Gem State *IDAHO FARM BUREAU March 2017 • Volume 21, Issue 2 WEISER Snow, Ice Cause Biggest Single Event Loss in Farm Bureau History

How to Win in a Low-Trust World

By Zippy Duvall AFBF President

Americans' confidence and trust in key institutions is at a historical low, according to a 2016 Gallup poll. Even institutions that have enjoyed high levels of trust in the past, such as churches and schools, have dropped in Americans' respect and regard over the past 10

Beyond the



years. Others, such as banks, big business and Congress, have struggled for decades to earn the public's confidence. Their ratings haven't gotten any better.

Against this backdrop of skepticism and lack of trust, there's at least one group that most Americans still respect and admire. I'm talking about farmers, of course.

The Center for Food Integrity tracks public opinion about food. CFI has asked similar questions for years now, and year after year—consumers rate farmers highly as people they most trust on food issues. On a scale of 0-10, 53 percent of consumers rate farmers 8-10. Forty-two percent give us a grade of 4-7. That's a lot of faith

See DUVALL, page 6

Learn to Listen, **Listen to Learn**



By Bryan Searle President Idaho Farm Bureau Federation

I recently saw a poster the resonated with me It stated "Courage is what it takes to stand up and speak. Courage is also what it takes to sit down and listen"

Those words caused me to consider the Idaho Farm Bureau policy development and implementation process. Many of us lean to the right and we prefer to read and watch news or information that conforms to our political views. When we hear a counterpoint, we begin to subconsciously formulate responses, and to criticize, rather than

listening the way we would if the discussion conformed to our political views.

Allowing ourselves to think this way - without at least attempting to understand an opposing viewpoint is a handicap. The old saying - there are two sides to every story - is as wise and meaningful now as it has ever been. How many times have you read something and thought you had made up your

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Kudos to Idaho **Congressional Delegation** Using CRA to Help Ag



Bv Rick Keller

CEO Idaho Farm Bureau Federation

The Idaho Farm Bureau expresses appreciation to each of Idaho's Congressional delegation for joining forces in using an archaic law passed during the Clinton presidency in 1996.

It is the Congressional Review Act (CRA), which allows the House and the Senate to nullify any recently finalized federal regulation by a simple majority vote of both chambers – so long as the president agrees. (The term "recently finalized" means rules enacted within 60 congressional calendar days or June 13, 2016.) CRA is a complex statute that represents an attempt by Congress to reestablish some control over the

agency rulemaking process.

Congress moved swiftly to repeal overreaching last-minute rules from the Obama Administration. One good thing about the CRA is that once a rule has been killed, federal agencies can't ever come back and issue a new rule that's "substantially the same form"

One of the important rules that Farm Bureau has actively sup-

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EDITOR (208) 239-4292 • ADS (208) 239-4279 E-MAIL: dashton@idahofb.org www.idahofb.org

Cover: A building in Weiser that collapsed due to snow load in early January. Local officials believe up to one-quarter of the buildings in the town will eventually be razed due to cracks and questionable structural integrity. Research conducted by Farm Bureau Mutual Insurance of Idaho claims experts found significant differences in county building codes in southwest Idaho. *Photo by Steve Ritter*



Dozens of hay sheds and other outbuildings were also lost during early January storms. Photo by Steve Ritter

Catastrophic Storms Smash SW Idaho Farms, Businesses

By Jake Putnam

More than three feet of snow buried Southwest Idaho in early January, collapsing buildings and setting property damage records on a scale never seen before according to Farm Bureau insurance adjusters.

"This is the worst season we've seen," said Richard Burgoyne, vice president and regional claims manager for Farm Bureau Mutual Insurance of Idaho. "The number of barns, warehouses carports, patio covers and storage sheds is significant and we haven't seen bigger losses."

The first damage estimates could top a \$100 million with dozens of collapsed onion packing and storage sheds under more than 40 inches of snow. County officials say it was the worst series of storms in a century.

"There was a stretch early in January starting about the 9th when we were getting 250 claims a day," Burgoyne said. "We still managed to get back to our clients the same day and for the most part we inspected properties that week. Keep in mind this hasn't happened to us in recent history."

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STORM —

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County commissioners and state officials met with local residents in late January to discuss cleanup efforts. Photo by Steve Ritter

Burgoyne said building codes show a wide variation in the southwest part of Idaho.

"For instance Ada County, building codes require roofs to withstand 20 pounds of weight per square foot and that's snowpack weight on a roof. Go to Bear Lake its 45 pounds per square foot, Canyon County is 25. In McCall it's 120 pounds per square foot, but when you get to Weiser its 30 pounds per square foot and this year they had a McCall type winter," said Burgoyne.

Many of the collapsed buildings were old, mid-century buildings built long before modern building codes.

Washington County Commissioner Kirk Chandler is overwhelmed by the destruction and everyday he studies damage reports. "The assessor's office went out and looked at building damage and so far we have 99 buildings but they just brought up another handful yesterday," Chandler said. "Almost all are agricultural buildings, lots of hay sheds and out buildings. I tell you, this event has been catastrophic to our County."

The destruction is not limited to Washington, Payette, and Oregon's Malheur County. Gem County farmer Terry Jones runs a diary. He said heavy snowfall collapsed one of his barns.

"Our biggest loss was a 600-ton hay barn and it completely collapsed," Jones said. "We don't know where we stand with the insurance yet but if it's on our shoulders to rebuild it's going to be expensive. We're hoping for low interest disaster loans, but it's still a hardship."

Jones says the winter of '17 will go down in history. "I drove from my farm to Emmett and just to get the highway which is seven miles, I counted five buildings that are now on the ground and they're all farm buildings. For me, it's going to be \$50,000 and when I start doing the math, the loss across the state is extensive," said Jones.

In the wake of this disaster, another is likely to follow when the snow melts. The massive spring cleanup is a concern in the four county area. Commissioner Chandler says Weiser has collapsed buildings but nowhere to take the debris.

"Our city center is made up of many two-story brick buildings and most are



A flattened building in Washington County. Insurance claims adjusters recently confirmed the winter storms that pummeled southwest Idaho in early January resulted in the biggest single event loss in the history of Farm Bureau Mutual Insurance Company of Idaho. *Photo by Steve Ritter*

over 100 years-old," he said. "Before this is over we could see entire blocks torn down. It has been devastating to our community."

Ridley's Market, the bowling alley and onion warehouses have to be cleaned up, Commissioners say there's already enough crushed brick, roofing and rotting onions to fill all the existing landfills in Southwest Idaho. The Department of Environmental Quality is meeting with victims to try and work out the massive cleanup plan.

"Our mission is to protect public health and the environment and we have rules that we have to operate on to do that,"

The catastrophic series of storms in early January is causing market disruption for the nation's onion supply. Idaho's Southwest counties are home to 300 onion farms and 30 shippers that produce 25 percent of the U.S. onion market. Numbers are still being tallied but so far an estimated 20 million pounds were lost, which is about 25 percent of the region's production.

Onion prices started climbing with storage shed collapses during the last week of December. By the first of January the price of a 50-pound sack of supercolossal onions stood at \$4. After the disaster, prices hit the \$8 mark and analysts say those prices are likely to continue climbing. said Aaron Scheff of the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality. "One of our concerns is to ensure that the waste being generated is from this unprecedented event and that it's appropriately handled. The ideal method is to get the destroyed materials to a waste facility where we can segregate waste streams and dispose of them appropriately."

With disposal of hundreds of buildings there are all kinds of hazards that can't just be scooped up and dumped. DEQ officials are concerned about various compressed gasses, paint and chemicals, asbestos, and industrial acids. Rotting onions are another challenge to clean up. Collapsed building owners not only have to deal with their loss but the daunting disposal of mountains of debris.

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DUVALL

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in the work we do. But we can do better.

We tend to think of growing, processing, selling and eating as different businesses, but the average person does not. It's the "system," they are told, that has left too many Americans fat or malnourished or food insecure, and it's the system that has to be fixed. Farmers and ranchers tend to get lumped in with all of it.

Here are other numbers from the CFI survey that should make us take notice.

- Even though food has never been as affordable as it is now, two-thirds of Americans say they are very concerned about food prices.
- Sixty-eight percent of people surveyed say they are very concerned about food safety.
- Just over half of those polled are very concerned about the sustainability of U.S. farming.
- Fifty-eight percent are very concerned that animals may not always be treated humanely on farms and ranches
- Forty-two percent of Americans say they are concerned about the number of immigrant workers here in violation of U.S. law
- Eighty percent of Americans want to know more about farming.
- An amazing 95 percent of

"foodies"—the 15 percent of the population who have a deep interest in the food they eat and how it is produced—say they want to know more about what we do.

I hope those numbers got your attention, because they show us where we have opportunities to build trust.

You might think more facts will convince people who don't trust farmers. But farming is as emotionally charged as anything else people talk about. What the average American wants to know is that we care —for our land, our animals, our workers—and for them. You and I know that is already the case. We just have to show it more.

I know some farmers and ranchers don't necessarily want to let "outsiders" in. Critical "news" stories on television or misleading comments from the Dr. Ozes out there don't help our cause or give us farmers much trust in the media. But we cannot hide our light under a bushel. We must use all communication channels available to help consumers understand that we care about our land. water and air, and that today's agriculture is more sustainable than ever.

There are so many ways to engage. Talk with editors and reporters with your local newspapers. Send letters to media outlets, both when they get the story wrong and when they get it right. Give tours of your farm or ranch. Participate in fairs and community events.

Farm Bureau programs can help. The Women's Leadership and Promotion & Education committees provide training and opportunities to advocate for farming and ranching. The Young Farmers & Ranchers program, where I got my start in Farm Bureau years ago, gives young agriculturalists the tools they need to be advocates and ag leaders. Our "Engage" action center makes it easy to weigh in

with members of Congress on important legislation.

Whatever you can do, it will make a big difference. The important thing is to decide to do it-to get outside our fencerows and spread the word that farmers and ranchers value the same things the rest of America about. We have to let our commitment and love for what we do shine through. That's how we maintain trust in farmers and ranchers, even as trust in other parts of our society seems to be in short supply.



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Farm Bureau Finance Co. Loans and Investments

KELLER

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ported is the repeal of the Bureau of Land Management's Planning 2.0 Rule. This rule was opposed by states and counties. The 2.0 rule made a profound shift, devaluing local and state input and moving decision making to high-level BLM bureaucrats in Washington, D.C. The new rule abandoned any notion that those closest to the ground should have influence in federal land management. Under CRA, the U.S. House of Representatives voted to kill the federal rule. The U.S.

Senate has agreed to take the BLM Planning 2.0 rule up and vote the same

Idahoans support congressional review of federal agencies. Just last November, Idahoans adopted a constitutional amendment so that the legislature may review an administrative rule to ensure it is consistent with the legislative intent of the statute that the rule was written to interpret and implement. The amendment safeguards the ability of the legislature – elected

by the people – to review and reject agency rules created by unelected state officials. This protects Idahoans from unfair or over regulation.

Farm Bureau supports Idaho's Congressional delegation in their review of federal agency rules. It is encouraged CRA be streamlined to allow Congress to have the same ability Idaho's legislature has, the ability to review and ensure the laws are implemented as intended.

SEARLE

Continued from page 2

mind on an issue only to hear an opposing viewpoint and think – yeah that's not a bad argument. Nothing is black and white.

Farm Bureau has an established list of principles used for developing sound policy. They include: Is the resolution properly researched? Is there another side to this issue that should be heard before a decision is made? Will the proposed resolution provide the desired outcome? Is the resolution credible and achievable? And does it pass the 'common sense' test?

One of the biggest problems in Washington D.C. today, is they don't seem to have a common sense test. Most decisions are based on which party an idea originated with and because of this partisan mentality, little gets accomplished. The election of Donald Trump is a timely example of how voters are fed up with political rhetoric and gridlock.

Trump really was a long-shot, dark horse candidate early on in the election cycle. Neither party took him seriously. But he kept a consistent message and it slowly gained momentum. He kept his eye on the ball and his message on point, which is a good formula to follow.

We the American voters are independent - arguably more so than any other nation. We recently shook up world politics by electing a billionaire with no political experience to the highest office in the land. That's never happened before, although we did elect an actor with limited political experience once. Back in the 80's American voters liked the idea of a maverick president, not the least bit timid about shaking up the status quo, and they still like that idea today.

Although some of Trump's policies and beliefs seem at odds with agriculture, he might have what it takes to kick start a manufacturing industry, which has become a sleeping giant as our nation lost its competitive advantage over the last several decades. In the short time since he became President, Trump has set himself apart as a guy who sticks to his promises. He's actually doing what he said he was going to do and as Americans, regardless of your personal beliefs, we should all applaud the effort.

Although it's becoming more complicated, complex and political, agriculture isn't what's broken in this country. We as a group, continue to produce more food, fuel and fiber, and to feed and supply more people using less land and resources. American agriculture has long held a trade surplus among its competitors in other nations. Since 1960 the U.S. has consistently exported more food than it imports.

American agriculture is trade-dependent. We produce more than our domestic markets can use. Our industry is also dependent on foreign labor. We need a guest worker program that fills the demand without the burden of too much federal red tape. These are the big issues we are watching and working to improve right now. But in order to develop strategies that effect positive changes in both of these areas, we must have a complete understanding. We can't, gain trust, find workable solutions and in the end make a difference if we are unwilling to put our preconceived notions aside and listen to an opposing point of view.



Water flows into Milepost 31 Recharge Site off the Milner-Gooding Canal. Photos courtesy of Idaho Department of Water Resources

Aquifer Recharge Expanding and On Track to Meet Goals

By John Thompson

Near record snowpack this winter has many Idahoans wondering how much water can be captured and kept in the State for future use.

It's a safe bet that reservoirs on the Snake River system will fill this spring and flood control releases will follow. Idaho is in its third year of a negotiated agreement that is on track to capture 250,000 acre-feet per year for aquifer recharge. However, to date recharge efforts are yet to eclipse the 100,000 acre-foot mark in a year, with 2014-15 being the best year to date, reach-

ing 74,475 acre-feet of aquifer recharge.

Officials in the Idaho Department of Water Resources say they are on track to meet the goals stated in the Eastern Snake Plain Aquifer Comprehensive Aquifer Management Plan (CAMP) of 250,000 acre feet of recharge per year by 2024. But refilling a depleted aquifer is more difficult than it seems, according to Wesley Hipke, IDWR recharge program manager.

The recharge program is split into two parts. In the Upper Valley the recharge window is only open during flood control releases which normally fall between April and June. Below Minidoka Dam, IDWR has a water right that can be used for recharge from the end of October to the end of March.

However, there are difficulties associated with the canal systems used to convey the water to the recharge sites. If the canals are running at, or near capacity when ice-up occurs, they can drop the flow and run under the ice cap. But sometimes ice caps can form at a lower than optimal level and that hampers recharge efforts because if water flows over the ice cap it can break up and damage or even breach a canal.



The Milepost 31 Recharge Site off of the Milner-Gooding Canal. The top of the pool is frozen as water is still being recharged.

Another problem is some canals have several small hydro-power plants that don't operate during the winter. IDWR has had to find ways to bypass these small power plants to convey water to the recharge sites.

"We face a lot of complexities and dealing with Mother Nature in the winter time is one of them," Hipke said. "We have 150 days when our water is available below Minidoka Dam, that's when our water is available for the longest time period so

that's where our initial focus has been. We are utilizing existing canals to save money and we have also worked to develop offcanal recharge sites."

At the end of 2013, construction on the Mile Post 31 recharge site was completed. The site is located 31 miles down the Milner-Gooding Canal from Milner Dam in Cassia County. The site is designed to recharge 200 to 250 cubic feet of water per second. A simple conversion from acre feet to cubic feet per second is one cubic foot per second equals two acre-feet per day (24 hours).

The Mile Post 31 site has been expanded with a new head gate and check dam this last year and it is expected to recharge 400 cubic feet per second once the ice is no

See AQUIFER RECHARGE page 10

Recharge totals from the end of Oct to the end of March:

2014-2015 75,475 acre-feet

(14,166 acre feet was recharged in the Upper Valley from mid-Feb to early Mar.)

2015-2016 66,898 acre-feet

(no recharge water available in the Upper Valley)

2016-2017 40,106 acre-feet (Oct to Feb 2nd)

Projecting a total of 81,600 acre-feet by the end of March (2017).

AQUIFER RECHARGE

Continued from page 9

longer an issue in the canal. Other smaller recharge sites are located at Murtaugh Reservoir on the Twin Falls Canal, on the Northside Canal between Milner and Wilson Lake, and injection wells in the Southwest Irrigation District are expected to add 50 cubic feet per second after they complete work on a new pipeline, Hipke said.

Above American Falls Reservoir the priority is refiling the existing reservoirs, so recharge takes a back seat

"Recharge in the Upper Valley is extremely unpredictable," Hipke said. "If you analyze all the data from the 1980's to present, water is only available about 50 percent of the time."

During wet years there is all kinds of water available for recharge but IDWR can't use the canal system to convey the water after the start of irrigation season on April 1.

"If water becomes available after the start of irrigation season, around April 1 and there is already water in the canals that is considered incidental recharge and I can't use that so we need off-canal sites," Hipke said.

IDWR has developed enough offcanal recharge capacity to add 430 cubic feet per second during high spring flows and is working to find good areas to develop more offcanal recharge sites, he added.

"When water is available we need to take as much advantage as we can," Hipke said. "I want to have a diverse portfolio of sites to help spread the risk and the benefits. Our goal is to stabilize the whole aquifer."



Construction of the new headgates and check dam at the Mile Post 31 Recharge Site last November. Water in the background is recharge that occurred while construction was going on.

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Flood Shuts Down Interstate, Damages Farms, Homes

Article and photos by John Thompson

A flood that shut down Interstate 86 at the Raft River Crossing on February 6 caused damage to homes, farm fields, stored feed, feedlots and much more.

The high water caused damage from the Interstate crossing upstream at least 20 miles and the Interstate did not reopen until Feb. 10. Raft River normally only flows during spring runoff. Officials with the Idaho Department of Transportation (IDT) said the last time water flowed over the top of the freeway was in 1984.

Damage was widespread up the Raft River drainage to at least two miles south of Malta. Local farmers were critical of the transportation department's lack of maintenance on the freeway bridge. They said it should have been cleaned out better prior to the high water.

ITD Public Information Specialist Nathan Jerke said space for heavy equipment to work is limited at the site and a wetland downstream from the freeway adds to the problem.

"Anytime we have a decent winter with good snowpack levels in the Raft River Basin we see some flooding upstream from the freeway crossing," Jerke said. "But generally it ponds up and doesn't create transportation problems. It's rare that it ever over-tops the freeway."

To remedy the problem, ITD officials are planning a multi-million dollar road project that will raise the height of the freeway 10 feet at the Raft River crossing and increase the length of the two bridges to 100 feet. The existing bridges are 40 feet long, Jerke said. The project is slated to begin in 2019.

Several roads throughout the Magic Valley region continue to experience flooding and high water at press time for this magazine. Jerke said they are not yet sure whether Interstate 86 will need to be rebuilt this spring. He said when water runs over the top of roads it can wash away the fine sediments in the road base and cause the road to break up later.

"If there was only water over the road for a day we would have reopened the traffic without much concern," he said. "But where we are moving into three and four days of water running over the road we expect complete saturation under the roadway and the moving water could be pushing the fine materials out of the cap rock. If that occurs the road will deteriorate quickly."









Left to right, Braden Jensen, Idaho Farm Bureau lobbyist, Bob Naerebout, executive director Idaho Dairymen's Association, and Pastor Marc Schlegel-Preheim of the Hyde Park Mennonite Fellowship, discuss immigration reform during a press conference in Boise in late February.

Photo by Steve Ritter

Idaho Ag leaders Call for Immigration Reform

By Jake Putnam

Idaho agriculture leaders are calling for meaningful immigration reform in Congress. They're concerned that President Trump's immigration policies could hurt the state and overall U.S. economy.

At a news conference February 21st at the Idaho Farm Bureau building in Boise, leaders said migrant workers account for hundreds of millions of dollars in the state economy.

"Idaho's economic vitality rides on the shoulders of the immigrant work force," said Bob Naerebout, Executive Director of the Idaho Dairymen's Association.

More than 8,000 immigrants work in the dairy sector in Idaho, which makes up 33 percent of all agri-business in the state. Naerebout blasted the Trump administration plan to deport workers saying it would be a disastrous mistake, and would rack up more national debt.

"It costs between \$11,000 and \$22,000 to deport a single illegal worker," he said. "If there are 12 million illegals we're looking at a \$150 billion dollars to deport workers in this country. It's fiscally irresponsible and yet it's one of President Trump's campaign promises that he's hell-bent on delivering."

The Idaho Dairymen's Association contend that the immigrant workforce pays their bills and contributes to the economy.

"Immigrants in Idaho pay more than \$460 million in taxes every year," Naerebout said. "They have more than \$1.5 billion in spending power and they've started 4,000 businesses in Idaho." Including agriculture those businesses employ more than 14,000 people and affect virtually every sector of Idaho's economy.

Braden Jensen with Idaho Farm Bureau said there is a sound economic

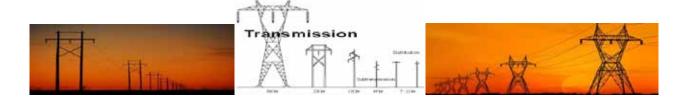
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Kaitlin Mirkin of Jerome recently won the Idaho Farm Bureau Women's Leadership Committee Speech Contest.

Jerome Student Wins Women's Leadership Committee Speech Contest

By Jake Putnam

15 year old Kaitlin Mirkin of Jerome won the Women's Leadership Committee Speech Contest held in late February at the Idaho Statehouse.

"I grew up on dairy and do a lot of public speaking because of 4-H and FFA," Mirkin said. "I know this labor issue and I've seen it firsthand. As far as delivery, I think it's a matter of going out and doing the speech and doing it for different groups, family and friends."

Mirkin's speech captured the statehouse audience by addressing many aspects of Idaho agriculture and especially the economic importance of the migrant work force "The sugar beet, grain and potato industries employ an average of 22,000 Hispanic farm workers. They work here in Idaho from mid-March through October making up 73-percent of the hired work force. We can't afford to lose those workers," said Mirkin

She also stated in her speech that milk prices could double if we lost the Hispanic work force because of threatened deportation by the Trump Administration.

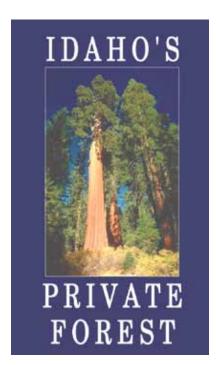
"I'm not paying upwards of \$6 for a gallon of milk. I can't afford it and I don't think the people of Idaho can afford it. I don't think we realize the importance of the migrant labor force and the impacts on Idaho agriculture across the board," added Mirkin.

Mirkin won a \$150 scholarship prize. She plans to put the money into her college fund. After the contest the competitors and families went on a special guided tour of the Idaho Statehouse.

The Idaho Farm Bureau recorded the speech and posted it on YouTube, it can be seen here: https://www.youtube.com/ watch?v=buLQk7uXRpo

Idaho Lieutenant Governor Brad Little attended the speech contest and welcomed the six state finalists to the West Wing of the Senate. The Lt. Governor emphasized the importance of communication in agriculture and setting goals and urged students to not only farm, but to tell the world about Idaho's farming operations.

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By Randy Brooks

Pruning trees in the yard and in the forest can yield many benefits - if done correctly. In a woodland or plantation, pruning helps maintain a central leader, repairs storm damage, or improves the chances of a clear bole to produce a higher grade of lumber that is free of knots. In your yard, pruning shade trees controls the tree's size or shape, removes undesirable branches, or reduces a hazard posed by dving or broken branches. Poorly formed branches in the unpruned shade tree can get weaker each year. It is also necessary to prune trees along power lines in both rural and urban settings to prevent damage during storms. Whether in a forest setting or yard, start proper pruning early in the life of a tree and continue when necessary as the tree grows.

Forest trees can be pruned at any time of the year, but the preferred time to remove live branches is during the dormant season. Start pruning crop trees when they are about 4-6 inches in diameter (at base of tree). From the seedling stage on, maintain one central leader on them to promote straight, strong trees. Do not prune the top of the tree and always try to maintain at least two-thirds of the total tree height in living branches. Excessive pruning of live side branches will reduce leaf area and

The Benefits of Pruning Forest Trees

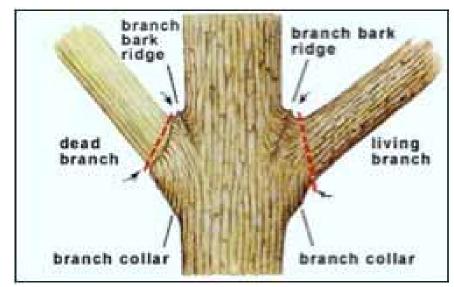


Figure 1. Targeting the cut. The red dashed line shows where to make a proper cut.

slow growth rates. In higher quality forest trees grown primarily for lumber or veneer log production, a clear bole length of at least 17 feet is a desirable target. Pruning large branches on older trees is usually not recommended. Branches larger than three inches in diameter will generally not heal over fast enough to generate clear logs by harvest time. Prune only those trees with straight trunks that will be held for 20 years or so. There is no need to prune every tree. Select 150 to 200 of the best trees per acre and concentrate pruning and other cultural activities on those trees. The first pruning should go up 8 feet on the tree. During the second entry (years later when the tree is much taller), prune the trees up to about 18 feet.

When a live branch is removed by pruning, a wound is created on the trunk. The following recommended tips will minimize the damage and promote fast healing:

Do not use flush cuts (Figure 1). A large callus will have to form to help seal the wound. Branches that have been pruned correctly will have callus material completely encircling the wound rather than in a horseshoe or semicircular pattern.

Do not leave branch stubs. They will just have to decay and fall off.

If removing dead branches, do not cut into the collar that has formed at the base of the dead branch. The collar is the raised ring of protective tissue circling the branch and acts as a barrier to further decay.

Concentrate pruning on the smaller limbs to promote faster healing. Cut larger branches using a three-step method so the branch's weight will not cause the branch to break and tear the bark below the limb (Figure 2). Relieve the major weight of the branch by using two cuts and then cut at an angle near the branch bark ridge.

Do not top trees. Even if upper branches are damaged in a storm, make repairs by cutting the branch at about a 45-degree angle or along the branch bark ridge. Remove broken tops and branches as soon as possible after injury.

Wound dressings have not been proven to increase the rate of wound healing, so use

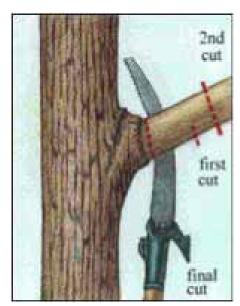


Figure 2. If the branch is too large to support, make a three-step pruning cut to prevent bark ripping.

them only for cosmetic reasons.

Use the proper tools for pruning. Use chain saws only to remove the larger portion

of storm damaged limbs; otherwise use smaller pruning tools that are more easily controlled. Keep pruning tools clean and sharp. Diseases can be spread by tools from tree to tree after you cut an infected plant. To sterilize pruning tools, clean them in a mixture of one part household bleach to 10 parts water. If branches are too high to reach, use a pole saw or ladder.

Proper tools for pruning include various types of shears or clippers and different types of hand saws. Maintain sharp cutting surfaces on the pruning tools. Avoid using chain saws for pruning as excessive damage and improper cuts are likely to occur. Chain saws should only be used to remove the major portion of large, storm-damaged limbs. If branches are small, only a clipper or hand saw will be needed for pruning. To remove branches more than 6 or 8 feet above the ground, a pole saw or ladder will be required.

Pruning wounds on the trunk of a healthy tree will heal quickly if the proper cuts are made on small branches. Evidence of a proper pruning cut will be signaled by the healing process where callus material will completely encircle the pruning wound. Trees cannot regenerate or repair damaged tissue. A wound is simply walled-off or compartmentalized by the tree. Good pruning techniques and careful handling will promote the tree's ability to accomplish this compartmentalization of wounds.

Forest trees naturally self-prune or lose branches over time. Branches that are heavily shaped will die and finally break off. This process can be accelerated by artificial pruning, and clear, high quality main trunks can be produced much earlier. Be sure to document when your trees were pruned. Trees with clear wood (no knots) will be more valuable when it comes time to harvest. Documentation also allows you to write the activity off on your income taxes, but that is a subject for another time.

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





The Idaho Farm Bureau Women's Leadership Committee recently made their annual visit to the Ronald McDonald House in Boise. They brought groceries and a cash donation from county Farm Bureaus around the state. Photo by Steve Ritter

Leadership Committee Donates to Ronald McDonald House

By Jake Putnam

The Idaho Farm Bureau Women's Leadership Committee met at Boise's Ronald McDonald House February 21st with gifts and a big laminated check.

They made a donation on behalf of the Women's Leadership Committee, donations that came from 36 county Farm Bureau's across the state

"We do this every year, this is a donation close to our hearts," said Women's Chair, Judy Woody of Twin Falls.

The mission of the Ronald McDonald House is to provide a "home away from home" for families of sick and injured children receiving medical treatment at Saint Luke's Medical Center in Boise. Executive Director Mindy Plumlee says 539 families spent time at the facility this past year and they're booked just about every week.

"This money will be used in comfort and care of the families staying in this house and we thank you," said Plumlee. "That's why we welcome the Farm Bureau Women's committee donation and their gracious gift of food and household items. It means so much to families staying here."

Chairman Woody explained that the donations came from all over the state. "This check is a little more than a thousand dollars, the money comes from farm families that care very much about the Ronald McDonald house and all you do here," she said.

The Ronald McDonald House, located on Main St. near St. Luke's Hospital, started in 1988 and provides affordable alternative housing for out-of-town families with children who require medical treatment.

"We're not just helping the struggling fam-

ilies but we're on a mission, we want the people of Idaho to know that we have the best, most plentiful and cheapest food supply in the world. We're sharing that good fortune with those who need it, and they need it now," said Woody.

Plumlee noted that the Ronald McDonald House and the IFBF Women's Leadership Committee have a 20-year relationship. It's a bond that continues to grow. "We'll spend it all on food, and things needed to sustain the families during their stay here," she said.

The McDonald House is a landmark in Boise. It was built in the early 1900s then purchased by the late J.R. Simplot for the Ronald McDonald Foundation. Families are charged a minimal rate and the balance is paid with public and private donations to the house. Families unable to pay are never turned away.



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FFA—Growing Leaders, Building Communities and Strengthening Agriculture!



Idaho Farm Bureau's Young Farmers and Ranchers held their annual Leadership Conference in Fort Hall in mid-January. One of their activities was a tour of Greg Andersen's Seagull Bay Dairy.

Focus on Agriculture

4 Types of Millennials Shape the Future of Agriculture Advocacy

By Shiloh Perry

The millennial generation is talked about for being a unique generation, with needs, wants and desires that are very different from any other. Looked down on by some and praised by others, millennials are now the largest generation, according to the Pew Research Center. The center's analysis of U.S. Census Bureau data shows that millennials, young adults ages 18-34, exceeded the number of baby boomers in 2015. My generation is also the largest generation in the workforce today.

Like it or not, the world has to adjust to millennials, a generation that is confident and collaborative, according to academics. Fortunately, the world is adjusting to us, just as we are adjusting to it. Business industries, including agriculture, are adapting to our futuristic way of thinking. Different industries are adapting to us in various ways, with professionals in most industries probably in agreement that it is important to engage millennials in their advocacy efforts.

American agriculture works hard at advocating. Farmers and ranchers strive to connect with younger generations and teach them about agriculture. However, successfully telling agriculture's story today must include understanding some of the influences behind millennial involvement in agriculture advocacy.

In college, I had the opportunity to research why millennials become involved in agriculture advocacy efforts. From talking to other student leaders who attended the National Agriculture Advocacy Conference at Texas A&M University, I found there are four types of millennials engaged in agriculture advocacy.

Defined by their background influences, motivation and specific outlooks of agriculture advocacy, the four types of millennial agriculture advocates are:

The Perpetual Advocate

The perpetual advocate is motivated by his or her past involvement and experiences. They have been involved in some type of agriculture advocacy activities before. They have also often had some experience in agriculture-related youth organizations like 4-H or FFA. The perpetual advocate likes to be busy and tends to stay involved in agriculture advocacy efforts for long periods

of time

The Family Man or Woman

The family man or woman advocate is motivated by a family connection to agriculture advocacy. At a very early age, their families taught them about the importance of agriculture and agriculture advocacy. The family man or woman advocate is involved to meet new people and for the other social aspects of advocacy efforts.

The Visionary

The visionary advocate is always thinking about the future and how he or she can create change for the better. They are motivated by their need to be a part of something greater, something that matters or that is productive. The visionary advocate is involved because he or she wants to figure out how weaknesses associated with the industry's advocacy efforts can be turned into strengths. While they have a very futuristic way of thinking, they see the importance of looking at both sides of an issue to make sound judgments about it

The Traditionalist

The traditionalist advocate is motivated by the tradition he or she associates with agriculture advocacy. Their passion for agriculture is often influenced by the family tradition of farming or ranching. The traditionalist advocate thinks that agriculture advocacy should focus on the tradition of agriculture, the facts of agriculture production and all sectors.

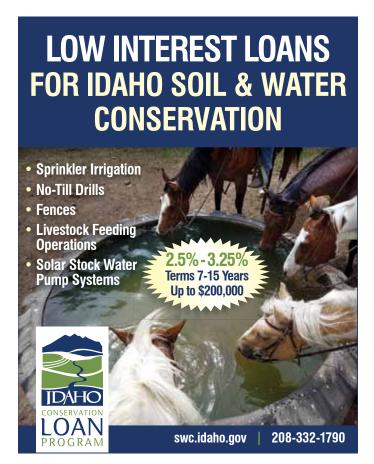
Like it or not, the world has to adjust to millennials, a generation that is confident and collaborative, fortunately, the world is adjusting to us, just as we are adjusting to it.

Their continued involvement in agriculture advocacy stems from their desire to help educate the public.

Most of the student leaders I talked to had an agriculture background, were very close to their families and wanted to make connections, both personally and professionally. While my findings do not explain why every millennial is involved in agriculture advocacy, they provide valuable insights about why certain millennials with

a connection to agriculture are involved in the industry's advocacy efforts.

My generation is already extensively involved in agriculture advocacy. A greater understanding of millennial involvement can only strengthen these efforts. It is time to do more to engage today's largest generation in agriculture advocacy efforts. Millennials telling agriculture's story help share its importance not only now, but for generations to come.



Grain Marketing with Clark Johnston

Oversupplied Grain Market Encourages Diversification

Recently we have seen the local demand for soft white reduced as flour mills have contracted their needs into the late spring and early summer time frame. One large buyer pulled their bid completely. As you know when this happens the basis for your grain weakens as the demand moves lower. Now we are asked. Can they do that? The answer is a definite yes.

Remember a flour mill will only need to contract the wheat that is needed to produce their demand for flour. The mill that pulled its bid will be back in the market leaving us trying to answer the questions. How many bushels will they need to contract before new crop and how fast will they be able to accomplish this before they once again leave the market. This really isn't new to us as we experience this almost every year as we move into the spring.

As usual we are continually asked about the direction of the grain markets and this winter hasn't been different then in the past. You will need to gather information as you assemble your marketing plan for this upcoming crop year. This isn't necessarily an easy task when we see our area of profit or breakeven still higher than the current market prices.

The futures are still trading at a decent carry charge into the summer and winter months. We have talked about this in the past and the same conditions are still present today. When we see the large carry into the deferred months your opportunity to contract your grain at breakeven or a profit is to use the carry charge and sell into the deferred months.

Currently the carry between the Chicago July and December futures is 33 cents. This will pay you over 6 cents per month storage for your wheat from July into the end of November. Remember the basis for soft white historically will strengthen between July and Thanksgiving, giving you the opportunity to final price your wheat higher than you could at harvest.

The December futures are currently trading near \$5 per bushel. Using a basis level of 70 under the December futures for the month of November we see your final price could still be \$4.30 per bushel in southeast Idaho. In order to lock the futures in at this level you will need an elevator willing to offer a Hedge to Arrive contract or have your own futures trading account. As we have talked about in the past neither one of these options is the perfect solution in your marketing program. They both have their benefits as well as their tradeoffs.

We are also seeing producers looking at alternative crops to plant this spring. As in most cases the profitability of these different crops is good as long as we don't over produce. Some are more labor intense than others but, they do have potential as long as the acreage is small enough for you to manage.

In a recent meeting with a large grain company they reported that the State of Idaho had good growing conditions for many crops. The different elevations, soil types and availability of water gave you opportunities that other areas in the country may not have. Not all commodities



Clark Johnston

will work everywhere but, most will work somewhere.

One market that has been around for a long time but just recently has expanded in our area is the organic grain market. One of the large flour mills in Ogden has recently received their organic certification and has indicated they will be producing organic products this coming marketing year. The organic industry continues in grow as consumers want to use organic products other than just flour and for now are willing to pay for those products.

When looking at alternative commodities to raise it is almost like which came first, the chicken or the egg? Will companies move into the area hoping for the production or will the production come before the companies move into the area. Either way it usually will take time and patience for the market to develop.

For now it does look as though producers will need to be more diversified than they possibly were in the past few years.

Clark Johnston is a grain marketing specialist who is on contract with the Idaho Farm Bureau. He is the owner of JC Management Company in Northern Utah. He can be reached at clark@jcmanagement net

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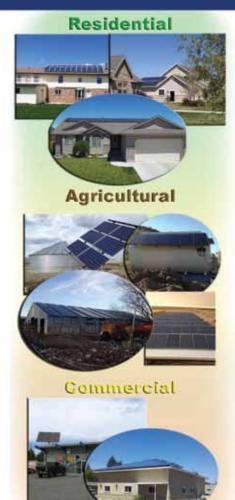
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For more information contact your Idaho Farm Bureau agent and go to the following web address: www.fmcsa.dot.gov





Elk, deer and many other animals are having a difficult time surviving harsh winter conditions across southern Idaho. Farm Bureau file photo

Harsh Weather Forces Emergency Wildlife Feeding

By Jake Putnam

Cold weather and heavy snowpack across the southern part of the state has forced big game animals to Idaho's low elevations for food.

Idaho Fish and Game expects to spend \$650,000 to feed big-game animals this winter, that's double the largest feeding budget on record.

"Obviously winter feeding is a big deal for us this winter," said Ed Schriever of the Idaho Fish and Game Department. "This emergency operation is occupying most of our field staff time across the southern tier of the state. We're experiencing a winter we haven't had in 20 years."

The previous record was \$387,000 in 2008. But Fish and Game says it's difficult to make yearly comparisons because records aren't available before 2003. The Fish and Game department had budgeted \$229,000 for this year. The Department says they started emergency feeding operations at more than 100 sites across the state in January.

"Valley snowpack is the most extraordinary part of the equation," said Schriever. "While high elevation snowpack is expected, deer and elk don't winter at high elevations. They winter in the valley bottoms. So we've declared emergencies in four regions across the lower tier of the state and feeding operations will remain are in full swing until some of this snow melts."

The Department started feeding operations in January in the Southwest, the Southeast, the Magic Valley, and the Upper Snake regions.

The Fish and Game Feeding Advisory Committee has monitored all these regions starting with the first heavy snowfall. They've kept track of temperatures and herd health to help decide feeding strategies.

Elk winter better than deer, but they also gather in large herds that can gravitate toward haystacks and that's a costly problem for ranchers, farmers and landowners, according to Fish and Game.

"We knew if we didn't feed, the herds would end up in places where they'd be in trouble, causing depredations that would have been disastrous," Schriever said.

Managers say while it's a challenging winter, most big game animals came into the season in good condition and most should survive. But there's still a mortality rate despite weather conditions.

Fish and Game officials are also dealing with the aftermath of summer wildfires, especially in eastern Idaho where the department is feeding nearly 4,000 elk. The Tex Creek Wildlife Management Area,

owned by Fish and Game, suffered a massive wildfire last summer which depleted winter range for elk and deer. That feeding operation is intended not only to help animals through the winter, but also keep them off farms, feedlots and highways, officials stated.

"The reality is we are only reaching a small percentage of the population and hopefully that does them some good," says Jon Rachael, Idaho Department of Fish and Game wildlife manager. "We're not trying to help them put on weight. We are just trying to get them to the melt off."

Stepped-up feeding operations are still going on in the Weiser area where they've had deep snowpack since December. Elk are hitting haystacks hard and have become a nuisance. Over in Boise County, wildlife managers are feeding in the Garden Valley area to help keep the wintering animals off state highways and away from homes.

Fish and Game also has elk feeding sites outside of Ketchum. Operations there are designed to keep the herds out of the subdivisions. They also set up fencing operations around haystacks across the Valley.

"We try our best to manage wildlife populations at a level that can be supported by natural habitat without the need for supplemental feeding under normal conditions," Rachael said. "But under severe conditions when natural forage is unavailable because of snow depths, or impacts from wildfire, and it appears significant portions of a herd may succumb, we provide some extra help to prevent large losses."

North Idaho wildlife managers say they're seeing normal winter conditions and don't expect to start winter feeding. Big game animals in the region graze large areas and they say there's no need for feeding.

Deep snow and single-digit temperatures are challenging to wildlife, Idaho Fish and Game says that people can help wildlife survive by leaving them alone. Animals have a limited amount of fat reserves, and when they're gone, animals are more susceptible to disease, predation and starvation.





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Georgianna Cordova, right, recently received a check for \$500 on behalf of Michael Cordova, from Farm Bureau Agent Rhett Price. Farm Bureau Mutual Insurance of Idaho sponsors a quarterly customer referral program for members who refer friends and relatives. The names of those who provide the necessary information to provide a quote are put into a drawing. For more information contact an agent.



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STORM

Continued from page 5

Basil Tupyi of Holladay Engineering says there are materials that can cannot go into county landfills. "They can't take things like explosives, pesticides, and fertilizers," he said. "They are going to have to go into those downed buildings after that stuff and pull it out of the wreckage. The health and safety threats are too great."

The Idaho cull onion rule presents serious problems to storage and packing shed owners. They've lost millions upon millions of pounds of onions when the buildings started collapsing and with the spring thaw, they'll rot.

"The rule states that cull onions or unused onions must be plowed under by the 15th of March to prevent the introduction or spread of the onion maggot," said Dr. Bill Barton of the Idaho State Department of Agriculture. "Our rule does specify that it's plowed under, but I do think under these circumstances there could be exceptions allowed under that rule."

The Idaho Office of Emergency Management is on the ground in the stricken four-county area while disaster deadlines are looming in the counties.

"These issues need resolved as quickly as human possible because we have so many issues going on and the clock is ticking," said Dale Nalder of Emergency Management. "We've got millions of pounds of onions to destroy and dispose of all of which needs environmental review. I get all of that. But we need these issues resolved so these people can get back on their feet."

On February 15th Director Celia Gould of the Idaho Department of Agriculture extended the cull onion rule until April 15th.

"Agricultural operators across the state have been hit particularly hard by this winter's devastating storms. This temporary rule is meant to give the onion community some flexibility in the timing of the massive disposal they will have to undertake this year. Many facilities have reported total losses and they need extra time," said Gould.

The Department of Environmental Quality also revised guidelines telling property owners that they can sort and store household and nonhazardous debris on their property. The four counties are also in the process of setting up temporary, secure staging areas where waste can be sorted and eventually disposed.

"The last thing the agency wants to be is another problem for the residents of Payette, Washington, Gem and Canyon Counties to deal with," said Nalder

Nalder and his staff remain on the ground in the stricken counties, helping overwhelmed counties manage all the storm damage while keeping an eye on flooding and any other problems that may arise.

Adding to the collapsing buildings, rotting onions and toxic debris, the Weiser River continues to run at or near flood stage at 12 feet. A sudden change in temperature could spark another disaster - flooding.

On February 10th Idaho Governor Butch Otter added Ada and Boundary counties to the growing list of counties in official states of emergency. So far, seven Idaho counties are now on the state disaster list, including Ada, Boundary, Canyon, Custer, Elmore, Payette and Washington counties.

IMMIGRATION REFORM

Continued from page 14

solution: A year-round guest work visa program for workers.

"Operations like dairies require yearround labor and do not qualify for seasonal guest worker programs," Jensen said. "By offering year-round visas to immigrant workers, they could better fill the employment vacancies and it makes economic sense."

Idaho agriculture depends heavily on jobs no one else wants to do, according to farm labor experts.

"Many people's jobs stand on the

shoulders of foreign-born labor," Naerebout said. "We should be building these people up. We should be looking at how we can help them in this country and how we move this country forward."

Pastor Marc Schlegel-Preheim of the Hyde Park Mennonite Fellowship got involved because this single issue goes beyond political ideology.

"Millions of people are painfully caught in our broken immigration system," he said. "We have families that are pulled apart, some with different immigration status within the family. We encourage strong families as a nation. This immigration system is breaking up families and fear continues to grow. Congress needs to address immigration reform now."

All the leaders addressed concerns about immigrants diverting health-care benefits from U.S. citizens. They say that nationwide immigrants have paid more than \$2 billion more into Medicare than they've drawn.



February 2017 – Crop Market Update **Public Policy Department** Budget & Economic Analysis Team

Record Crop Consumption Could Move Even Higher

John Newton, Ph.D. jnewton@fb.org

Now that 2016/17 marketing year crop sizes for corn and soybeans are known, many in the trade are now turning their attention to the pace of consumption. The February 9 USDA World Agricultural Supply and Demand Estimates (WASDE) projected total corn consumption at a record 14.62 billion bushels, up 7 percent from last year. Soybean consumption was projected at a record 4.108 billion bushels, up 4 percent from last year. Data driving these consumption totals include ethanol production, soybean crush, grain and oilseed exports, and feed and residual use.

In order to update old-crop price expectations for the remainder of the marketing year the markets will follow weekly and monthly consumption data for signs that the pace of consumption is accelerating or that it may fall short of the WASDE projections. Exports and ethanol production data are updated weekly, crushing information is updated monthly, and expectations on feed and residual use can be updated quarterly with the grain stocks reports.

A more rapid pace of consumption would imply that ending stocks for new crop corn and soybeans could ultimately be lower and would provide a bullish undertone for prices in advance of the 2017/18 planting season and during this key crop insurance spring price discovery period. Slower consumption levels would have the opposite effect – holding all else constant.

Current price expectations are for new crop corn prices to fall 21ϕ , approximately 9 percent to \$3.40 per bushel. If realized this corn price would be the lowest since the 2006/07 crop year. New crop soybean prices are expected to climb 45¢ from prior year levels to \$9.40 per bushel.

Exports

The most recent WASDE projected 2016/17 corn exports at 2.225 billion bushels, 17 percent higher than the 2015/16 marketing year. USDA's February 16 Foreign Agricultural Service's Export Sales Report (FAS) indicated 868 million bushels of accumulated exports and 784 million bushels of outstanding corn export sales. The combined total is 1.652 billion bushels and is 63 percent higher than last year's export commitments at this point in the marketing year, Figure 1. The strong year-over-year performance of corn exports relative to the WASDE projection for 17 percent growth is lead some in the trade to speculate that the corn export total could ultimately be revised higher. However, when examining the export pace, total commitments represent 74 percent of the WASDE projection and are in line with the historical average exported at this point in the marketing year (excluding 2015/16).

With respect to soybeans, WASDE projected 2016/17 exports at 2.05 billion bushels, up 6 percent from the 2015/16 total. The most recent FAS export data shows 1.526 billion bushels of accumulated exports and 375 million bushels outstanding. The combined total of soybean export commitments is 1.901 billion bushels, 24 percent above prior year levels. There remains speculation in the trade that the sovbean export value could be revised higher later in the year if this year-over-year growth rates persists. At this point in the marketing year, however, export commitments represent 93 percent of the WASDE export total and is only slightly below the historical average.

2.500 WASDE SOYBEANS CORN goal 1.901

Figure 1. Soybean and Corn Export Commitments



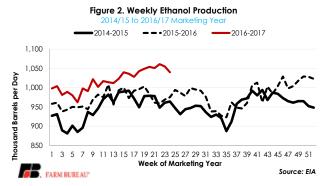
Ethanol

Ethanol production is currently forecast at 5.35 billion bushels, up 3 percent from the previous marketing year. USDA's February 1 Grain Crushing and Co-Product Production report indicated 1.819 billion bushels of corn had been consumed for fuel alcohol production during the first four months of the marketing year (September to December). This total is 4 percent above last year's pace and running one percentage point above the current WASDE estimate. Similarly, the Energy Information Administration's February 16 (EIA) Weekly Ethanol Plant Production report showed year-to-date ethanol production (through February 3) of 24.5 million barrels for the 2016/17 marketing year – 5 percent above last year's level, Figure 2. However, the EIA total includes other products used for fuel ethanol production such as sorghum.

USDA recognized that the pace of ethanol production was run



ning above prior year levels and revised their February WASDE estimate up 25 million bushels from January. If corn consumed for fuel ethanol production continues at the current 4 percent year-over-year gains it is not unreasonable to expect additional increases in projected ethanol use by the end of the marketing year.



Soybean Crush

Crushings are projected at 1.93 billion bushels, up 2 percent from the previous marketing year. USDA's February 1 Oilseed Crushings, Production, Consumption and Stocks report indicated 654 million bushels of soybeans had been crushed during the first four months of the marketing year, 3 percent above last year's pace. For the remainder of the marketing year crushings need to total 1.275 billion bushels to reach the WASDE goal. Relative to 2015/16 levels, crushings for the rest of the marketing year need to average 2.2 percent higher year-over-year to reach the WASDE target. Given this information, the pace of crushings supports totals at or slightly above USDA's current projection.

Feed and Residual Use of Corn

Current projections are for 5.6 billion bushels of feed and residual use of corn, up 9 percent from prior year levels. While there is no way to directly measure how much corn is fed to livestock, anecdotally feed and residual use is generally higher in big crop years

and smaller in low crop years. Higher feed and residual use is also supported by expectations for additional animal production and higher inventory levels of beef cattle and hogs, Figure 3.

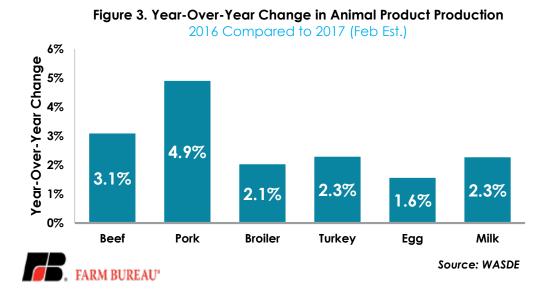
The current challenge to meeting the WASDE projection is the relative value of wheat in the feeding ration. In parts of the U.S. cash wheat prices are well below those of corn resulting in wheat-to-corn price ratios below 0.90 in Texas, Colorado, and Nebraska. Ratios at these levels may make wheat a more attractive feed input than corn for some livestock producers. USDA currently forecasts feed and residual use of wheat to grow by nearly 50 percent from prior year levels to 225 million bushels.

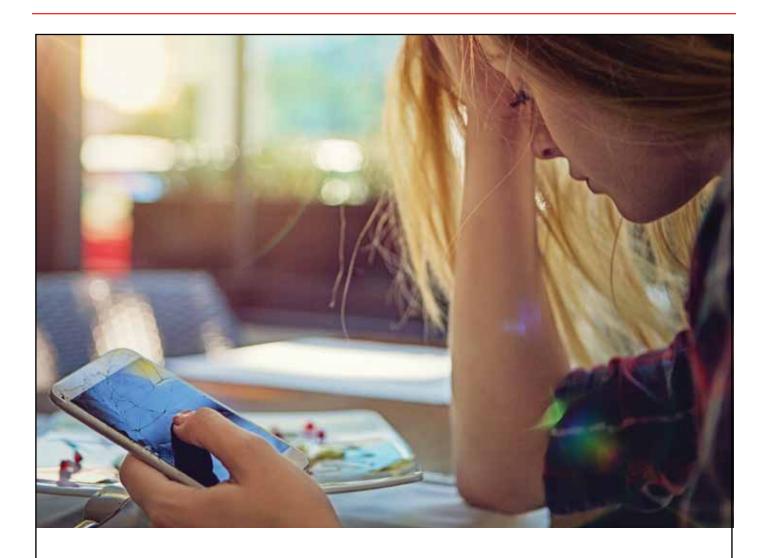
Implications

Consumption of corn and soybeans has been above last year's pace in all categories and is projected to be record high during the 2016/17 marketing year. The rate of consumption across all categories supports USDA current projections, but future revisions to consumption are possible if current growth rates endure for the remainder of the marketing year.

While the pace of consumption has been above prior year levels there remain headwinds. The strength of the U.S. dollar makes our products more expensive in export markets, and as identified in AFBF's January 2017 Crop Market Update, Chinese retaliatory tariffs on ethanol and distillers dried grains could ultimately pose a challenge to expanding corn consumption in the immediate future.

Additionally, even with record consumption, ending stocks of corn are at 30-year highs and ending stocks of soybeans are at the highest level in the last decade at 2.32 billion and 420 million bushels respectively. These headwinds will cap any upside price potential until more information on the South American crop size and planting intentions are known here in the U.S.





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¹LIMRA Life Insurance Consumer Studies, Facts About Life 2016. Farm Bureau Life Insurance Company*/West Des Moines, IA. *Company provider of Farm Bureau Financial Services L1169 (2-17)



AMERICAN FARM BUREAU FEDERATION NEWS

Farm Bureau Encourages House to Pass Regulatory Transparency Bill

In light of the significant amounts of written, electronic and social media information generated by regulatory agencies during and after regulatory actions, Farm Bureau is calling on the House to approve legislation that would ensure both the public and Congress have increased access to federal agency communications beyond those published in the Federal Register.

This type of electronic information can be vitally important public information. Such information can also fall outside the formal or official rulemaking record. Because this type of information often can be found

on the Web or in social media one day but gone the next, it is critically important that the agencies be required to protect this information

— American Farm Bureau Federation President Zippy Duvall wrote in a letter to House members, urging strong, bipartisan support for the Regulatory Integrity Act of 2017 (H.R. 1004).

The bill would require federal agencies to maintain all public communications associated with guidance, policy statements, directives, rule making and adjudications for a period of no less than 5 years. The measure also incorporates language that would prohibit agencies from advocating on behalf of their own proposed rules. The language comes from an amendment offered by Rep. Collin Peterson (D-Minn.) that was included in the Regulatory Accountability Act of 2017 (H.R. 5), which was passed by the House earlier this year.

"We believe it is important for Congress to enact this legislation to require the head of each executive agency to make any and all information available to the public and Congress in a searchable format in a prominent location," Duvall wrote.

House Passes Resolution to Halt BLM Planning Rule

The House on Tuesday approved a Farm Bureau-supported resolution (H.J. Res. 44) to stop an Obama administration rule that would weaken the influence of local and regional officials on Bureau of Land Management decisions.

Dubbed "Planning 2.0," the rule incorporates numerous Obama-era presidential and secretarial orders along with internal agency guidance and policy documents.

"The rule demonstrated a clear overreach by the BLM, in spite of the agency's claim that the 'primary goal of the proposed rulemaking process is to improve the agency's ability to respond to environmental, economic and social changes in a timely manner," the American Farm Bureau Federation and 12 Western state Farm Bureaus wrote in a <u>letter to Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell</u> (R-Ky.) and Speaker of the House Paul Ryan (R-Wis.).

According to the groups, under the pre-

text of "climate change" and "landscapescale" management, the rule will lock local and state officials out of BLM's decisionmaking process, ultimately allowing "implementation of unilateral management schemes, mitigation, adaptive management and other internal agency pronouncements"

In addition, they wrote, Planning 2.0 flies in the face of the Federal Land Policy Management Act (FLPMA) of 1976, in which Congress recognized the importance of the public domain to the future of Western states. Through defined multiple-use principles, Congress mandated that these public lands be used to meet the country's need for domestic sources of food, fiber, energy, timber and more.

FLPMA also recognizes state and local governments as cooperative agencies.

However, under Planning 2.0, BLM must work with cooperating agencies only "as feasible and appropriate given their interests, scope of expertise and the constraints of their resources." (Sec. 1610.3-1)

"This language clearly devalues local input. In addition, it subjects local recommendations to bureaucratic scrutiny and bias, not congressional intent," the Farm Bureaus wrote.

The groups also took issue with how Planning 2.0 was put in place.

"BLM did not fully evaluate the impacts on consumers, public lands-dependent ranching families, energy, mining, recreation and rural communities across the American West. Additionally, new definitions and requirements created by the rule exceed statutory authorities and multipleuse mandates established by FLPMA and the National Environmental Policy Act," they noted.

A similar resolution has been introduced in the Senate.



FARM BUREAU COMMODITY REPORT

III I KEPOKI
Trend
+ .20 to + .13
+ .23 to + .33
22 to07
Steady
+ .13
+ .17
Steady
Steady
0.5
05 + .25
Steady + .05
06
00 + .13
05
Steady
steady
+ .21
+ .22
+ .17
10
Steady
Trend
+ 4 to down 3
- 3 to — 5
Steady to -5
Steady to -7
- 6 to steady
- 9 to - I
- 4 to - 6
- 3 to - 9
+ 5 to + 1
+ 3 to + 1 + 2 to - 7
+ 2 to - 1
- 6 to - 4
-9 to + 3
- 75 to — 290
+ 6 to + 5
T 0 TO T 5
Steady
ed N/A
- 2.00 to - 1.00
ec

COMPILED BY THE IDAHO FARM BUREAU COMMODITY DIVISION

IDAHO HAY REPORT

USDA Market News, Moses Lake, WA February 24, 2017

Compared to last week, Feeder Alfalfa firm in a light test. Trade slow with very good demand as supplies are in firm hands. All prices are dollars per ton and FOB the farm or ranch unless otherwise stated.

	Tons	Price	Wtd Avg	Comments
Alfalfa				
Mid Square				
Fair/Good	300	125.00-145.00	131.67	Tarped

Alfalfa hay test guidelines, (for domestic livestock use and not more than 10% grass), used with visual appearance and intent of sale. Quantitative factors are approximate and many factors can affect feeding value.

	ADF	NDF	RFV	TDN-100%	TDN-90%	CP-100%
Supreme	<27	<34	>185	>62	>55.9	>22
Premium	27-29	34-36	170-185	60.5-62	54.5-55.9	20-22
Good	29-32	36-40	150-170	58-60	52.5-54.5	18-20
Fair	32-35	40-44	130-150	56-58	50.5-52.5	16-18
Utility	>35	>44	<130	<56	<50.5	<16

POTATOES & ONIONS

February 22, 2017

Potatoes

UPPER VALLEY, TWIN FALLS-BURLEY DISTRICT, IDAHO--- 754-796-769 (includes exports of 3-3-3) --- Movement expected to remain about the same. Trading fairly slow. Prices Norkotah 70-80s higher, bales and Burbank 100s lower, others generally unchanged. Russet Burbank U.S. One baled 10-5 pound film bags non size A mostly 4.50-5.50; 50-pound carton 40-70s mostly 7.00, 80-90s mostly 6.50, 100s mostly 6.00-6.50; Norkotah U.S. One baled 10-5 pound film bags non size A 4.50-5.50; 50-pound carton 40-50s 4.50-5.00, 60-80s mostly 5.50, 90-100s 5.50-6.00.

Onions - Dry

IDAHO AND MALHEUR COUNTY OREGON--- 300-299-285---Movement expected to remain about the same. Trading slow. Prices lower. Yellow Spanish Hybrid U.S. One 50-pound sacks super colossal 6.00-7.00, colossal mostly 6.00, jumbo mostly 5.00, medium mostly 4.50-5.00; White U.S. One 50-pound sacks jumbo 12.00-15.00, medium 10.00-14.00; Red Globe Type U.S. One 25-pound sacks jumbo mostly 6.00, medium mostly 5.00.

5YEAR GRAIN COMPARISON

Grain Prices	2/19/2013	2/25/2014	2/20/2015	2/22/2016	2/22/2017
White Wheat	8.64	7.36	No Bid	No Bid	4.76-4.86
11% Winter	8.64-8.91	8.47-8.57	6.19-6.33	5.33-5.49	5.07-5.42
14% Spring	9.26	8.61	8.56	6.02-6.12	6.57-6.87
Corn	290.50-293	8.61 No Bid	No Bid	4.46-4.54	4.58-4.68
Ogden: White Wheat 11% Winter 14 % Spring Barley	8.40 8.03 8.60 12.00		6.20	4.64 4.43 5.08 7.25	3.91 4.11 5.42 5.50
Blackfoot/Idaho Fa					
White Wheat	8.00	6.10	5.80	4.45	3.60
II% Winter	7.52	7.15	5.38	4.05	4.40
14% Spring	7.81	7.41	6.31	4.80	5.15

Burley:				
White Wheat 7.90	6.08	5.75	4.33	3.51
II% Winter7.507.50	6.81	4.63	3.69	3.57
14% Spring	6.97	6.17	4.58	5.17
14% Spring	7.50	5.00	6.00	5.00
Nampa/Meridian:				
White Wheat (cwt) 13.08	10.50	9.15	7.63	3.69
Lewiston:				
White Wheat 8.48	7.02	6.50	4.90	4.52
Barley231.50	156.50	151.50	126.50	96.50
Bean Prices:				
Pintos35.00-35.00	35.00-37.00	35.00-37.00	22.00	28.00-30.00
Pinks40.00-42.00	39.00-40.00	39.00-40.00	28.00	N/A
Small Reds40.00-42.00				
***				37.00

MILK PRODUCTION

February 21, 2017

January Milk Production up 2.7 Percent

Milk production in the 23 major States during January totaled 17.0 billion pounds, up 2.7 percent from January 2016. December revised production, at 16.8 billion pounds, was up 2.6 percent from December 2015. The December revision represented a decrease of 2 million pounds or less than 0.1 percent from last month's preliminary production estimate.

Production per cow in the 23 major States averaged 1,957 pounds for January, 37 pounds above January 2016. This is the highest production per cow for the month of January since the 23 State series began in 2003.

The number of milk cows on farms in the 23 major States was 8.69 million head, 67,000 head more than January 2016, and 5,000 head more than December 2016.

The annual production of milk for the United States during 2016 was 212 billion pounds, 1.8 percent above 2015. Revisions to 2015 production decreased the annual total 36 million pounds. Revised 2016 production was down 76 million pounds from last month's publication. Annual total milk production has increased 14.4 percent from 2007.

Production per cow in the United States averaged 22,774 pounds for 2016, 378 pounds above 2015. The average annual rate of milk production per cow has increased 12.7 percent from 2007.

The average number of milk cows on farms in the United States during 2016 was 9.33 million head, up 0.2 percent from 2015. The average number of milk cows was revised down 5,000 head for 2016. The average annual number of milk cows has increased 1.5 percent from 2007.

5YEAR LIVESTOCK COMPARISON

	2/19/2013	2/21/2014	2/20/2015	2/22/2016	2/22/2017
Feeder Steers					
Under 500 lbs	142-207	180-259	235-367	170-232	134-176
500-700 lbs	120-175	167-231	200-310	151-216	117-160
		130-175			
		105-152			
Feeder Heifers					
	128-172	170-237	220-337	150-225	116-157
		170-237			
		129-174			
		127-174			
Holstein Steers					
Under 700 lbs	75-110	98-128	140-188	91-120	70-81
Over 700 lbs	55-103	90-130	120-175	101-120	70-81
Cows					
Iltility/Commercial	59-79	70-97	85-120	58-79	45-67
Canner & Cutter	53-70	70-97 60-94	79-105	58-75	39-61
		925-1425			
Bulls — Slaughter	60-95	70-111	97-139	65-104	62-87

CATTLE ON FEED

February 24, 2017

United States Cattle on Feed Down | Percent

Cattle and calves on feed for the slaughter market in the United States for feedlots with capacity of 1,000 or more head totaled 10.8 million head on February 1, 2017. The inventory was 1 percent above February 1, 2016.

Placements in feedlots during January totaled 1.98 million head, 11 percent above 2016. Net placements were 1.93 million head. During January, placements of cattle and calves weighing less than 600 pounds were 380,000 head, 600-699 pounds were 445,000 head, 700-799 pounds were 585,000 head, 800-899 pounds were 410,000, 900-999 pounds were 116,000, and 1,000 pounds and greater were 45,000 head. New placement weight categories are available this month. The new categories are 800-899 pounds, 900-999 pounds, and 1,000 pounds and greater. Information for January 2017 and January a year ago can be found on page 5 of this publication. This additional information will be published monthly in the Cattle on Feed report.

Marketings of fed cattle during January totaled 1.75 million head, 10 percent above 2016.

Other disappearance totaled 53,000 head during January, 5 percent below 2016.

CATTLE MARKET REPORT

February 15, 2017

USDA National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) released its Cattle report January 31, 2017 which showed higher inventory numbers in many categories for the third consecutive year. The total cattle and calf inventory increased about 2 percent from 2016. Increases were seen in 27 States. States with the largest increases in all cattle and calves include Texas (+500,000 head), Missouri (+250,000 head), Oklahoma (+200,000 head), and Kansas and Colorado (+150,000 head each). The expansion was likely buoyed by a combination of strong cow-calf operator returns in 2014 and 2015 as well as improved pasture and range conditions in much of the Plains region. Beef cow numbers were 3 percent higher than the same period last year, but milk cow numbers were virtually unchanged

Total beef cows increased 3 percent, but a number of indicators suggest that although the expansion continues, the rate of expansion is slowing. Heifers for beef and milk cow replacement are often used as barometers of herd expansion or contraction rates. Heifers for beef cow replacement were I percent higher than last year but down from the 4 percent and 3 percent increases achieved in 2015 and 2016, the first 2 years of this expansion. Heifers for milk cow replacement show similar patterns, registering at I percent below 2016 levels, but were positive for the first 2 years of the expansion. Producers also indicated that they expect only 2 percent more beef heifers to calve during 2017, down from increases of 7 percent and 6 percent in 2015 and 2016.

Despite relatively cheap feed, returns to feeder cattle operations were negative, with losses widening during 2016. Despite expected improvements in cattle feeding returns, feeder cattle supplies outside feedlots are above last year and prices will remain under pressure through much of 2017. Feeder cattle prices for 2017 are forecast to average \$131-139 per cwt, down about \$7 from 2016.

The number of cattle on feed in U.S. feedlots with a capacity of 1,000-plus head on January 1, 2017, was fractionally higher (Cattle on Feed, January 27, 2017). Cattle placed on feed in December 2016 were up 18 percent compared with December 2015. This was the second consecutive month that there was a year-over-year dou-

ble-digit increase in cattle placements. It is likely that lower numbers of cattle grazing on small grains pastures was a contributing factor to the relatively large increase in placements. Winter wheat planted area was lower than 2016 in most of the country, and the estimate of cattle grazing small grain pasture in Texas, Oklahoma, and Kansas on January 1, 2017, was 5 percent below 2016. Fed cattle marketings in December 2016 were 7 percent above that of 2015, but the increased numbers of cattle on feed on January 1 2017, and the timing of their placement suggest that fed cattle marketings in the first half of 2017 will be larger than 2016. With 2 percent more cattle outside feedlots on January 1, placements in 2017 are expected to be above 2016. The timing of placements during the year will depend on a number of factors, including breeding herd decisions, producer decisions about winter wheat graze-out, and the availability of forage during the year.

Commercial beef production in 2016 came in at 6 percent above that of 2015. This is due to a combination of increased slaughter and slightly higher dressed weights. Weights were higher in the first half but fell below year-earlier as producers became more current with their marketings. Slaughter in 2017 is forecast higher as cattle placed in the later part of 2016 and first half of 2017 are marketed. Producers are expected to remain relatively current in their marketings during the year, which will limit increases in carcass weights. Beef production for 2017 is forecast at 3 percent above previous-year levels.

Fed cattle prices are expected to remain under pressure in 2017. Packers' margins are seasonally weak, which is will likely impact their willingness to bid up cattle prices over the next weeks. As increased supplies of fed cattle are marketed in the spring quarter, fed steer prices are likely to remain under pressure, averaging \$106-\$110 per cwt during the quarter. Large supplies of fed cattle will likely continue to pressure prices during the second half of the year. Fed steer prices are forecast to average \$109-\$116 per cwt for the year, down from \$120.86 in 2016. Economic Research Service, USDA



Animals

Sheba Inu dog looking for country home. Pros: Neutered, not aggressive towards animals. Smart, agile, fast, loyal, lovely. Housebroke, likes kids, 25 lbs, rarely barks. Cons: Sheds, sometimes leaves home without permission. Doesn't like nails trimmed., Caldwell, Id 208-407-2406.

Kiko Meat Goats, registered purebred and commercial. Raised for hardiness, breeding stock, meat and brush management. Excellent recip, or candidates to add hybrid vigor to your lines. Check our site for current availability: www.kikogoats.org Kopf Canyon Ranch, Moscow, Idaho. 208-669-9000.

Farm Equipment

36 pieces of 4 inch ball and socket \$1000. 2- Thunderbird wheel moves with double drivers \$3500 a piece or \$6000 for both. Butte County, ID 208-243-0786.

J.D. 4430 tractor with duals and front weights 10150 hours, good condition. J.D. #40 manure spreader, 9:00 20 tires stored inside. Hazelton, ID 208-731-4181.

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

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

Household

Thomas Playmate organ with color-Glo keys & foot pedals. Excellent condition. Will sell organ, bench, all the music for \$250. Ammon, ld. 208-932-1298.

Miscellaneous

14x40 Jet geared head metal lathe, 240v single phase 2 HP on stand. Excellent condition. \$4,000. Moscow, Id 208-882-0112.

IPM Solutions — rodent & fly control: safe, effective, cost efficient. (208) 308-4418.

Used Woodmaster LT45 outdoor wood stove. Comes with pump and draft fan. We will help with install. Stove heats your home and hot water. Works in conjunction with existing furnace or without one. Please Call John 208-781-0691. Best heat ever!

Real Estate/Acreage

Working hay/cattle ranch. All set up turnkey operation. House partially furnished. Ready for you to move in. Good hunting. Bonners Ferry area. No subdividing. 113.45 acres. \$849,000. 208-267-7929.

40 Acres near Rexburg, ID. Land is cross fenced into 5 pastures, large shop, 4 bay equipment storage, 6 corrals with automatic waterers, 1300 sq. ft. older home. Land can be divided into two 20 acre parcels. \$495,000 208-313-0477.

Lot for Sale - 1/2 Acre Country Lot. Building Lot or for New Manufactured Home. City water, Gas, Utilities available. Must obtain permits for water hook-up & septic system. Shelley area. Call 528-5337.

Recreational

2005 Custom weld 21 ft jet boat. Low deck, with dog house. 350 h.p. Kodiak motor, 2 fish finders — stick steer 80 Minna Kota -15 h.p. Evinrude American turbine- 100 hours on boat. \$45,000. Meridian Id. Plus extras. 208-870-3710.

FREE CLASSIFIED ADS

FOR IDAHO FARM BUREAU MEMBERS send to: dashton@idahofb.org

Trailers

16 ft Gooseneck trailer by C&B Manufacturing. Dual axle, 8 tires with loading ramps. 20,000# load rate. Asking price \$5,200. Very low miles. Heyburn, Id. 208-431-7401.

Wanted

Looking for one propane fridge for house. Working order good. 208-368-7475.

Will pay cash for used Lapidary Equipment. Also buying rough material (Rock) and possibly estates. Located in Southern Idaho. Contact Randy 208-749-1613 or Mark 731-7859.

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.

Wanted

Paying cash for old cork top bottles and some telephone insulators. Call Randy. Payette, Id. 208-740-0178.

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

Our Idaho family loves old wood barns and would like to restore/rebuild your barn on our Idaho farm. Would you like to see your barn restored/rebuilt rather than rot and fall down? Call Ken & Corrie 208-425-3225.

DEADLINE DATES:
ADS MUST BE RECEIVED BY
March 20 FOR NEXT ISSUE.

FREE CLASSIFIEDS

Non commercial classified ads are free to Idaho Farm Bureau members. Must include membership number for free ad. Forty (40) words maximum. Non-member cost- 50 cents per word. You may advertise your own crops, livestock, used machinery, household items, vehicles, etc. Ads will not be accepted by phone. Ads run one time only and must be re-submitted in each subsequent issue. We reserve the right to refuse to run any ad. Please type or print clearly. Proof-read your ad.

Mail ad copy to:

FARM BUREAU PRODUCER P.O. Box 4848, Pocatello, ID 83205-4848 or e-mail Dixie at: dashton@idahofb.org

Name:	
Address:	
Gity / State / Zip:	
Phone:	Membership No
Ad Copy:	



IDAHO FARM
BUREAU FEDERATION
P.O. Box 4848
Pocatello, ID 83205-4848

Sign your vehicles up for the Idaho Farm Bureau

Jiffy Lube Signature

Service Oil Change \$10

Discount* program.

*This is a stand alone discount and is <u>not stackable</u> with any other Jiffy Lube promotion or discount offer. Once an Idaho Farm Bureau membership is confirmed on the first oil change, the discount remains in effect for that specific vehicle (using fleet #102851)**.

**This program is anticipated to be availble for mutliple years. However, all discount programs are subject to change if requested by the Idaho Farm Bureau or by Jiffy Lube.

Present one of these for proof of Idaho Farm Bureau membership.







Participating Idaho Jiffy Lube Locations

AMERICAN FALLS 2830 POCATELLO AVE
AMMON 2523 E SUNNYSIDE RD
BLACKFOOT 933 MARKET ST
BOISE 1206 BROADWAY AVE
BOISE 3606 W STATE ST
BOISE 8018 FAIRVIEW AVE
BOISE 1484 S WEIDEMAN AVE
BOISE 5007 OVERLAND RD
BOISE 8401 W FRANKLIN RD
CALDWELL 1204 CLEVELAND BLVD
CHUBBUCK 4674 YELLOWSTONE AVE
EAGLE 1516 E. STATE STREET
FRUITLAND 903 NW 16TH ST
HAYDEN 8655 NORTH GOVERNMENT WAY

IDAHO FALLS
IDAHO FALLS
IDAHO FALLS
IDAHO FALLS
MERIDIAN
MERIDIAN
MOSCOW
NAMPA
NAMPA
POCATELLO
POST FALLS
TWIN FALLS
TWIN FALLS
TWIN FALLS

153 WCDNOT AVE
570 PANCHERI DR
1546 W BROADWAY ST
360 E FAIRVIEW AVE
1645 S SPRINGVALLEY LANE
326 TROY ROAD
1130 CALDWELL BLVD
824 12th AVE RD
588 YELLOWSTONE AVE
1650 EAST SELTICE WAY
947 BLUE LAKES BLVD N
2362 ADDISON AVE E
142 WASHINGTON ST N

185 S WOODRUFF AVE