie Ward, Michael Mainord, Dawson Winder, Mercedes Hall and Maddie Wagoner, presented their public forum on Idaho's current Ag Gag Law to the American Falls City Council. The team thanks the council for their thoughtful questions and insight.

Retired Manager for AgriBeef and Council President Dan Hammond stated during the questioning portion of the forum, "It has always been in the producers best interests to care for their animals in a manner that it acceptable to the public, if we don't we loose money at the feedlot and at the cash register."

Dan Hammond, City Council President

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3/24/2015

Mr. Marc Beitia,
American Falls High School
American Falls, Idaho

Dear Mr. Beitia,

On March 18, 2015, The American Falls High School Ag Issues Team presented their debate entitled "Idaho's Ag Gag Law is Definitely Pro Ag, but is it Pro Society?" before The American Falls City Council.

They were well prepared and did an outstanding job of presenting their material. The topic was one that almost everyone had an opinion. People were not afraid to express those opinions. The members of the team were able to cover both sides of the issue very well.

To me, the main crux of the matter was Private Property Rights versus The Public's Right to know what was happening on that property with regards to the animals that were being grown for food purposes.

The Team did a good job delivering the pros and cons on both sides of the issue. The debate between the listeners was lively and energetic and it was easy to pick a side to be on.

Even after the presentation ended the audience was still debating the issue.

The members of the City Council gave The Team some great points to help them improve their presentation. The Team was very appreciative of the constructive critic they received.

These Team members are well prepared, they get along well together and are eager to begin the competition. The City Council enjoyed the presentation and congratulated the Team members after they had completed the presentation. We wish them luck in all their competitions!

Sincerely,

M. Dan Hammond

M. Dan Hammond
President, American Falls City Council

FFA Ag Issues team fields questions from A.F. council

by Maddie Wagoner
and Stockton Woodworth

At the Wednesday, March 18, recessed meeting of the American Falls City Council the American Falls FFA Agricultural Issues team presented their forum depicting both sides of Idaho's current Ag Gag Law that is currently under appeal in the Idaho District Court with Judge Lynn Winmill.

While both sides of the current court case are presented by the team of Maddie Wagoner, Mercedes Hall, Dawson Winder, Michael Mainord, Katie Ward, Stockton Woodworth, Taylor Sullivan and Rylee Martin, the questions from the city council members and others in the audience focused on the constitutional rights of Idaho's agricultural producers and processors.

Wagoner plays the legal counsel for the Animal Legal Defense Fund, Winder represented the side of the case presented by the Executive Director for the Animal Legal Defense Fund and Hall portrays the Executive Director for the Center for Food Safety. As the plaintiffs in the case, the crux of their argument revolves around First Amendments rights and freedom of speech and press.

The defendants represented by Martin, Woodworth and

Ward, portray Idaho's agricultural and dairy industries, and the Idaho legislature. Mainord plays the role of Judge Winmill.

As an agricultural community that is well represented on the American Falls City Council, the questions posed to the Ag Issues group focused primarily on the Fourth and Fourteenth Constitutional Amendments and the equal protection clause and the right to privacy. Councilmember Dan Hammond, the retired manager of Snake River Cattle and some one very well versed in the animal production and processing, posed some very pointed questions to the plaintiff's side causing some members to second guess their view and perspective on the issue. Councilman Workman, with his journalism background, had a good series of questions for the defendant's side and some constructive input as to the overall presentation of the issue.

The members of the 2015 American Falls Ag Issues team thanked the American Falls City Council for the time, thoughtful questions and input. The team will be competing at the state event at CSI on Wednesday, April 8, and extended thanks to all who have helped them learn a bit more about the issue and more importantly themselves.