

OVMEB SB-1539 Rule Advisory Committee Public Meeting	September 9, 2026,	12PM-2PM
	Join Zoom Meeting: https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84374641431?pwd=S0pYL9QVUrrZTzspwpz9It983yeacC.1	
	Meeting ID: 843 7464 1431 Passcode: xYg4Hd	
	Phone: 971-673-0224	
Oregon Veterinary Medical Examining Board		www.oregon.gov/ovmeb

Convene Public Session

Second RAC Meeting Agenda — SB 1539 Rulemaking

1. Welcome, Roll Call & Housekeeping (5–10 min)

- Meeting protocols and expectations
- Overview of materials provided (Draft Rule Language + Spectrum of Training Programs)

RAC Participants (Alphabetical by Last Name)

Earl Aalseth, DVM – Dairy Cattle, Training
 Rawley Bigsby – Wallowa County Commissioner; Rancher
 Gail Colbern, DVM, MS, DACT – OVMA President
 Emilio DeBess, DVM – OHA, Public Health (non-voting)
 Scott Duggan – OSU, Education & Training
 Rodney Ferry, DVM – Lakeview, Food Animal
 Rusty Inglis – Oregon Farm Bureau Chair; Rancher
 Ryan Krabill – Oregon Farm Bureau
 Adrienne Lulay – Linn-Benton CC, Animal Reproduction Education
 Ryan Scholz, DVM – ODA State Veterinarian (non-voting)
 Erik Steen – Oregon Cattlemen’s Association
 Ben Wustenberg, DVM – Newberg, Food Animal

2. Brief Recap of July Meeting (Concise Summary) (10 min)

(Only the foundational points needed for today’s focused review)

- SB 1539 provides narrow Board authority: The Board may define *circumstances* and *training components*, but may not license, certify, approve courses, or create de facto licensure.
- RAC consensus from July:
 - Unlicensed pregnancy verification must be limited strictly to determining pregnancy status—no diagnosis, no treatment, no veterinary acts.
 - Training expectations should ensure safe palpation/ultrasound use, proper handling, and recognition of when referral to a veterinarian is needed.
 - Experienced practitioners and new entrants may require different pathways, but all training must stay within statutory limits.

This recap is strictly to frame today’s work on rule language and training-spectrum review.

3. Review of Draft Rule Language (Primary Task) (45–60 min)

(Document: “Rule Change Briefing and DRAFT rule changes v2”)

Summary of Draft Rule Document

- Clarifies definition of pregnancy verification (palpation, ultrasound, validated biological tests) and explicitly prohibits diagnosis, treatment, and other veterinary interventions.
- Defines who qualifies as an “unlicensed individual” under ORS 686.040.
- Establishes Board-defined training components but does not mandate specific programs (consistent with statutory limits).
- Recommends individuals maintain documentation of training (certificates, attestations) only for complaint-driven enforcement, avoiding creation of licensure-like structures.
- Provides recognition pathway for prior training/experience acquired before rule adoption.

Discussion Goals

- Confirm clarity of scope and boundaries (pregnancy verification only).
 - Evaluate whether training component descriptions are sufficiently clear and neutral.
 - Review documentation expectations for feasibility and enforcement practicality.
 - Identify any language requiring refinement before October recommendation submission.
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4. Review of “Spectrum of Appropriate Training Programs” Document (30–40 min)

(Document: “Spectrum of Appropriate Cattle Pregnancy Checking Training Programs – Aug 2026”)

Summary of Spectrum Document

- Provides examples of **hands-on**, **hybrid**, and **online** training options that align with Board-defined components for pregnancy verification.
- Shows how different programs meet Board-aligned competency areas:
 - **Palpation skills:** OSU workshops, University of Idaho, NC State, UGA, UT.
 - **Ultrasound (non-diagnostic) skills:** ReproScan, IMV, Lakeland College, University of Idaho, UGA, UT.
- Demonstrates available credential types (extension certificates, CE credits, provider certificates) appropriate for complaint-driven documentation without creating licensing structures. [\[Spectrum o...s Aug 2026 | Word\]](#)
- Highlights training variability (regional workshops, multi-day university courses, online ultrasound modules) that RAC may reference when defining “training components” but cannot endorse or require.

Discussion Goals

- Identify which components from the spectrum should be reflected in rule language.
 - Ensure the spectrum supports both new practitioners and recognition of prior experience.
 - Confirm alignment with the statutory requirement that training components be defined *without* endorsing specific programs.
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5. Synthesis Discussion: Aligning Draft Rule Language with Training Spectrum (10–15 min)

- Do the rule components match what is realistically available in the spectrum?
 - Are any training elements missing or overly detailed?
 - Are documentation expectations workable across all types of training?
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6. Next Steps & Closing (5–10 min)

- Identify revisions needed for final draft rule text.
 - Confirm timeline for RAC recommendation package.
 - Preview agenda for next meeting.
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SUPPLEMENTAL MATERIALS:

- Draft Rule Language Document**
 - Spectrum of Training Program Document**
 - Notes from July Meeting**
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Explanatory Statement

SB 1539 amended ORS 686.040 to allow unlicensed individuals to perform pregnancy verification in cattle under circumstances defined by the Oregon Veterinary Medical Examining Board. The Board's authority is narrow: it may establish the conditions under which this limited activity may occur, but it may not license, certify, approve, endorse, or require any specific training program. The Board may determine the appropriate training components that individuals must attain for pregnancy verification in cattle. This rule defines the permissible scope of unlicensed pregnancy verification, limits the activity to determining pregnancy status only, and establishes documentation expectations solely for complaint-driven enforcement. These rules are designed to maintain animal health and transparency while respecting statutory limits and avoiding creation of de facto licensure or mandatory training requirements.

Draft Rule Language Change Suggestions

OAR 875-XXXXXXX

Unlicensed Pregnancy Verification in Cattle — Permitted Circumstances, Training, and Documentation.

(1) Definitions

(a) "Pregnancy verification" means determining pregnancy status in cattle using transrectal palpation, ultrasonography, or validated blood, milk, or other biological testing methods. It is limited to determining pregnancy status and does not include diagnosis, treatment, medication administration, or other veterinary interventions.

(b) "Unlicensed individual" means a person who is not licensed as a veterinarian, but who performs pregnancy verification as allowed under ORS 686.040.

(2) Training Specification

(a) To qualify for the exemption under ORS 686.040, an unlicensed individual must complete **training that aligns with the components defined by the Board** for pregnancy verification in cattle.

(b) Board-defined training components may include; palpation, use of ultrasound, biological testing, and proper documentation.

(c) Individuals should maintain proof of completed training—such as certificates, course completion documents, or trainer attestations—and provide them to the Board upon request during a complaint-driven investigation.

(3) Recognition of Prior Training and Experience

(3) Recognition of Previously Attained Competencies

(a) An unlicensed individual may qualify under ORS 686.040(1)(b) if they can demonstrate that, prior to the effective date of this rule, they attained the Board-defined training components necessary for pregnancy verification in cattle.

(b) Acceptable documentation includes historical training materials, employer or veterinarian attestations, or other records verifying acquisition of the required competencies.

Spectrum of Cattle Pregnancy Checking Training Programs

These programs vary in format, scope, and depth—and align with the Board’s criteria for “training that aligns with Board-defined components” for pregnancy verification.

Categories:

A: Regional, in-person/hands on

B: US-wide, Online, Hybrid design

C: US-wide University Extension Programs

A. Pacific Northwest Programs (In-Person / Hands-On)

Training Type	Delivery Mode	Credentials/Format	Highlights
OSU Extension – Reproductive Management of the Cowherd	In-person workshops across Oregon	Extension education; no formal certification	Covers reproductive evaluation tools, pregnancy rate concepts, non-diagnostic reproductive management; supports Board components for understanding pregnancy status and safe handling.
OSU Extension – Calving Education / Calving School	In-person workshops in Pendleton, Union, Ontario, Burns, Fossil, Terrebonne	Certificate of participation	Hands-on calf delivery simulation; cow-calf health, dystocia recognition, proper handling and referral decision-making; aligns with Board’s animal handling and abnormality-recognition components.
University of Idaho – Assisted Reproductive Technologies (ART) Schools	In-person, multi-day	Short-course training by Extension specialists & industry technicians	Includes palpation and ultrasound pregnancy detection courses using reproductive tracts and live animals; strongly aligned with Board components for safe palpation, non-diagnostic ultrasound, and correct referral practices.
University of Idaho + ReproScan –	In-person, 2-day intensive	Certificate (limited enrollment)	Focused training in reproductive anatomy, fetal development, ultrasound techniques, pregnancy

Training Type	Delivery Mode	Credentials/Format	Highlights
Bovine Ultrasound & Palpation Course (Carmen, ID)			status determination, fetal aging; aligns with Board components for non-diagnostic ultrasound and humane palpation.

B. U.S.–Wide Online & Hybrid Programs

Training Type	Delivery Mode	Credentials/Format	Highlights
ReproScan – Basics of Bovine Reproductive Ultrasound (Level 1)	Online video training	Video modules; no CE credit; ~\$300 for 30–60-day access	Teaches ultrasound basics, open/preg checks, fetal aging, equipment care, extension arm use; aligns with Board’s components for non-diagnostic ultrasound technique.
IMV Technology US – Ultrasonography of the Bovine Reproductive Tract	Online instructional videos	Short CPD-style online modules	Covers machine setup, scanning technique, pregnancy detection using ultrasound; aligns with Board non-diagnostic ultrasound and proper equipment use components.
Lakeland College – Bovine Ultrasound Pregnancy Detection (Canada)	Blended online + in-person	Advanced training certificate for Registered Veterinary Technologists	Includes ultrasound fundamentals, reproductive anatomy, identification of pregnant uterus, image capture, recordkeeping, low-stress handling; supports Board components for non-diagnostic ultrasound and documentation.

C. University Extension Programs (U.S., Non-PNW but Hands-On)

Training Type	Delivery Mode	Credentials/Format	Highlights
University of Georgia – Bovine Ultrasound Training	2-day hybrid: in-class + hands-on	CE credit eligible	Female reproductive tract evaluation, ultrasound pregnancy detection, fetal aging, fetal sexing, palpation and probe positioning; strongly aligned

Training Type	Delivery Mode	Credentials/Format	Highlights
			with Board's pregnancy-verification components.
University of Tennessee – Bovine Reproductive Ultrasound Training	In-person 2-day program	CE credits; limited enrollment	Hands-on pregnancy diagnosis, fetal viability assessment, palpation practice, embryo recipient selection; aligns with Board's non-diagnostic ultrasound and palpation components.
NC State Extension – Repro Schools (Mid-Central & WNC Workshops)	In-person workshops	Workshop certificate	Includes hands-on palpation, blood-based pregnancy testing, estrus synchronization instruction, animal selection, and abnormality recognition; fits Board handling and referral components.

Alignment with Board Requirements

Component coverage

- **Palpation skill:**
OSU workshops, University of Idaho courses, NC State, UGA, UT programs.
- **Ultrasound competence (non-diagnostic):**
ReproScan, IMV Technology, Lakeland College, University of Idaho, UGA, UT.

Training modalities

- **Fully online:** ReproScan, IMV (U.S.).
- **Blended:** Lakeland College; University of Idaho courses (lecture + hands-on).
- **Hands-on workshops:** OSU Extension, UGA, UT, NC State.

Credential recognition

- Extension participation certificates
- University CE credits
- Training provider certificates
- All acceptable for Board review under complaint-driven documentation checks

OVMEB: SB-1539 Rulemaking Advisory Committee Meeting Summary –

July 27, 2027 12-2PM, virtual meeting through Zoom Workplace

Quick Recap

The Rule Advisory Committee (RAC) convened its first meeting to begin implementation discussions related to SB-1539, which permits unlicensed individuals to perform pregnancy verification services on cattle. The RAC reviewed the board's authority: although OVMEB cannot require licensure or certification for these practitioners, the board may establish training standards and define circumstances under which unlicensed pregnancy verification can occur.

Members agreed the scope of allowable services must be limited strictly to pregnancy verification. They emphasized that unlicensed individuals conducting pregnancy checks may not perform diagnostic assessments, treatments, or any veterinary services outside pregnancy status determination.

The committee explored potential training approaches, including online education modules, apprenticeships with licensed veterinarians, and grandfathering experienced practitioners. Members noted concerns that very short training courses may not be adequate because pregnancy checking requires substantial hands-on skill and practical livestock experience.

Throughout the meeting, the RAC acknowledged the need to balance accessibility and industry practicality—particularly in rural areas with limited availability of large-animal veterinarians—with public and animal safety considerations. Several members noted that many experienced practitioners possess long-standing skills, and any training framework should ensure competency without creating excessive barriers.

Next Steps for OVMEB (Mr. Burns)

- Consult with the agency AAG regarding distribution of a summary of the legal memo to RAC members.
- Compile meeting minutes, detailed notes, and objective bullet points for RAC review.
- Send the full meeting summary and supporting documents to all RAC members.
- Distribute calendar invitations to schedule the next RAC meeting, tentatively mid-August.
- Begin drafting potential rule language informed by RAC feedback for review at the next meeting.

- Gather examples from other states on pregnancy verification training standards to support RAC decision-making.

Collaboration Expectations

- RAC members are asked to route any materials, notes, proposals, or background information through Mr. Burns for distribution to the full committee.
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Detailed Meeting Summary

Public Meeting Planning

Members confirmed that RAC sessions will proceed under public meetings requirements, including roll call for quorum and structured agenda review. Participants updated their displayed names to reflect RAC membership. Additional attendees included representatives from the Oregon Farm Bureau and the Oregon Cattlemen's Association.

Training and Regulation Discussion (SB-1539 Framework)

The RAC explored possible rule components such as requiring unlicensed practitioners to notify clients of their non-veterinarian status or requiring proof of liability insurance. Members cautioned that any training or practice requirements must align closely with legislative intent and may not create de facto licensure.

The committee reaffirmed its charge: to recommend training requirements and define circumstances in which unlicensed individuals may perform pregnancy verification. The RAC aims to submit final recommendations to the board in October for year-end approval.

Veterinary Practice and Training Considerations

Members discussed that unlicensed individuals performing pregnancy verification after January 1, 2027 may be subject to investigation if they cannot demonstrate adequate training. Because board investigations are complaint-driven, future rules must provide clear, objective criteria for evaluating training documentation and practitioner competency.

The committee also discussed whether different pregnancy examination methods may necessitate different training standards. Members noted there were legal complexities regarding requiring practitioners to work directly under veterinarians.

Committee Member Contributions

- **Dr. Colbern** sought clarity on whether the board could implement requirements related to record-keeping, consumer notifications, including veterinarians in the process, or

requiring liability coverage. Mr. Burns explained that statutory authority limits regulatory options to training standards and scope-of-practice definitions.

- **Dr. Scholz** clarified that high open-rate herds are not reportable to regulatory authorities, but licensed veterinarians must report suspicion of any conditions classified as reportable diseases.
- **Dr. Ferry** raised concerns about regulating unlicensed practitioners and recommended developing apprenticeship-style training with licensed veterinarians to bolster competency.
- **Mr. Steen** highlighted liability concerns for producers, noting that inaccurate pregnancy determinations can lead to significant financial losses.
- **Dr. Aalseth** suggested the RAC examine existing pregnancy verification curricula from states such as New Mexico and Wyoming to help shape training recommendations. Mr. Burns would reach out to other jurisdictions for other examples.
- **Mr. Inglis** emphasized that SB-1539 was intended to ensure experienced pregnancy checkers can continue practicing without unnecessary burdens, while maintaining reasonable training expectations.
- **Ms. Lulay** suggested establishing two separate training pathways—one for grandfathering experienced practitioners and another for new individuals entering the field.
- **Dr. Ferry and Dr. Colbern** reiterated that hands-on experience with livestock is essential and stressed that short or weekend-style courses are unlikely to provide sufficient practical exposure.
- **Dr. DeBess** proposed inviting an OSU instructor involved in the existing pregnancy verification training program to present details about a current three-day course, allowing the RAC to better identify what should be included in future training standards.
- Additional members noted ongoing challenges with veterinarian availability and competency needs in rural communities. They suggested mentorship and partnership models, as well as potential veterinarian-verified competency assessments, with any options requiring legal review.

Training Pathways and Future Work

The RAC reviewed models for grandfathering, mentorship, internships, and hands-on instructional programs, recognizing that any approach must be practical, enforceable, and aligned with statutory authority. Members agreed that experienced practitioners should be

recognized for existing competency and that a separate pathway for new practitioners will be essential.

Mr. Burns outlined next steps for the RAC:

- identifying acceptable training options;
- defining circumstances under which unlicensed pregnancy verification may occur;
- identifying necessary safeguards; and
- preparing questions requiring legal review.

Members were asked to avoid private discussions about RAC business to maintain compliance with public meetings law and ensure transparency.