

Quarterly

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Beyond the Fencerows

Farmers are Proud of Their Sustainability Narrative

By Zippy Duvall
President American Farm Bureau Federation



Sustainability is a hot topic around food production these days. Food companies frequently hijack the word for a marketing advantage, but it's far more than a buzzword for us. Sustainability drives our business decisions from one season to the next: a farmer or rancher who doesn't know the value of sustainability isn't likely to be in business very long. And yet, when food companies and

self-proclaimed food experts embrace the term, they too often leave the majority of farmers and ranchers out of the discussion and go after the very tools we're using to protect everyone's water, air and soil.

Our industry is all about innovation, and cutting-edge technologies have changed the landscape of America's farmland for the better. We have made great strides in protecting natural resources and reducing our environmental footprint, and it's time we brag on ourselves just a bit.

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The President's Desk

Safe Food is the Ultimate Goal

By Bryan Searle
President Idaho Farm Bureau Federation



"Humankind has not woven the web of life. We are but one thread within it. Whatever we do to the web, we do to ourselves. All things are bound together. All things connect."

The preceding words are believed to be part of speech delivered by Chief Seattle in 1887. Although the translation is questioned by historians and others, the words are nonetheless true. I believe in the notion that all things are

connected because I am a farmer and I have learned over the years that healthy, safe food comes from good land stewardship. Healthy, safe food comes from healthy soils and clean water. And the production of healthy, safe food is the number one goal of farmers and ranchers throughout this nation.

Just a few short years ago one of the most common sentiments relayed to me by other farmers and ranchers was people (consumers) just don't care enough about where their food comes from or the challenges and risks associated with producing that food.

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Inside Farm Bureau

Idaho's National Forests are a Ticking Time Bomb

By Rick Keller
CEO Idaho Farm Bureau Federation



Nearly 80 percent of Idaho's 21.4 million-acre forest land base—some 17.3 million acres—is federally owned. The Forest Service recently estimated that about 15 million of these acres needed restoration work of one kind or the other.

Research from the Evergreen Foundation, an Oregon based, non-profit forestry research or-

ganization whose mission is to advocate public understanding for science-based forestry and forest policy, shows that 3.7 million acres of Idaho's national forest lies within designated wilderness areas that are reserved from management, and nine million more acres lie within politically contentious roadless areas where no management is occurring. It's difficult to determine just how many national forests acres in Idaho are legislatively and administratively available for restoration. Evergreen estimates that a mere four million acres is available for

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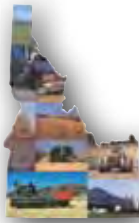
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Cover: Sculptor John Gilliam of Orofino is a cowboy turned artist who makes beautiful bronze sculptures in his studio on the Clearwater River.

Photo by Steve Ritter





"I am an American," sculpted by John Gilliam of Clearwater County, is on display at the Idaho State Veterans Home.
Photo by Steve Ritter

Clearwater Cowboy Making Mark in Art World

By Jake Putnam

Orofino - On the Clearwater River, he's known simply as John the Sculptor and his lifelike bronze statues are prized from McCall all the way to the Vatican.

Now 76, John Gilliam started out life as a full time building contractor and part time rodeo cowboy.

"I would have stayed with the cowboying," he said, "but I got too crippled up."

During a long winter he was healing up after a rodeo injury when an artist friend gave him a lump of clay just to keep his hands busy.

Soon Gilliam found out that he couldn't put the clay down. He spent days molding and remolding rodeo figurines and fully engaged in the new passion. The clay had a way of stopping the clock as he molded each new piece.

The lumps of clay turned into art, and a while later when he located a foundry to cast bronze figurines, a lifelong passion was born.

A few decades ago Gilliam moved to his studio on the Clearwater River where he works each day, sometimes nights with equal zeal on religious figurines and old West cowboys.

"It started as cabin fever," he says in a slow, thoughtful drawl. "And I guess I got so excited that I couldn't stop, so I kept going."

The modest cowboy confessed he never had time for a fancy art school.

"I don't have five minutes of art training, but it's just something I really enjoy doing," he said. Tools of the trade are laid out before him. He has a few large pieces in the studio that are slowly coming to life while miniature figurines are everywhere.

"These are just extra tools," he says, nodding at the work bench. "But 90 percent of the work done here is with my hands."



Aside from cowboy and western themes, artist John Gilliam has also created several religious-themed pieces including a life-sized bronze of Mother Teresa.

Photo by Steve Ritter

His work now on display at the Veterans Center in Lewiston is considered one of his best. It's a tribute to all who served and many visitors report that the life-like bronze stopped them in their tracks.

Gilliam named the bronze "I am an American." He commissioned it for \$80,000 back in 2005 and finished it 9 years ago. Vets visiting the center say the statue portraying a soldier holding a wounded child tugs at the heart-strings. The allure and emotional hook is that the soldier could be a paramedic, or any enlisted man with the overwhelming feeling that he's there to help, like all soldiers.

"When you see my veteran, well, I think there was a lot of detail in that work. The more I worked the more details emerged. It was like that with the life-size of Mother Teresa and the Logger in Orofino and that was put up in '94," said Gilliam.

John the Sculptor says just like life itself sculpting is about detail. The smallest detail he says can evoke deep emotions from the viewer.

"So many times, I'm at the foundries and I'll complain about something they're about to cast and they'll say, 'they won't know the difference, you're the only one

that knows it.' But, I do know it. I don't want to have something out of proportion. I think it's important for an artist to feel good about the detail, about what we do," said Gilliam.

His Mother Teresa sculpture has brought worldwide fame, viewers can feel her presence in the bronze, every distinctive line on her face and the humble, sorrowful eyes.

"The first one went to Loyola University, the second went to Saint Johns Cathedral in Boise and another to Scottsdale, Arizona. The last was supposed to go to Rome

See SCULPTOR p. 27

DUVALL

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Organic, conventional or otherwise, farmers work hard to make the best choices for their crops, animals and land. We are committed to protecting the water we drink and the air we breathe, and we have the numbers to prove it. Resources like Field to Market's Fieldprint Calculator track environmental impact and give meat to our sustainability narrative. The U.S. Farmers and Ranchers Alliance also is helping to show what sustainability looks like in agriculture through a series of infographics.

We are producing more with less. Take corn for example: The Field to Market Coalition survey shows production literally doubled from 1980 to 2011. Yet, soil erosion per bushel fell by a third, while irrigation water per bushel dropped by half over the same time period. Energy used for the average bushel dropped 44 percent, and greenhouse gas emissions were down 36 percent.

Thanks to precision technology, farmers are saving resources, time and money. We are using fewer pesticides than ever before and ap-

plying less water and nutrients to our crops. Smarter farm equipment with GPS helps us pinpoint exactly where and when we need to make applications. We can zero in on crop disease and pests, and target treatment so it's just the right amount. And we're adding more tools to the toolbox all the time. From drones to robotic harvesters, agricultural technology is becoming more efficient and streamlined to help farmers continue growing safe, affordable food for all.

We can be proud of the new practices and farming techniques we have adopted to protect the soil from erosion and reduce greenhouse gases. We need to take the time to explain terms that are second nature to us, like no-till, buffer strips, and integrated pest management. We shouldn't shy away from talking about why we choose GMO seeds. Instead, we should explain the environmental benefits of growing crops that require little to no pesticides, are resistant to drought, preserve the soil and require fewer trips across the field.

Farmers do this because it's good business—

and also because they are good people who want to do what's right. They know that the choices they make can make a big difference. Jesus tells us in Matthew 13, in the parable of the soils, that sustainability is important and the choices we make are crucial if we expect to reap a big harvest year after year. To "sustain" means to keep in existence, to maintain, to continue. We are in difficult times in agriculture right now, and we are asked to do more and more with less and less. We cannot sustain our farms and ranches without using best management practices and the best agricultural technologies in our tool box. Sustainability can seem like a complex concept, but Jesus made it simple when he said to plant in good ground, not by the wayside or among the thorns. He has blessed us with the talents to research and develop new ways to keep the good ground fertile and productive.

Farmers and ranchers have a great story to tell. We need to share the good news with consumers and explain how the choices we make are protecting what we all cherish—our environment and our farms.

KELLER

Continued from page 2

restoration, which seems a terrible injustice given all Idaho's forests mean to its citizens.

The cause of ecological collapse in Idaho's national forests is well known. Forests have grown too dense – a result of the public's historic intolerance for wildfires that kill everything in sight. But in short-circuiting fire's natural role, public policy has ushered in unanticipated ecological change, none less understood than the subsequent invasion of shade tolerant tree species, principally grand fir and white fir.

These more shade tolerant tree species are also more susceptible to insects, disease and the killing heat of wildfire than once dominant western white pine and larch. Removing them is bound to stir controversy because Americans are accustomed to their lush beauty. But they are the wrong trees in the wrong places.

Restoration activities take many forms: Replanting burned areas; thinning diseased trees; moving, repairing or decommissioning roads; adding woody debris to streams to increase fish habitat; using prescribed fire after thinning to eliminate excess woody debris; thinning forests that were replanted 25 or more years ago to prevent them from becoming too dense; or removing undesirable tree species and replacing them with trees best suited to Idaho's forest types.

This type of restoration requires collaboration between federal, state, county and private landowners. Congress has blessed collaboration, but the process is broken. These collaborators spend thousands of hours solving and resolving issues and conflict, only to have their work blown to smithereens by litigants who refuse to collaborate.

Requiring those who appeal or litigate proposed Forest Service restoration projects to post a "loser pays" bond would certainly

bring a swift end to nuisance lawsuits filed by lawyers who have come to view the Equal Access to Justice Act as their private piggy bank. The State of Idaho requires such bonding from those who challenge its forestry projects. Why not the federal government?

Arbitration is another workable solution. It will force litigants to present alternative management solutions to collaborative proposals. No longer could litigators hide behind conflicting federal regulations. The final management decision would be made by a federally appointed arbitration judge whose decision would be based on project goals and objectives.

Until more harvest is available, Idaho's national forests will continue to die and burn in larger and larger wildfires. Idaho's national forests need a meaningful restoration program many times larger than the current program.

U.S. Household Food Security Increases

By John Thompson

The number of U.S. households that were food insecure in 2015 declined by about two percent over the previous year, an amount deemed “statistically significant,” by the Department of Agriculture’s Economic Research Service (ERS).

According to a recent ERS report, 87.3 percent of American households were food secure through the entire year in 2015, meaning they had access to enough food every day for “an active, healthy life.” The remaining 12.7 percent were food insecure at least some time during the year, including five percent with very low food security. A food-insecure household is defined as one or more household members’ food intake was disrupted at times during the year because the household lacked money and other resources for food.

The report states that a typical food-secure household spends 27 percent more of its income on food than the typical food-insecure household. Nearly 60 percent of food-insecure households reported participating in one or more of the three largest federal food and nutrition assistance programs during the month prior to the survey. Those programs are funded through the Farm Bill and include the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), formerly food stamps, National School Lunch Program and the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC).

Numbers of Americans receiv-



The number of U.S. households that were food insecure during 2015 decreased from the previous year, according to a recent USDA study.

ing government food assistance increased dramatically in conjunction with housing and finance economic collapse beginning in late 2007. About seven million U.S. families lost their homes during the recession while 8.7 million jobs were lost. In result, the number of households receiving SNAP nearly doubled between 2007 and 2013. The percentage increased from 7.7 percent in 2007 to 13.5 percent in 2013 and backed off slightly in 2014.

The number of American people receiving SNAP has grown from 28 million in 2008 to 47.5 million in 2014.

In Idaho, the number of households using SNAP benefits grew from 6.2 percent in 2007 to 13.8 percent in 2012 and then dropped about one percentage

point in 2013. In individual numbers, there were about 188,000 Idaho residents receiving SNAP in 2010 and the number grew to about 237,000 in February of 2012 and then receded to 230,000 by April of 2013.

In an attempt to save money, several state legislatures passed laws requiring drug testing for welfare applicants but received mixed results. In 2011 Missouri passed a law requiring drug screening for welfare applicants. But after spending \$336,297 to drug screen 38,970 people, they only found 48 positive tests. Oklahoma had a similar result in 2012 when it spent \$385,872 to screen 3,342 applicants and found 297 drug-positive results. Other states passing similar legislation include Utah, Texas, Arizona,

Kansas, Mississippi and Tennessee.

According to the ERS report, the relationship between food insecure households and the use of federal food and nutrition programs is complex. About 59 percent of food-insecure households used one or more of the three available federal programs. SNAP provided assistance for 44.6 percent of the food-insecure households while children in 30.2 percent of those households received free or reduced-price school lunches and women or children in 9.7 percent of the food insecure households received WIC vouchers. To read the complete study on food security in the U.S. in 2015 go to the following web address: <http://www.ers.usda.gov/media/2137663/err215.pdf>



Shipping containers sit idle at the Port of Lewiston in May 2015. Containers used to move pulse crops and other commodities down river to Portland are no longer used due to labor union issues. *Photo by Steve Ritter*

Pulse Shippers Adapt to Loss of Container on Barge Option

By John Thompson

Growers and shippers in the Palouse Region have adapted to a new regimen, one year after losing the option to transport pulse crops in shipping containers by barge from Lewiston to Portland.

Acreage and production of dry peas, lentils and garbanzo beans (classified as pulse crops by USDA) in the Palouse Region remained consistent in 2016 as shipments switched from containers on barges moving down river from Lewiston to Portland, to containers on trucks moving through the Port of Seattle.

Dean Brocke, president of Brocke and Sons, a wholesaler of peas, lentils and garbanzo beans in Kendrick, said they explored every available shipping option and

arrived at containers on trucks as the best choice.

In spring and early summer of 2015 global shipping companies Hapag-Lloyd of Germany and Hanjin from South Korea, pulled out of the Port of Portland after a long-term work slowdown by union longshoremen. The Portland workers were moving less than half of the number of containers per day as longshoremen at other West Coast ports because of disagreements with the port operator, ICTSI Oregon.

“Inland is a more expensive way to ship, but for the most part I don’t think farmers have been effected significantly,” said Brocke. “It’s been a reasonably big deal for us because previously we had a really simple system in place, and now it requires more management.”

Dave Doeringsfeld, manager at the Port of Lewiston, said the Port of Portland won’t be viable as a container port until there is resolution of the issues between labor and management.

“There are 29 ports on the West Coast and after the contract issues were resolved (in 2014) 28 of those ports went back to work,” Doeringsfeld said. “In Portland they only moved 12 containers per hour after that and it should have been closer to 25 moves per hour.”

The Port of Lewiston, at 465 miles inland, is the furthest inland sea port on the West Coast but is obviously dependent on the business and dock productivity at the Port of Portland. Problems between labor and management at Portland coupled with questions about its distance inland (100

miles) and difficulties with newer, bigger ships ability to navigate the Columbia River raise serious concerns about the Port's future viability.

Small and mid-sized ports like Portland face challenges as global shippers have increased the size of ships to realize efficiencies. Portland's harbor handles ships in the 6,000 to 6,500 container capacity range. But that's only one-third the size of the largest vessels currently calling in U.S. ports.

In addition, an overcapacity to ship goods exists presently in the ocean shipping industry which has driven prices down and caused problems for many companies. Container rates on vessels are presently at an all-time low. And Hanjin, the Korean shipper, recently declared bankruptcy.

However, Doeringsfeld said with the amount of stranded investment for container on barge shipping and container service at the ports of Lewiston and Portland and along the Columbia River, he's optimistic that the labor / management problems will be solved in the long term.

With regard to accommodating bigger ships at Portland, he said shipping vessels are only efficient when they are loaded full and the makeup of the overall fleet still contains a lot of ships that carry 6,000 to

8,000 containers, as opposed to the newer, larger vessels.

Pulse crops grown in the Palouse Region are exported to about 45 countries. Barging those crops down the Columbia costs about one-third less than the cost of trucking and about one-fourth the cost of rail transportation.

According to estimates from the U.S. Dry Pea and Lentil Council, about 2,400 shipping containers of peas and lentils were previously moved by barge down the Columbia River.

Regarding the ongoing Port of Portland labor dispute, The Oregonian newspaper recently reported that longshore workers were paid \$1.2 million in salaries during 2015 as the cargo container traffic ground to a halt. Previously there was an average of 500 jobs per week at the Port of Portland's Terminal 6 where containers are handled. Now they hire for just 30 eight-hour shifts per month. "That means the longshore workers are doing one percent of the work they were doing before," according to the newspaper.

However, because of a Pay Guarantee Plan negotiated into their contract, union longshoremen are required to show up for work but they get paid whether there is work to do or not. Elvis Ganda, manager of the port

operator, ICTSI Oregon, said the contract terms don't provide much incentive for workers to actually go to work. Union advocates say the plan gives members financial certainty in a business that can ebb and flow over time.

Under the new contract negotiated in 2014, union longshoremen with a Class A designation, the highest class, receive \$35.68 per hour for 40 hours per week or \$1,427 per week regardless of available shifts. Class B workers receive \$999 per week regardless of available shifts. However, many longshore workers earn six-figure salaries if the port is busy. Wages under the Pay Guarantee plan pencil out to about \$70,000 per year.

The Pacific Maritime Association, which represents 29 West Coast container port operators, maintains the Pay Guarantee Fund and each terminal operator contributes based on the tons of cargo going in and out. That means terminal operators in other ports are heavily subsidizing the lack of work in Portland, according to The Oregonian.

In the Palouse Region, which includes portions of both Idaho and Washington, the number of acres planted to pulse crops over the past ten years have ranged from 371,000 to 408,000.



A field of one of many the pulse crops grown in the Palouse Region. Growers in the area produce several different varieties of peas, garbanzo beans or chickpeas, and lentils. Photo by Steve Ritter



The Weiser High School team won the 2016 competition. Team members are Kelsie Hemphill, Maggi Laan, Philip Soulen, Ali Reed, Grace Zimmerman and Trace Hawkins. Teachers are Stuart Nesbitt, Ag and Science teacher, and Megan Overgaard, science teacher.

Competition Tests Students' Natural Resource Knowledge

By Steve Stuebner

More than 80 students from 10 high schools in Southern Idaho rolled into the Living Waters Ranch in Challis for an intense, two-day natural resources education event called the Idaho Envirothon.

The Idaho Envirothon is a competitive event, held every April. The winning team gets an all-expense-paid trip to the North American Envirothon.

This year, the team from Weiser High

School captured the state crown.

"Awesome! Excited! I think we worked really well together as a team," said Ali Reed. "We've known each other for a while, so that made things easier. The teamwork helped us get through all the quizzes."

To prepare, high school teams study up on soils and land use, aquatic ecology, forestry, wildlife and a current issue -- this year, it was invasive species -- for months before they arrive.

It's an extracurricular activity. Much like participating in athletics, the kids have to carve out time outside of the normal school day to meet as a team and learn about the issues.

"Yeah, it's really hard to find time," said Philip Soulen.

Chris Banks, chairman of the Idaho Envirothon Committee, explains the purpose of the event.

"Envirothon, to me, is an opportunity for

kids to learn about issues facing our natural resources,” Banks says. “Learn about those topics to better prepare them for the future. The way we prepare them to be leaders of tomorrow, so if maybe they’re in public office, we don’t have the juggernaut that we have in Washington D.C.”

The Living Waters Ranch in Challis is a perfect location for the event.

“It offers the kids an opportunity to be in the water, the trees, we have a soils pit, and have bunks for the kids to sleep in. That’s nice,” said Karma Bragg, project manager for the Custer Soil and Water Conservation District in Challis, who serves on the Idaho Envirothon organizing committee.

When the students arrive at the Idaho Envirothon, they’d better know their stuff because everything happens really fast, and they’re forced to think on their feet, with very little time to think or prepare.

For example, on the first day of the competition, the student teams are whisked from one natural resources station to the next. They hear a 30-minute presentation from a natural resources expert in, say, wildlife, and then they have 15 minutes to take a test on the topic. Then the horn sounds, and they move on to the Aquatics station or the Forestry station, for a short presentation and test. Each test is worth 100 points, or 500 points total.

But that’s not all. After dinner on the first day, the kids are given a challenging hypothetical natural resource problem to solve. The pressure is on, because they have to give an oral presentation on their solution the next morning with poster-board visual aids. But it’s not easy ...

“Where do you start? That’s what we’re trying to figure out,” said a member of the Carey High School team.

“You guys got it all figured out?” I asked the Weiser High team.

See ENVIROTHON page 12



Invasive species was the wild card theme this year. Students learned about quagga and zebra mussels and other invasive species.



Philip Soulen tests water quality on a local stream with teacher Stuart Nesbitt.

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Sarah Baker, a U of I extension educator in Custer County, participated in the Envirothon as a teen, and says it set her up for success in college and in her natural resources career.

“Yeah, we’re changing the world,” one team member said, giggling. “We’re locking in a few details.”

The oral presentation is worth up to 100 points, but it’s the biggest challenge when it comes to critical thinking and problem-solving.

The natural resources problem this year focuses on the closure of invasive species check stations in a fictional county in southern Idaho because of budget cuts. The students have to figure out a way to keep the stations open with other funding sources and protect several popular lakes from getting contaminated with quagga mussels and other invasive species.

“We’re trying to figure out how we’re going to get the funding – that’s our biggest choke point

right now,” said a member of the Gooding High School team.

“What if someone shows up at a station with zebra snails mussels on their boat? Do you tell them to go home?” asks a member of the Weiser High team.

The following morning, a team from Jerome High School gives their first presentation on the invasive species problem.

“Our main focus is the quagga mussels,” the first presenter said for Jerome High. “Because they have no natural predators, they’re out of control. It’s super hard to keep all of the pipes clean (if they get contaminated with invasive mussels).”

The second presenter talks about controlling carp in the reservoirs, speaking next to a poster board. “To keep it from

spreading, we plan on putting on a carp derby tournament to reduce the carp population. The fish will be jumping out of the water and you can catch them in a net or shoot them with a bow,” the second presenter said.

After the presentation, we talked to the five-person Jerome High team to get their thoughts on how it went. Was it scary? “A little bit,” one of the girls says. “You get this nervous rush, and think, oh my gosh, and then you get into it, and hit this stride, and you have this sudden confidence boost, and you don’t feel those nerves anymore. And you take off and run!”

“It was challenging, but it was a very current issue right now, especially with the quagga mussels and all of the water issues, it fits right into that.

Quagga mussels is a super big issue right now.”

After lunch, the top five teams that scored well in their preliminary oral presentations get a second chance to hit it out of the park.

The Skyline High School team from Idaho Falls made the finals with a team of four boys and one girl. “Invasive species. We all kind of know what they are, but few people know what a threat they pose to the local economy and the environment,” said a girl who introduced the topic for her team.

All five of the team members are required to speak. They have 12 minutes maximum. Weiser High used an emcee approach with Grace Zimmerman tying things together, and four speakers covering a specific part of their plan. They drew colorful visual aids on the poster boards to assist the speakers with their specific part of the plan.

In the end, the Weiser High team prevailed. They had to score high on all the natural resource stations, and score well on the oral presentation.

“We’re not judging these kids on whether they give a right or wrong answer,” says Karma Bragg, project manager for the Custer Soil and Water Conservation District. “We’re looking at how well they address all the different disciplines, how they work as a team. It’s kind of like a science program and a speech and debate program all rolled into one.”

Said Weiser High teacher and advisor Stuart Nesbitt, “They

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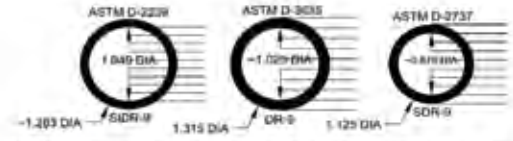
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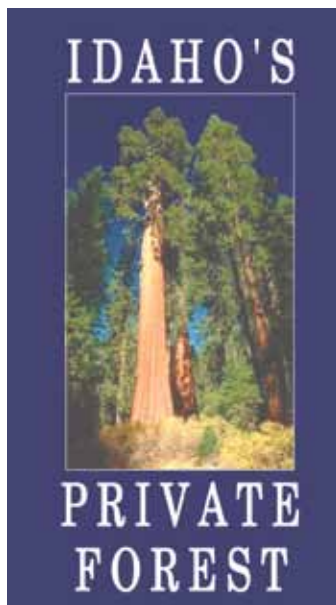


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How Much Wood is in My Tree?

By Randy Brooks

When describing the amount of wood in a tree, the term volume is used. Tree volume describes the quantity of wood in an individual tree, or a group of trees on an acre basis, or in a section of forest. Just as peppers are sold by the peck and milk by the gallon, wood is typically bought or sold by the volume. Volume is expressed in board feet, cubic feet, cubic meters, cords, or by weight, depending on the products derived from the trees.

When a tree is standing, the board foot gross volume is estimated using tree height and diameter. Tree diameters are measured at breast height (termed diameter at breast height, or DBH) which is 4.5 feet above ground on the uphill side of the tree. Tree diameters can be measured with a tree diameter tape (D-tape, Figure 2),

a tree caliper, a Biltmore stick, or a measuring tape. A D-tape, Biltmore stick, or tree calipers directly measure diameters in inches, and can be purchased through equipment supply companies. A measuring tape (that is flexible) can be used to measure tree circumference (at breast height) and then divided by 3.14 to determine diameter.

Tree height can be measured with a number of special instruments designed specifically for tree height measurements such as clinometers (most common), relascopes, hypsometers, or altimeters. These instruments are available through forestry equipment supply companies. Clinometers (Fig. 1) have two scales that can be easily read, a topographic scale and a percent scale. The topographic scale requires a fixed distance of 1 chain (66 feet). At this distance away from the tree, the number read on the clinometers equals tree height in feet. The percent scale allows tree height to be measured from any distance, and then the distance multiplied by the percent value on the scale to obtain



Using a clinometer to measure tree height. Note scale on the dial height.

These standing tree measurements estimate the tree volume. One can enter tree height and diameter measurements into a formula, or the easiest method is to compare height and diameter values on a table called log rules that estimates the tree volume. Since the first sawmill was built in the United States, over 100 log rules have been developed, using a variety of methods. Some were based on lumber tallies of individual mills, others were developed by diagramming the cross-section of boards in the ends



of logs, while still others were developed using mathematical formulas. In general, log rules must account for the taper that exists in all logs, saw kerf (or the loss of wood as sawdust), and a fixed procedure for removing wood on the outside of the logs for slabs. The Doyle, Scribner, and International log rules are the most widely used rules in the United States.

The rule used in Idaho is the Scribner Log Rule (see Table 1). The Scribner Log Rule, developed around 1846, is a good example of a diagram rule. It

Throughout the United States, lumber volume is expressed in board feet. A board foot measures 1 inch x 12 inches x 12 inches or 144 cubic inches. The formula for determining lumber volume in board feet is:

$$\text{Board Feet} = \frac{\text{Width (in inches)} \times \text{Thickness (in inches)} \times \text{Length (in feet)}}{12}$$

Table 1. Douglas-Fir - Scribner Board Foot Volume.

DBH	Total Tree Height (ft)							
	040	050	060	070	080	090	100	110
10	15	25	35	45	55	65	75	85
12	32	47	61	76	90	105	119	134
14	53	73	93	112	132	152	171	191
16	77	103	129	154	180	206	231	257
18	105	137	170	202	235	267	300	332
20	135	175	215	256	296	336	376	416
22	186	235	284	333	382	431	480	529
24	223	282	340	398	456	515	573	631
26	264	332	401	469	537	606	674	742
28	308	387	466	545	625	704	783	862
30	354	445	536	627	718	809	900	991

was created by drawing the cross-sections of 1-inch boards within circles representing the end view of logs. A space of 1/4 inch was left between the boards to account for saw kerf. The Scribner Rule does not have an allowance for log taper and typically underestimates logs, particularly if the log length is long. The Scribner Decimal C is a different form of the Scribner Rule; it rounds the volumes to the nearest 10 board feet. For example, 392 board feet on the Scribner is

equivalent to 390 board feet on the Scribner Decimal C scale

Once the diameter at breast height and total height of the tree has been measured, the volume tables can be used (they are species dependent) to determine gross volume. For example, you have a Douglas-Fir on your property that is 24 inches in diameter and 90 feet tall. Using Table 1, follow the left column under DBH until you find 24. Then go to the point where the 24 intersects

with the nearest height (90 ft in this case). At this point of intersection you find that there are 515 board feet (Scribner) in that particular tree. Volume tables exist for all commercial timber species.

When using volume tables, it is important to remember that only the portion of the tree that will produce a useable product should be measured. Those portions of the trunk or bole that are hollow, excessively crooked, rotten, etc., should not be measured, since boards cannot be cut from the unusable portion. You may hear foresters or log buyers talk about gross and net volume. Gross volume is the estimated tree volume without deduct for defects (i.e. the DBH and merchantable heights were measured ignoring defects when volumes were determined). Net volume is the estimated tree volume with proper deductions made for defects.

If you sell trees for something other than lumber, the common measure is typically in cords. A “standard cord” is a stack of wood measuring

4 feet by 8 feet by 8 feet and contains 128 cubic feet. Cords describe wood sold for pulp, firewood, or chips. A “face cord” or “rick” is a common measure for selling firewood and measures 4 feet by 8 feet, but the length of the sticks will vary, for example, from 12 to 18 inches. Weight is an easy measure if you have access to scales.

Your local Cooperative Extension office will likely have access to publications on how to measure an individual tree to estimate its volume. Your local Idaho Department of Lands Service Forester can help you get started on this process and will also have access to publications and volume tables. There are private consulting foresters with extensive experience who can give you volume estimates of your forest. Although you will pay for this service, you will have a reliable estimate not only of volume, but also of the market value, since foresters operate in the timber market all the time.

To download a self extracting file of a volume table generator from the U.S. Forest Service, see: <http://www.fs.fed.us/fmhc/measure/volume/table-generator/index.php>

For information and rules on Idaho’s Board of Scaling Practices, visit the following website: <http://www.ibsp.idaho.gov>

Randy Brooks is a University of Idaho Extension Forestry Specialist based on campus in Moscow. He can be reached at: rbrooks@uidaho.edu



A diameter tape converts tree circumference to diameter in inches. This tree is 21.5 inches in diameter.



Focus on Agriculture

Agricultural Policy in the 2016 Election

By Shiloh Perry

In the midst of debates and with Election Day quickly approaching, the importance of agricultural policy is even more pressing. In fact, everyone has a stake in American agriculture and protecting our farmers and ranchers' ability to produce. Agricultural policy issues hit home for all Americans, both on and off the farm.

Agricultural policy matters in the current election for many reasons. Agricultural policy influences key issues and impacts the overall prosperity of the United States.

Two leading issues on both the debate stage and the farm are international trade and immigration. Each year, approximately 36 percent of agricultural products are produced for international markets, with 95 percent of consumers outside our borders. International trade brings billions of dollars into the economy and helps create jobs.

Farm Bureau estimates that the Trans-Pacific Partnership will increase farm income and agriculture exports, with annual net farm income growing by \$4.4 billion and U.S. agriculture exports increasing by \$5.3 billion. The partnership will add a projected 40,000 jobs or more here at home.

Farmers and ranchers work hard to get their products from their farms to our grocery stores and dinner tables. Seasonal and temporary workers are vital to accomplishing this, especially during busy seasons like harvest. But every year, agriculture faces a serious labor shortage coupled with crippling delays in the H-2A worker visa program. In a 2014 study, Farm Bureau found that America will lose an estimated \$60 billion in agriculture production if we increase immigration enforcement without also increasing access to a reliable migrant workforce. A workable solution to immigration reform must ensure both reliable

agricultural labor and border security.

Everyone benefits from agriculture, and we protect our nation's food supply by protecting our farmers' ability to keep doing what they do best. Farmers and ranchers produce food, fiber and energy sources that are important for domestic prosperity. All Americans should take an interest in policies that help farmers and ranchers provide safe and affordable products while boosting their local economies.

Urban and rural voters can learn more about the importance of agricultural policy and where the candidates stand on these issues at Farm Bureau's special election blog, <http://election16.fb.org/>. They can also follow and use the hashtag, #vote4ag as they gear up for Election Day.

Shiloh Perry is a communications assistant at the American Farm Bureau Federation.

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IDAHO FFA FOUNDATION—2016 INC EXCELLENCE AWARD WINNER



The Idaho FFA Foundation, Inc., was recognized as one of six 2016 state Idaho Nonprofit Excellence Award Winners. At the award presentation during the recent Idaho Nonprofit Conference were, from left: Amy Little, Executive Director, Idaho Nonprofit Center; Laura Wilder, Executive Director, Idaho FFA Foundation; Stephen Parrott of Northwest Farm Credit Services, Idaho FFA Foundation Board Chairman; and Doug Colwell, HD Insurance, award sponsor.

according to Laura Wilder, Idaho FFA Foundation Executive Director. "The torch of leadership that FFA lights in young people burns for a lifetime. Many of our current leaders in education, business, agriculture and government got their start in FFA."

With the world population expected to near 10 billion by the year 2050, every facet of agriculture must grow to meet the increasing demands for the world's food supply. FFA members are students who love agriculture and are passionate about leading the next generation in creating solutions for the future.

The Idaho FFA Foundation, Inc., a statewide organization based in Meridian, is honored to be the Idaho Nonprofit Center's Southwest Idaho Small Nonprofit Excellence Award Winner for 2016. The Idaho FFA Foundation promotes premier leadership, personal growth and career success of Idaho FFA members and agricultural education students by providing strategic financial resources for the Idaho FFA Association.

Idaho FFA is an organization that is preparing youth for leadership and careers in the science, business and technology of agriculture. FFA has been an integral part of agriculture education programs in Idaho high schools since 1929, currently with over 12,000 Idaho agricultural science and technology students, 92 active chartered Idaho FFA chapters around the state, and over 4,400 Idaho FFA members.

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"We are grateful for many generous partners and friends of Idaho FFA," stated Stephen Parrott, Idaho FFA Foundation Board Chairman. "With their help, the Foundation provides major funding to the Idaho State FFA Leadership Conference, support to state Career Development Events and teams traveling to nationals, as well as other leadership development activities of the Idaho FFA Association. The Foundation also provided \$42,750 in college and Washington Leadership Conference Scholarships for Idaho FFA members in 2016." To learn more, or make a gift supporting Idaho FFA, please visit www.idffaoundation.org.

The Idaho Nonprofit Center (INC) represents the interests of Idaho's over 5,500 registered charitable nonprofit organizations and hosts the Idaho Nonprofit Excellence Awards. 140 nonprofits were nominated for recognition in 2016.

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ANSWERS ON PAGE 29



A Taste of Idaho: A Breakfast Casserole That Hits the Spot

By John Thompson

I've long been a fan of the breakfast casserole because it helps break up the monotony of the morning meal and can be made ahead of time. This one travels well if you're headed to hunting camp or on some other camping excursion and it's versatile enough to be served in place of any meal.

The breakfast casserole I'm most familiar with is the Hungry Man Breakfast, which was featured on this page a few years back. Its basic ingredients are a dozen eggs, a loaf of bread and a pound of sausage. It will feed about a dozen hungry fishermen or hunters and is always a crowd-pleaser. Plus you can add a lot of flavor-enhancing vegetables like mushrooms, peppers and

onions. But I've grown tired of it. This new recipe caught my eye because the stars of the show are eggs, cheese and spinach, rather than the bread.

I found the recipe on a snobby food website, so the ingredient list is made up of free-range eggs, gluten-free bread, almond milk and organic sausage – none of the preceding of which I used. It also called for baking in a Le Creuset Dutch Oven. I don't have one of those because they cost about \$350. I'm sure they work great but this recipe cooked up nicely in my old Lodge Dutch Oven. A gift from my grandfather, it's probably 50-years old. It has a nice smooth bottom from years of use and the wire handle is all bent up because he used to clean it by putting it upside down in a campfire.

He handled it with a shovel most of the time and I think that's what bent the wire handle. It also has two washers attached to the lid with his initials stamped into them. He was blind or partially blind for most of his life after a mining accident and the washers helped him identify which Dutch was his. Grandpa has been dead for several years now but the identifying marks make it a family heirloom and it brings back a lot of great memories.

He always cooked deep-fried pheasant after the opening morning hunt. I have two uncles and lots of cousins so we would all clean the birds while Grandpa built a campfire. He would dig a hole next to the fire, transfer coals into the hole and then set the Dutch oven in the hole until the



oil heated up. After that he would drop the battered pheasant legs and breast pieces into the hot oil and pull them out when golden brown. It was a delicious meal that brings back great memories. But let's get back to our casserole.

Here are the steps. Ingredient list is at the end. I stuck close to the recommended portions of each ingredient except I added two additional eggs because it didn't look wet enough with everything combined.

First, set a Dutch oven over medium heat, add olive oil and brown one pound of sausage. When sausage is browned add onion, spinach, mushrooms and bell peppers. A seeded, chopped jalapeno is optional. When the vegetables are soft spoon everything out of the Dutch and into a bowl. Then add a small amount of olive oil to the pot, break bread into small pieces and put in an even layer on the bottom of the Dutch. In another bowl, whisk the eggs, milk and half of the cheese together and pour half of the mixture over the bread. Add the sausage and vegetables then pour the remaining wet mixture over the top, salt and pepper, and then cover with a generous layer of cheese.

The recipe, at this point, recommends covering the casserole with foil and refrigerating for two to 24 hours. I didn't follow this part of the recipe – mine went straight into a 375 degree oven, uncovered for 50 minutes, at which point the cheese on top melted, browned slightly and transformed into one of the most inviting looking meals lifted out of my oven in some time. Its taste won't disappoint either.

Ingredients:

One pound of breakfast sausage

2 bell peppers – any color

1 cup of sliced mushrooms

1 cup of fresh spinach

½ medium yellow onion diced

1 teaspoon minced garlic

4 slices of bread

10 large eggs

½ cup milk

1 cup shredded cheese

SEARLE

Continued from page 2

But now, times have changed. Although we still have many disconnected consumers who don't read food labels and don't much care if their food comes from a country where food safety standards are few to none, we also have a growing segment of consumers who do care.

These consumers read labels and look for country of origin information on the food they buy. As this segment of American society has grown, interest in the politics of food has swelled. I'm glad that more people are taking an interest in the origins and safety of the food they buy. Eating food is one of the most intimate things we do. For that reason, people should question the origin and production standards of the food they buy and we as farmers should welcome those questions. We should relish the opportunity to talk with consumers and to help them understand that healthy crops and livestock don't rise up from unhealthy conditions.

However, there are people out there who take issue with many of the practices common in modern agriculture. Some of them seek to profit from spreading misinformation about agriculture. You may be familiar with names like Michael Pollan, Morgan Spurlock, Joel Salatin or Vani Hari, a.k.a. the Food Babe. All of these people, and many more like them, are vocal critics of agriculture technology, federal farm programs and many other aspects of food production.

Consumers fueled by this steady stream of misinformation, sometimes react irrationally. I'll share a personal story that happened on our farm in Bingham County recently. After soil sampling last spring, one of our potato fields showed a potassium deficiency. Without enough potassium in the soil we could not expect to raise quality potatoes. Potassium is not harmful or dangerous in any way, in fact, it's essential for human health.

It's an electrolyte that sustains many essential functions within the human body, including keeping our hearts beating at a normal rhythm.

It's also essential in the production of our food. So, getting back to the soil problem in our field, we hired a pilot to apply about fifty pounds of potash per acre. An acre is about the same size as a football field.

A short time later I received two complaints from neighbors who live near the potato field. One said their raspberry patch turned yellow and the other said a house plant died. I don't question whether the raspberries turned yellow or the house plant died, but I know for certain that neither could happen from a small dose of fertilizer. This is a good example of fear fueled by misinformation. The neighbors saw an airplane applying something to a field and assumed it was a toxic substance, when in fact it's a completely safe product that we rely on in numerous ways.

We farmers and ranchers make up less than 2 percent of the U.S. population so we have our work cut out for us when it comes to countering the misinformation about our industry. But in spite of that, we've been able to successfully maintain a good reputation among consumers. The commodities we raise here in Idaho, potatoes, onions, chickpeas, lentils, beef, lamb, milk and many others, are valued and recognized as safe and wholesome by consumers from all over the world.

We must continue to take advantage of every opportunity to speak in schools, to civic groups and with consumers to help them understand the simple fact that proper stewardship of the land is what keeps us in business. Healthy crops and livestock depend on good stewardship of the land. As Chief Seattle said, all things connect.



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SCULPTOR

Continued from page 5

but ended up at Saint Patricks Cathedral in New York, City.” He says the one at Saint Patricks could one day end up at the intended destination, the Vatican.

The Mother Teresa bronze might be his most renowned piece to date. Gilliam says he worked hard on the details and adds that the beauty of working in bronze is that he can mold it, work it to perfection, something he could never do in granite.

“I just couldn’t get the eyes right, I tried and tried and tried,” he said. “After a few days I gave up late one night and was frustrated. I slept on it then woke up feeling pretty good. When I went to the studio that morning to look at it the eyes, they were perfect. Was it divine intervention? I don’t know.”

John the Sculptor says he’s just getting started.

“You can see that in all the stages of my work, there’s change. I think people will see a lot of change in this piece I’m working on now and I’ve improved,” said Gilliam.

His next project is taking shape on the sprawling studio floor. A larger than life cowboy torso is slowly emerging while the creator moves at his own pace.

“This could take anywhere from three months to 20 years,” he says. Expressions, buttons on a shirt, a lasso, even cowboy boots will emerge from clay and plaster with each detail painstakingly molded or carved to perfection.

But Gilliam says perfection, creativity and the marketplace seldom intersect.

“If I could sell him when he’s done on a sidewalk in Scottsdale, I could get at least

\$75,000,” he said. “I know other artists that if they did the same piece at the same cost with the same detail, they’d get \$150,000 for the same bronze. They’ll get that just because their name is someone else.”

Gilliam says he hopes this next bronze finds a good home.

“Maybe a cowboy atmosphere, a feedlot maybe, somewhere where real cowboys can see it, not just dudes in Scottsdale because it’s important for me to just get it right. If a good cowboy looked at it and said, ‘now there’s a cowboy,’ well that would make me feel good,” said Gilliam.

But fame and fortune is not all that important to the cowboy sculptor. Gilliam says so far he’s fallen short on both counts.

“I’m not famous, not for this anyway,” he chuckles, “and I don’t really care.”

Notice of Annual Meeting of Farm Bureau Mutual Insurance Co. of Idaho

To all policyholders: The 2016 annual meeting for policyholders of Farm Bureau Mutual Insurance Co. of Idaho will be held on Friday, Feb. 3, 2017, at 10 a.m. at the company’s home office at 275 Tierra Vista Drive in Pocatello, Idaho. You are invited to attend.

Rick D. Keller
Secretary

Notice of Stockholders Meetings

The following annual stockholders meetings will take place Friday, Feb. 3, 2017, at the Idaho Farm Bureau home office, 275 Tierra Vista Drive in Pocatello, Idaho.

The board of directors for each company will be elected at these meetings:

10:45 a.m. - Farm Bureau Marketing Association of Idaho
11 a.m. - FB Development Corporation of Idaho

Rick D. Keller
Executive Vice President, CEO

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TRADE AND ECONOMICS

Where Does Your Food Dollar Go?

Transporting, processing and packaging farm grown foods so they're ready to be enjoyed on our tables costs significantly more today compared with the recent past. The farmer's share of the retail food dollar is as low as 2 percent to 3 percent for bread and cereal, and as much as 45 percent for some meat, milk and egg products.

Farmers and Ranchers receive only 16 cents on average out of every retail dollar spent on food that is eaten at home and away from home. In 1980, farmers received 31 cents out of every retail dollar spent on food in America.



Off-Farm costs (marketing expenses associated with processing, wholesaling, distributing and retailing of food products) account for 84 cents of every retail dollar spent on food.

Retail Food Dollar



PHOTO FROM
WLC FOOD
CHECK-OUT
WEEK

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Sources: AFBF, USDA-ERS (Food Dollar Series)
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2016-2017 Season



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WORD SEARCH

ANSWERS from page 23

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IDAHO FARM BUREAU

Idaho Farm Bureau Federation

Agriculture - The Pathway To A Bright Future

77th Annual Meeting Agenda

Riverside Hotel, Boise, Idaho • November 29 – Dec. 1, 2016

Tuesday, November 29

- 9:00 am - **REGISTRATION DESK OPENS**
Convention Lobby
- 4:00 pm
- 11:00 am **GENERAL SESSION LUNCHEON**
Laurel/Ponderosa/Tamarack
- 1:00 pm **FARM BUREAU'S LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE AND WORKSHOPS**
Legislative Issues - IFBF Governmental Affairs
Cinnabar
Employer/Employee Relationships – Mike Garner
Emerald
Beef Checkoff – Katlin Davis, Id. Beef Council (Sarah Baker, Jerry Tingey)
North Star
- 2:00 p.m. **REFRESHMENT BREAK**
Convention Lobby
- 2:15 p.m. **FARM BUREAU'S LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE AND WORKSHOPS (continued)**
Market Outlook - Clark Johnston, J.C. Management
Cinnabar
Solar Energy – Trever Gerdes, Big Dog Solar
Emerald
Water Panel – Brian Patton, DWR; Norm Semanko, Id. Water Users
North Star
- 3:00 pm **DISCUSSION MEET PARTICIPANTS AND JUDGES**
Clearwater
- 3:15 pm **DISCUSSION MEET SEMI-FINALS**
Liberty/Clearwater/Delamar
- 5:00 pm **CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE MEETING**
Emerald
- 5:15 pm **SCREENING COMMITTEE MEETING**
Garnet
- 5:15 pm **YOUNG FARMERS AND RANCHERS CAUCUS**
North Star
- 5:30 pm **DISCUSSION MEET JUDGES**
Riverside Board Room
- 6:00 pm **DISCUSSION MEET FINALS**
Laurel/Juniper
- 7:00 pm **YF&R AWARDS BANQUET**
YF&R Awards
(Farm Safety Minute, Live auction will follow)
Ponderosa/Tamarack



Convention Workshop – Can You Carry?

True Pearce, a Farm Bureau member, is an accomplished shooter and hunter who has competed in NRA High Power, Long Range F Class (1000 yards), Sniper/Tactical, rimfire, shotgun, USPSA, and IDPA Pistol. However, 3 gun is his passion. True has won numerous 3 gun matches and championships and is always a top contender. His 3 gun sponsors include Cabela's, Leupold Optics and Seekins Precision. True is an outdoorsman who loves hunting and spends every spare moment on his horses hunting and scouting in the mountains. True is also a firearms instructor who teaches law enforcement, military and civilians. As an attorney, he practices and teaches firearms and self-defense law and is recognized across the nation as a concealed weapons legal expert.

Come join True during the Idaho Farm Bureau Annual Meeting for a fun, entertaining, and informative discussion on important aspects of gun ownership including legal updates, tips for training, thoughts on choosing the right gun, and being prepared to defend yourself. Questions will be welcomed.





IDAHO FARM BUREAU

77th Annual Meeting Agenda

Wednesday, November 30

- 7:00 am **RISE 'N SHINE BREAKFAST**
Affiliated Company Reports
Insurance, Paul Roberts
Marketing, Dennis Brower
Ponderosa/Tamarack

- 8:00 am -
10:00 am **REGISTRATION DESK OPENS**
Convention Lobby
- 8:00 am –
8:45 am **GENERAL TRAINING** – Johnna Miller, AFBF
Ponderosa/Tamarack
- 9:00 am -
11:30 pm **HOUSE OF DELEGATES SESSIONS BEGINS**
Laurel/Juniper
- 9:00 -
10:00 am **DISTRICT WOMEN'S CAUCUSES**
District I Emerald
District II Garnet
District III Clearwater
District IV Delamar
District V Topaz

- 10:00 am **REFRESHMENT BREAK**
Convention Lobby
- 9:30 am
11:30 pm **WOMEN'S COMMITTEE BUSINESS MEETING**
North Star
- 11:30 pm **AWARDS LUNCHEON**
Gold Star/Women's Awards (Farm Safety Minute)
Ponderosa/Tamarack

- 2:00 pm **HOUSE OF DELEGATES CONTINUES**
Laurel/Juniper
- 2:00 pm **"Can You Pack" Workshop – True Pearce**
North Star
- 3:15 pm **REFRESHMENT BREAK**
Convention Lobby
- 4:30 pm **DISTRICT CAUCUSES**
District I Emerald
District II Garnet
District III Clearwater
District IV Delamar
District V Topaz

- 7:00 pm **FARM BUREAU'S ANNUAL BANQUET**
President's Cup Award
Entertainment: Peterson Brothers
Ponderosa/Tamarack



Water Panel Participant Brian Patton

Brian is a Licensed Professional Engineer and has been with the Idaho Department of Water Resources since 1995 in various positions of increasing responsibility. He currently serves as the Executive Officer for the Idaho Water Resource Board and the Planning & Projects Bureau Chief for the Department. In this role, he has direct responsibility for all programs, projects and actions carried out by the Water Resource Board, including efforts to resolve the water supply and demand imbalance from the Eastern Snake Plain Aquifer, efforts to increase Idaho's water storage capacity, operation of the various state water projects, management of the Board's financial activities, and the revision of the State Water Plan. He acted as the project manager for several major projects undertaken by the Board, including its Dworshak Hydropower Project and managed recharge of the Eastern Snake Plain Aquifer.

Brian graduated from the University of Idaho with a degree in Civil Engineering.



IDAHO FARM BUREAU

77th Annual Meeting Agenda

Thursday, December 1

- 7:00 am **COUNTY PRESIDENTS BREAKFAST**
(County Presidents/State Board and Spouses Only)
Cinnabar
- 8:00 am **ELECTION of DIRECTORS**
Laurel/Juniper
- 8:20 am **HOUSE OF DELEGATES CONTINUE**
Laurel/Juniper
- 10:15 am **REFRESHMENT BREAK**
Convention Lobby
- 12:00 noon **ADJOURN HOUSE OF DELEGATES**
Laurel/Juniper
- 12:30 pm **STATE BOARD OF DIRECTORS LUNCHEON**
Delamar
- 12:30 pm **STATE BOARD SPOUSES LUNCHEON**
Emerald
- 1:30 pm **STATE BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING**
Cinnabar



Convention Workshop – Big Dog Solar

Trever Gerdes is responsible for leading the company in global sales and new project acquisition. Since joining Big Dog Solar in 2003, Mr. Gerdes has been directly involved in building and expanding the commercial solar industry, for the company, including the expansion into other countries. Together with teams from Big Dog Solar offices from around the world, Mr. Gerdes works directly with clients and the design and installation teams to ensure the systems meet the clients’ needs and budget. Mr. Gerdes is able to maintain the efficiency of costs, as well as provide the highest level of customer service before, during and after the installation is complete. Mr. Gerdes also works to ensure clients receive the highest quality equipment at the most competitive price.



Water Panel Participant Norm Semanko

Norm Semanko is Executive Director & General Counsel of the Idaho Water Users Association and is also an attorney of counsel with Moffatt Thomas in Boise, where he represents numerous individuals and citizen groups in water rights adjudications. Norm previously served on the Western States Water Council and is past President of the National Water Resources Association. He also serves on the Advisory Committee for the Family Farm Alliance. Norm was previously a Legislative Assistant in the U.S. House of Representatives and U.S. Senate, handling water and natural resource issues, and is a past City Council President in Eagle, Idaho. He also spent four years as Chairman of the Idaho Republican Party and served as General Counsel for the Republican National Committee. Norm is a graduate of Georgetown University Law Center and earned a political science degree from the University of Idaho. He grew up in North Idaho and graduated from Lakeland High School.



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Sources: www.naic.org, www.nsc.org, www.consumerreports.org

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ENVIROTHON

Continued from page 12

have worked hard all year on everything they do. That's just who they are. They're all good students."

Norman Wright, chairman of the Idaho Soil and Water Conservation Commission, was impressed with the students' performances. "This is the fourth year that I've judged the competition, and every year, the bar seems to get moved higher and higher," Wright says. "It's amazing how quickly they can put together a presentation that they're given to cold turkey. And all of a sudden, they come up with something wonderful. You see this and you just marvel, wow, American society might have a chance with these bright, great minds that we're producing. Hey, there might be hope for us after all!"

Ultimately, the goal of the Idaho Envirothon is to pique student interest in natural resources in hopes that they might pursue it further in college or even as a profession.

Two women who judged this year's Envirothon actually participated in the event as high school students some years ago.

Rosana Reith grew up in the Challis area and competed as a member of the Challis High School team. Now she works for the Natural Resources Conservation Service as a range management specialist.

"One of the great things about Envirothon is it really allows you to develop the power of thought by engaging in critical thinking," Reith says. "You have to really think about how ecology and natural resource management fits into soils and

wildlife and aquatics and forestry and whatever that current issue is for that particular year, and meld all of that together.

"Looking back now, all of those things I deal with on a daily basis," she continued. "As a rangeland management specialist, I need to know about soils and forestry and water quality and wildlife. All of those things mesh together. So I definitely feel that Envirothon and everything we learned then set the ground work for what I do today."

Sarah Baker, a University of Idaho Extension Educator in Custer County, says that her experience in Envirothon set her up for success in college and in her career.

"The skill sets we learned in Envirothon were huge," Baker says. "I went to CSI and finished at the University of Idaho. In my freshman soils class, I was the smartest one in there because I'd already learned that stuff in Envirothon. After moving up to the University of Idaho, and graduating, I still use those skill sets that we learned. Not just the technical stuff, but the wildlife, the aquatics, whatever, but the problem-solving skills, communicating with others, standing in front of people and giving presentations, all of those skills I learned in Envirothon have helped me immensely in college and in my career now."

For more information on how to put together a team for the Idaho Envirothon, go to the web site (<http://idahoenvirothon.weebly.com>) to gather background materials and get signed up. You also will need

to work with your local soil and water conservation district to get sponsored in the competition. There's a district in every county of Idaho. Refer to a soil conservation district map at this web site (<https://scc.idaho.gov/what-we-do/district-support>) to contact the right district.

In two years, there will be an extra incentive to participate because the North American Envirothon will be held in Pocatello.

"The International Envirothon that's going to come to Idaho in 2018. It's a great honor and we're glad to do it," said Bragg. "We hope that'll give more schools an incentive to field a team. One of the things we're trying to do is grow and get more teams and

schools involved. And that really falls back on the soil and water conservation districts to accomplish that."

For more information about the Idaho Envirothon, contact Karma Bragg at the Custer Soil & Water Conservation District, 208-879-4428, or Chris Banks, owner of Conservation Basics LLC, in Chesterfield, Idaho, 208-221-5681.

Steve Stuebner writes about conservation and environmental education on a regular basis for the Idaho Soil and Water Conservation Commission. He is the writer and producer of Life on the Range, an education project, sponsored by the Idaho Rangeland Resource Commission.

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Farm Organizations Challenge Dannon and Other Food Companies

WASHINGTON, D.C., – Leaders of the nation’s top farming organizations joined together recently in urging food companies to recognize that their sustainability goals, intended to reduce the use of natural resources, cannot be achieved without the use of modern agricultural practices, despite any misleading assertions to the contrary.

This focus on deceptive food company marketing claims is in response to Dannon’s recent pledge to eliminate the use of safe and proven crop technology to feed the dairy cows that supply milk for its yogurt products. Dannon is one of several prominent food manufacturers and retailers that in recent years has taken steps to eliminate genetically-modified ingredients from its supply, claiming that such a move improves the sustainability of its products.

In a letter sent today to Mariano Lozano, head of Dannon’s U.S. operations, the farm groups said that the company’s strategy to eliminate GMOs “is the exact opposite of the sustainable agriculture that you claim to be seeking. Your pledge would force farmers to abandon safe, sustainable farming practices that have enhanced farm productivity over the last 20 years while greatly reducing the carbon footprint of American agriculture.”

“This is just marketing puffery, not any true innovation that improves the actual product offered to consumers,” said Randy Mooney, chairman of the National Milk Producers Federation, and a dairy farmer from Rogersville, Missouri. “What’s worse is that removing GMOs from the equation is harmful to the environment – the opposite of what these companies claim to be attempting to achieve.”

The letter was cosigned by the farmer leaders of the American Farm Bureau Federation, American Soybean Association, American Sugarbeet Growers Association,

National Corn Growers Association, National Milk Producers Federation and U.S. Farmers and Ranchers Alliance. Collectively, the six organizations represent hundreds of thousands of farmers and food producers across the U.S.

The groups agree that biotechnology plays an important role in reducing the environmental footprint of agriculture, and challenged as disingenuous the assertion that sustainability is enhanced by stopping the use of GMO processes.

During the last 20 years, advancements in agricultural technology have allowed farmers to use less pesticides and herbicides, fossil fuels, and water, and prevent the loss of soil to erosion. Taking away this technology is akin to turning back the clock and using outdated 20th century technology to run a business.

“Farming organizations are standing up for the technology that supports continuous improvement in farm sustainability. Farmers and ranchers have grown GMO crops over the past 20 years precisely because biotechnology helps farmers preserve resources for the future,” said Nancy Kavanjian, chairwoman of U.S. Farmers and Ranchers Alliance (USFRA), and a corn, soybean and wheat farmer in Beaver Dam, Wisconsin. “When food companies are making sourcing decisions, farm groups encourage them to recognize that modern, conventional agriculture is sustainable.”

Numerous, conclusive studies have come out over the last 20 years proving the safety of GMO food and the environmental benefits of growing GM crops. Most recently, 109 Nobel laureates announced their support of GMO technology, citing a study from the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering and Medicine saying, “the study committee found no substantiated evidence of a difference in risks to human health between current commercial-

ly available genetically engineered (GE) crops and conventionally bred crops, nor did it find conclusive cause-and-effect evidence of environmental problems from the GE crops.”

“Despite overwhelming evidence supporting the safety GMO crops and their benefits to the environment, marketers of some major food brands, such as Dannon, have aligned themselves against biotechnology,” said Wesley Spurlock, President of the National Corn Growers Association. “Farming organizations believe in open and honest communication with consumers, and allowing people to make informed choices in the market. But we cannot sit by while certain food companies spread misinformation under the guise of a marketing campaign.”

U.S. Farmers & Ranchers Alliance CEO Randy Krotz also adds, “When food companies directly mislead consumers, as has been done in this example with Dannon, individual farmers as well as farm organizations will continue to assertively defend our critical technologies.”

For more information on sustainability in agriculture visit www.fooddialogues.com.

About the American Farm Bureau Federation

With family members at the county or parish level in all 50 states and Puerto Rico, the American Farm Bureau Federation is the unified national “Voice of Agriculture,” working to enhance and strengthen the lives of rural Americans to build strong, prosperous agricultural communities. AFBF is the nation’s largest and most influential grassroots organization of farm and ranch families. Follow AFBF on Twitter (@FarmBureau (<https://twitter.com/FarmBureau>)) and Facebook <http://facebook.com/AmericanFarmBureau>.

Top 10 Teams Named in Rural Entrepreneurship Challenge

WASHINGTON, D.C., - The American Farm Bureau Federation recently announced the top 10 teams - four finalists and six semi-finalists - in the 2017 Farm Bureau Rural Entrepreneurship Challenge. The challenge, now in its third year, provides opportunities for individuals to showcase business innovations being developed in rural communities throughout the U.S. It is the first national business competition focused exclusively on rural entrepreneurs working on food and agriculture businesses.

AFBF President Zippy Duvall made the announcement at the organization's October board of directors meeting, noting that four of the top 10 teams are ag technology entries.

"Entrepreneurship is alive and well in rural America," Duvall said. "It's a pleasure to recognize these 10 outstanding businesses. The FB Challenge addresses some of the unique obstacles entrepreneurs typically face, namely, limited options for support such as startup funding."

The final four teams, chosen from 356 applicants, were each awarded \$15,000 and will advance to the next phase of the challenge. The final four are:

Grow Bioplastics LLC, Knoxville, Tennessee--ag tech entry. Renewable, biodegradable products that eliminate oil-based plastics for farmers, greenhouse and nursery managers, and home gardeners. Team lead: Tony Bova.

Levrack LLC, Seward, Nebraska--support services entry. An efficient and orderly solution to reduce clutter in farm shops. Team lead: Ryan Stauffer.

Vertical Harvest Hydroponics, Anchorage, Alaska--farm/ranch entry. Turnkey, hydroponic vegetable production facilities inside 40-foot-long insulated ship-

ping containers. Team lead: Linda Janes.

Windcall Manufacturing Inc., Venango, Nebraska--ag tech entry. Grain Goat, a battery powered, hand-held combine for sampling moisture content of grain. Team lead: Martin Bremmer.

Semi-finalists in the competition were awarded \$10,000 each, thanks to the generous sponsorship of Farm Credit (<http://www.fccouncil.com/>). They are:

Demeter Inc., Irwin, Ohio--ag tech entry. Low-cost precision agriculture software and sensor systems derived from rugged, field-tested military technologies. Team lead: Dr. Terry Hofecker.

Farmzie, Raleigh, North Carolina--support services entry. Marketing tools, payment processing and reporting systems to help small farmers access local markets. Team lead: Griffie Youngleson.

Gardens 4 Education, Hanford, California--marketing program entry. Tomato garden kits for schools as a healthy alternative to cookie and candy fundraisers. Team lead: Jeannie Williams.

Inland Sea Company LLC, Ames, Iowa--farm/ranch entry. Sustainable salmon production system that features consistent weekly harvest and takes advantage of economies of scale. Team lead: Jackson Kimle.

Lowcountry Street Grocery, Charleston, South Carolina--direct markets entry. Community-supported mobile farmers' market that delivers local, farm-fresh, healthy food and provides nutrition education. Team lead: Lindsey Barrow Jr.

Performance Livestock Analytics Inc., Osage, Iowa--ag tech entry. Data-driven, real-time farm management and analytics systems for precision livestock operations. Team lead: Dustin Balsley.

The final four will pitch their business

ideas to a team of judges in front of a live audience at AFBF's 98th Annual Convention & IDEAg Trade Show in Phoenix on Jan. 8, 2017. They'll compete for the Rural Entrepreneur of the Year Award and an additional \$15,000 in prize money, courtesy of sponsor Farm Bureau Bank (<https://www.farmbureaubank.com/>). After the live-streamed event, members of the public will be invited to vote online for the People's Choice Award and an additional \$10,000.

"Entrepreneurship is alive and well in rural America. The FB Challenge addresses some of the unique obstacles entrepreneurs typically face, namely, limited options for support such as startup funding."

The top 10 challenge teams were selected by 15 judges with expertise in business development, agribusiness lending and entrepreneurial coaching. About the American Farm Bureau Federation

With family members at the county or parish level in all 50 states and Puerto Rico, the American Farm Bureau Federation is the unified national "Voice of Agriculture," working to enhance and strengthen the lives of rural Americans to build strong, prosperous agricultural communities. AFBF is the nation's largest and most influential grassroots organization of farm and ranch families. Follow AFBF on Twitter (@FarmBureau (<https://twitter.com/FarmBureau>)) and Facebook (<http://facebook.com/AmericanFarmBureau>). The challenge timeline, detailed eligibility guidelines and profiles are available online at <http://www.strongruralamerica.com/challenge>.

Egg, Dairy and Chicken Prices Down, Beef Too

WASHINGTON, D.C., September 26, 2016 – Lower retail prices for several foods, including eggs, whole milk, cheddar cheese, chicken breast, sirloin tip roast and ground chuck resulted in a decrease in the American Farm Bureau Federation's Fall Harvest Marketbasket Survey.

The informal survey shows the total cost of 16 food items that can be used to prepare one or more meals was \$49.70, down \$4.40 or 8 percent compared to a survey conducted a year ago. Of the 16 items surveyed, 13 decreased and three increased in average price.

Egg prices dropped significantly due to production recovering well from the 2014 avian influenza, according to John Newton, AFBF director, market intelligence. Milk prices are down substantially from prior years, particularly compared to record-highs in 2014, due to the current global dairy surplus.

"For all commodities in agriculture there is a lot of product on hand and prices are depressed," Newton explained.

"Dry conditions in the Northeast and Northwest the last few years likely contributed to smaller supplies and higher retail prices for apples," Newton said. In addition, he said salad prices are up due to lower output in the West, particularly in

California and Arizona.

Price checks of alternative milk and egg choices not included in the overall marketbasket survey average

revealed the following: 1/2 gallon regular milk, \$1.86; 1/2 gallon organic milk, \$4.26; and one dozen "cage-free" eggs, \$3.48.

The year-to-year direction of the marketbasket survey tracks with the federal government's [Consumer Price Index](#) report for food

AMERICAN FARM BUREAU FEDERATION

September 2016

Fall Harvest

MARKETBASKET SURVEY

TOTAL: \$49.70

Down \$4.40 or 8% compared to a year ago.

Down 7% compared to 6 months ago.

16 Items: Bagged salad, Orange juice, Apples, Potatoes, Chicken breasts, Sliced deli ham, Bacon, Milk, Ground chuck, Sirloin tip roast, Shredded cheese, Eggs, Bread, Flour, Vegetable oil and Toasted oat cereal

at home. As retail grocery prices have increased gradually over time, the share of the average food dollar that America's farm and ranch families receive has dropped.

"Through the mid-1970s, farmers received about one-third of consumer retail food expenditures for food eaten at home and away from home, on average. Since then, that figure has decreased steadily and is now about 17 percent, according to the Agriculture Department's revised Food Dollar Series," Newton said.

Using the "food at home and away from home" percentage across-the-board, the farmer's share of this

\$49.70 marketbasket would be approximately \$8.45.

AFBF, the nation's largest general farm organization, began conducting informal quarterly marketbasket surveys of retail food price trends in 1989. The series includes a Spring Picnic survey, Summer Cookout survey, Fall Harvest survey and Thanksgiving survey.

According to USDA, Americans spend just under 10 percent of their disposable annual income on food, the lowest average of any country in the world. A total of 59 shoppers in 26 states participated in the latest survey, conducted in September.

The Following Items Showed Retail Price Decreases From A Year Ago:

- Eggs, Down 51 Percent To \$1.48 Dozen
- Chicken Breast, Down 16 Percent To \$2.86 Per Pound
- Sirloin Tip Roast, Down 11 Percent To \$5.04 Per Pound
- Shredded Cheddar, Down 10 Percent To \$4.09 Per Pound
- Whole Milk, Down 10 Percent To \$2.84 Per Gallon
- Ground Chuck, Down 9 Percent To \$4.13 Per Pound
- Toasted Oat Cereal, Down 9 Percent To \$2.80 For A 9 Oz. Box
- Vegetable Oil, Down 9 Percent To \$2.39 For A 32-Ounce Bottle
- Flour, Down 7 Percent To \$2.21 Per Five-Pound Bag
- White Bread, Down 7 Percent To \$1.58 For A 20-Ounce Loaf
- Orange Juice, Down 5 Percent To \$3.26 Per Half-Gallon
- Bacon, Down 3 Percent To \$4.40 Per Pound
- Sliced Deli Ham, Down Less Than 1 Percent To \$5.45

These Items Showed Moderate Retail

- Price Increases Compared To A Year Ago:
- Bagged Salad, Up 16 Percent To \$2.85 Per Pound
- Apples, Up 10 Percent To \$1.59 Per Pound
- Potatoes, Up 3 Percent To \$2.73 For A 5-Pound Bag

\$500

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AKC Yorkies M/F \$800-\$1,000; Persian kittens \$150; 90 gallon oak aquarium complete with stand. \$100; Wanted to buy finches. Paul, Id. 208-670-2893.

Navajo and Karkul sheep. Natural colors of easy spinning long staple wool. Arco, Id. Call Joe. 208-589-9042

Farm Equipment

Farmall M, gas engine, belt pulley, lights. New Front. Tires, wide Front. Std. drawbar, new alternator, manuals, only needs paint, Front and rear wheel weights. \$2750. Moscow, Id. 208-882-5382.

NH 276 Baler, NH 1000 Stacker, 3-point 10 ft Triple K, MF Model 39 3-point 8 ft disc, MF Model 36 hay rake (great for turning). 5-row 12 ft corrugator. All in good running order. Also a JD 60 not running in nice condition. Meridian, Id. For info and prices 631-1978.

Massey Ferguson 135 tractor, good condition with mower. \$5,500. Located in Boise, ID 208-420-1882.

16' 2005 delta goose neck stock trailer, front man door, divider gate, split back gate, heavy pad, in very good condition \$3200. Stock tanks; 8' oblong metal \$50, 5' rubber-made works but looks rough \$40, 3 used auto waters work \$10 each. Weiser 208-549-1551.

International 3444 Loader Tractor \$4,995; 2008 500cc Side by side 400 miles \$3,995; 1999 Ford Flatbed dually 7.3 diesel, auto. 28k miles, \$4,995; New Holland 1046 self-propelled balewagon, diesel, automatic, \$4,995. All run good. Make offer. Preston, Id 208-681-3581.

Older Ford Major Tractor, narrow front tires, runs good, good tires, with 3-pt hitch. \$3,200. OBO Located at Lenore , ID 208-836-5599.

New Squeeze chute, green, hand pull, \$1,300. Midvale, Id 208-355-3780.

John Deere #40 manure spreader. In good condition, stored inside. Hazelton, Id 208-731-4181.

Balewagons: New Holland self-propelled or pull-type models. Also interested in buying balewagons. Will consider any model. Call Jim Wilhite at 208-880-2889 anytime

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Miscellaneous

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17.5 acres on paved county road. Four miles from Newport, WA. Treed, surveyed and partially fenced with several building and corral sites having beautiful mountain views. Owner my carry. \$79,800. 208-290-4012.

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10 acres w/28 shares Fall River 'A' water. 4 bed, 2 bath, 1997 'Kit' manufactured home, permanent foundation. Open floor plan, gas fireplace, great views, newer tin roof, trees. Minutes from Rexburg or Ashton. Just \$159,900. Call or text Tammy @ 208-521-3533.

Recreational Equipment

1971 Silver Streak 35 ft trailer home. Pull behind, good tires, fair condition. As Is. \$5,000. obo Council, Id. 208-253-6306.

2005 Custom Weld Storm 21 ft Jet Boat. 330 H.P. Kodiak marine motor - 100 hours. 80 lb mini Kota Trolling motor, 15 H.P. trolling motor. Panther model 101 remote control, American Turbine-stick steering. 2 depth finders. \$45,000. Meridian, Id 208-870-3710.

2006 Kampsite by Komfort trailer 23 foot asking \$10,000 or best offer. 339-4877 or 852-6121

Vehicles

1953 Original MG TD/C roadster. Rare "C" model. Needs wiring harness, otherwise super clean, No Rust! Asking 20K obo; 1929 Mercedes Bazelle Kit car. V-6, dual carb., chevy engine, Mustang chassis, tranny. Fast and fun. 12K obo. Hagerman, Id. 208-775-250-4358.

1986 Ford F250, 460 engine, no dents, runs good. \$1,500; 1960 Morris Minor 1000 2 door. Needs restoring. Council, Id. 208-253-6135.

Wanted

Want to buy corrugator shovels. At least 6. Rupert, Id 802-219-9034.

Want to buy John Deere model 49 snow blower and 30 inch hydraulic tiller to attach to JD316 garden tractor. Prefer good usable condition. 208-256-4375.

Paying cash for German & Japanese war relics/souvenirs! Pistols, rifles, swords, daggers, flags, scopes, optical equipment, uniforms, helmets, machine guns (ATF rules apply) medals, flags, etc. 549-3841 (evenings) or 208-405-9338.

Old License Plates Wanted: Also key chain license plates, old signs, light fixtures. Will pay cash. Please email, call or write. Gary Peterson, 130 E Pecan, Genesee, Id 83832. gearlep@gmail.com. 208-285-1258

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