

**IDAHO  
FARM BUREAU**

# Quarterly

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Fall 2017 Volume 17, Issue 4



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# Beyond the Fencerows

## Worker Shortage Threatens U.S. Ag Sustainability

By Zippy Duvall  
President American Farm Bureau Federation



Thanks to scientific innovation in agriculture, farmers and ranchers are using fewer resources to grow an abundant, sustainable food supply. But I wonder how far our new technology and techniques will take us if farmers are left without one of the most critical resources to keep our farms sustainable: a stable workforce.

Agriculture's labor shortage is at a crisis level, with farmers like Burr and Rosella Mosby losing crops and income because there aren't enough workers for harvest. Every year we hear stories of fresh produce rotting in the fields instead of feeding people, because farmers cannot find help or secure guest workers in time. Without relief, many farmers will have to scale back production or get out of farming altogether.

See DUVALL, page 12

# The President's Desk

## Farmers Support Regulatory Reform

By Bryan Searle  
President Idaho Farm Bureau Federation



In a recent movie trailer, Mike Rowe, the host of Dirty Jobs and outspoken supporter of blue collar America, discussed agriculture and some of the challenges farmers face. Did you know about 1.5 percent of the U.S. population makes up our agriculture workforce and provides food for over 300 million Americans? Did you know there were six million farms in the United States in 1935, as opposed to about

two million today?

With such a small minority of people producing food today it's our task to inform the general public about some of the ridiculous government regulations and misconceptions about food production.

One of the biggest challenges farmers face are government regulations, including local, state and federal. During the summer of 2015, an attempt to increase the Environmental Protection

See SEARLE, page 8

# Inside Farm Bureau

## This is Not the Congress We Elected

By Rick Keller  
CEO Idaho Farm Bureau Federation



This month is the one-year anniversary since the last general election in the United States. Every seat in the U.S. House of Representatives and one-third of the U.S. Senate were up for election. Their names were placed before the people. Nearly 139 million people cast ballots, representing 60 percent of eligible voters. Idaho cast 710,545 votes, 61 percent of the

eligible voters.

The great Founding Fathers of the U.S. Constitution intended a unique form of democracy in which Congress would be a collective problem-solving entity. They studied the governments of the world and designed one in which there are multiple checks and balances. They purposely wanted a legislative body different from the parliamentary form of government they were accustomed to.

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Cover: Tim Kemery, right, is a logger, rancher and trapper in Custer County. He is currently working on a forest thinning project west of Challis. On the left is David Philips, a Custer County cattle rancher. Both men are members of the Custer County Farm Bureau Board of Directors. Photo by John Thompson



# Rural Idaho Series



A group of farmers, ranchers and federal officials discuss forest management practices during a recent tour sponsored by Custer County Farm Bureau.

## Custer County's Last Logger

**Editor's Note:** *This is the first in a series of articles about people who make their living from the land in rural Idaho and some of the challenges they face. It's the beginning of an ongoing story about people whose occupations are high-risk and both physically and mentally demanding. Many of them are ancestors of the first settlers who came here to homestead and produce natural resources that would support a growing nation. They are Idaho's heritage and their sacrifices created an economy that allowed the rest of us to follow.*

### Article and photos by John Thompson

Rusty coils of barbed wire hanging from a fence post, a rock-walled tack shed, its battered roof made of poles, straw bales and dirt, a narrow switchback trail up a steep

mountainside, and a cairn piled on a talus ridge. These are the images of Idaho's heritage.

Rural Idaho is so vast and desolate at times, it's amazing how anything could live here. The harsh climate shows in the weathered faces of people who live here. But it's also rich with water and good soil, minerals, timber, grass, game and fish.

Descendants of the original settlers, the farmers, ranchers, loggers and miners who are still finding a way to make a living, may not be here much longer. Many are of retirement age but continue working. Their sons and daughters aren't interested in coming back home to raise families. Many rural counties are depopulating.

Important skills are disappearing with the

people. People who know how to keep a chain saw sharp, how to build a fence, how to train horses and dogs, work cattle, operate heavy equipment, run a trap line, protect livestock from predators, and any number of other unique skills are disappearing from the landscape. People willing to earn a modest living in a remote area, and on top of all that be willing to pass those skills along to the next generation, are difficult to find.

This stark but stunning landscape known to many as "poverty with a view," is also fraught with controversy. Management of public lands and wildlife are at the epicenter of the conflict. Idaho is 62 percent federal land and outdoor recreation is abundant. Millions of people travel here but few are keen to the controversy and cost

associated with federal land management. The traditional industries that rely on federal land are losing access in many cases due to conflicts with recreational users and environmental groups. The cost of owning adjacent land is another challenge in many cases because of the threat of fire, noxious weed migration, and wildlife depredation.

The people who have found a way to hang on in these rural areas are a hearty lot. Many of the old traditions remain. They know how to cook from scratch, sew, use an arc-welder or braid a new set of horse-hair reins. They don't live climate-controlled lives in cities where every comfort is at our manicured-fingertips.

Standing tall, taking on challenges and scratching out a living in Custer County, rancher, logger and trapper Tim Kemery is one such fellow.

Forest products remains an important part of the economy in Idaho's panhandle counties, but Endangered Species Act protections put in place in 1990 to save the spotted owl sounded a death knell for much of the industry. It shut down logging over vast swaths of the Pacific Northwest.

As a general rule of thumb, the economics of logging south of the Salmon River are challenging. There are exceptions but the trees, especially Douglas fir, are not as tall and have more taper, making them less desirable as saw logs. In addition, access to and transporting logs out of the forest contribute to the economic risks.

Although many skilled loggers and entrepreneurs willing to invest in the timber industry have moved on to more profitable areas, the need for forest management south of the Salmon River, remains.

Kemery wants to see the timber industry revitalized in Idaho. He believes if there is surety in the supply of logs, milling, and the many support jobs the timber industry supports, will come back and the state's rural economy will reap benefits.

Kemery is working on a Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Stewardship Contract project in the forest west of Challis. He's creating space between Douglas fir trees in a dense stand to enable sunlight to better penetrate the canopy. This helps the forest



A forested area west of Challis that was thinned to improve forest health.

grow and gain in plant diversity, reduces the potential damage caused by wildfire and breaks up the insect and disease cycle.

During a recent tour sponsored by the Idaho Farm Bureau, Kemery discussed the ongoing project and the many ways it's providing benefits to the land.

"We are hoping it will become a program that is ongoing," Kemery said. "But that has not been decided yet. In Arizona and New Mexico they are thinning and treating a lot of acres because of massive wildfires. The wood is being utilized as firewood, which is a real hungry market right now."

Kemery placed a per-acre bid with BLM and received the contract to thin 187 acres in three units. There are another 900 acres set to go up for bid. The contract requires 20-foot spacing between the remaining trees. All brush and trees taller than four feet are cut and the slash is scattered. The stumps are cut low, nearly at ground level. Kemery said the weight of snow will press the slash against the forest floor and help begin decomposition. The marketable timber cut from the stand is graded and stacked in decks. However, due to climate and other factors, the Douglas fir in this particular stand is relatively low value due

to its height and higher than average taper.

Most of the marketable trees are being sawed into mine timbers. Kemery said the Iron Creek Mine near Salmon is buying all of the 8X8 and 4X6 timbers he can produce. Another mine getting ready to start up near Mackay is also interested in timbers, he said. The wood is also being sold for pole barns, house logs and firewood.

"Part of the product that we are providing to the BLM is undamaged residual trees," Kemery said. "We have to be super careful in the way we fell and skid the trees."

Thinning and careful handling of the excess wood helps the health of the remaining trees and the small trees that will begin to grow after the treatment project is complete. Thinning facilitates sunlight to the forest floor and also breaks up the life cycle of the Tussock moth, the most troublesome insect in the area.

Kemery said thousands of Tussock moths swarm in the summer afternoons and it looks cloudy like a white haze. The pupa stage of this insect is a white worm that is laid in the bark of large trees. The worms drop out of the trees and need to land on

*See RURAL IDAHO p. 6*



A group of central Idaho residents, state and federal officials discuss forest thinning and stewardship projects that improve forest health and reduce the potential for catastrophic wildfires during a tour held in Custer County in August.

young trees in the understory in order to survive. Thinning the forest helps break the cycle.

“Strengthening the stand of timber we are leaving behind is an investment in our future,” Kemery said.

Yet another benefit to the project is fire resiliency. The area of this particular stewardship contract borders the Frank Church River of No Return Wilderness Area. Firefighters can’t use modern firefighting methods inside wilderness boundaries. During the tour Kemery emphasized that it’s important to thin and treat forested areas surrounding wilderness areas to help reduce fire intensity.

Catastrophic wildfires often create so much heat that soils are sterilized which makes healing the forest after a fire an even bigger challenge. In thinned, managed forest areas, fires are much less intense because ladder fuels are reduced and the fire isn’t able to jump from tree to tree as easily.

“These projects are important because they build resiliency into a stand of timber,” he said. “When we reduce fuel-load fires won’t burn as hot and the soil resource will be protected. That way you continue to build the soil and the stand is resilient against insects and disease.”

The biggest problem Kemery has encountered on the project relates to labor. He would like to have at least three loggers to

fell trees and spread the slash but the cost of liability insurance and worker’s compensation insurance is prohibitive, he said. In addition, availability of people with logging experience is low and finding others willing to learn is even more difficult. It’s hard, dangerous work and they spend many nights in the forest rather than traveling home.

Kemery and many of his colleagues in Custer County continue to hack a living out of this harsh country. But access to forest land, lack of available labor and many other challenges confront them. In our next installment of this series we will take a closer look at ranch life and the challenges of the livestock industry.

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# SEARLE

Continued from page 2

Agency's authority over the Clean Water Act came to the forefront. Under the Obama Administration, federal agency over-reach, with EPA and other agencies, became a frequent occurrence. An attempt to change this law would never pass muster through a legislative process, so agencies and appointed bureaucrats supplant the traditional process of making laws they think will be of benefit.

However, in this case, the proposed changes to the Clean Water Act would have given EPA authority to regulate every mud puddle and drainage ditch, including many waterways that may only flow for a few days in the spring. It would have usurped private property rights on thousands of farms, especially in western states.

EPA and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers finalized a rule in June 2015 that significantly expanded the definition of "waters of the United States," also known as "navigable waters," under the Clean Water Act. EPA failed to listen to concerned farmers, ranchers and business owners around the country in crafting its new rule, vastly expanding federal regulatory authority beyond limits approved by Congress and affirmed by the U.S. Supreme Court. But the rule was challenged in court by state, municipal and industry groups and was later blocked by federal courts based on legal flaws. It was never implemented.

Farmers, ranchers and business owners from across the nation banded together in a solid effort to block the rule. They submitted thousands of public comments

to EPA and effectively lobbied Congress to take a second look at the changes this proposal would bring. American Farm Bureau led an effective public relations campaign called "Ditch the Rule," that played a major role in generating public comments and illustrating the problems with the proposal. Many Idaho residents responded to the call to arms and we thank you for your support.

Last February, shortly after taking office, President Donald Trump rescinded the Waters of the U.S. (WOTUS) rule. As this took place, American Farm Bureau President Zippy Duvall was in the Oval Office. Immediately following the signing, President Duvall and EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt spoke to Farm Bureau leaders. Pruitt gave credit to Farm Bureau members for a solid effort in defending our rights to

manage our private property.

At that time, EPA began a two-step process, first rescinding the rule and maintaining the status quo, and second to begin development of a new lawful definition of "waters of the U.S." Public comment was accepted through September and we have yet to see the new definition.

Although it was a serious threat to U.S. agriculture, we were able to band together and make our voices heard. We are happy that things turned out the way they did but we remind Farm Bureau members to remain vigilant. We are the food producers, a small minority of Americans, and it's an important job. By working together we can effectively maintain our livelihoods.

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Sarah Davis Swain rounds up cattle for weighing and shipping to Bovina Feeders in Texas.

# Davis Family Raises Japanese Cattle

**Article and photos by Steve Stuebner**

On a cool August morning, Rancher Phil Davis and several friends on horseback herded yearling cattle from a private pasture into corrals near a barn on the outskirts of Cascade.

Just as the sky turned crimson with morning light, the cowboys rounded up cattle while a layer of ground fog hovered.

The tan- and black-colored cattle came trotting down a lane and into the corrals.

It was time to ship the yearlings to Texas, where they'd be finished in a feedlot and sold to HeartBrand Beef, a flagship label for prime cuts of beef.

The yearlings come from a special breed of cattle from Japan, called Akaushi cattle,

pronounced "Aakah-u-she"

The Davises decided to try raising Akaushi cattle for two reasons – the high-quality meat commands a higher price, and the Davises' extensive pasture lands in Cascade are ideally suited for raising yearlings.

"No. 1, the benefit of running Akaushi cattle as yearlings," Davis says. "We wanted to be in the yearling business here because we have summer grass, and they feed better with more age. They need to gain mostly an average of about two pounds a day throughout their life."

With all of the irrigated pasture on the Davis Ranch, the cattle will gain that amount during the summer season.

"Our kind of operation lends itself better to this breed of cattle," he says. "And the

industry has strived to give the consumer a better product, more consistent with a better flavor, and that's what Akaushi does. It's very consistent, and very good flavor."

Gail Morris of Bovina Feeders in Texas says Akaushi cattle are highly sought after in the marketplace because of the quality of the beef.

The most special thing about them is if you're looking for the best beef available, these cattle produce it. They are genetically capable of grading to 90 to 95 percent prime," Morris says.

"Here in the U.S., the top grade is prime, then choice, then select. They are top of the line."

Davis says he likes that the Akaushi cattle command a premium price, and they also



Akaushi cattle seem to be ideally suited to the Cascade area, where they gain about two pounds a day on irrigated pasture.

do well in the Idaho mountain environment.

“There is a premium for the cattle, no question, and so obviously that’s a benefit, but we don’t find we give up much in performance either,” Davis says. “So there’s really not a downside to it.”

The Japanese breed seems very adaptable, Davis says. “In Japan, they run from about 9,000 feet to sea level. They’re acclimated to higher elevation or low elevation. So they seem to handle whatever climate pretty well.”

The cattle are easy to handle, too, he says.

“They’re unique in that they’re always in the front when you’re running cattle,” Davis says. “The Akaushis will be in the lead, they travel really good, they move all the time.”

But the bottom line is about producing the prime cuts of beef, and the taste.

“Well there’s no comparison,” Davis says. “It has a much more buttery flavor. The flavor is so much better.”

Gail Morris says Akaushi beef is the best. “To me, personally, they have a little sweeter taste. I can distinguish real easily the difference between a HeartBrand or Akaushi and a native.”

The Davis family is raising a cross-breed between an Akaushi bull and an Angus cow, which produces meat that ranges 35-65 percent Prime, and the rest Choice.

Akaushi cattle also have health benefits. The meat contains more mono-unsaturated fat, than saturated fat. And the meat has a high proportion of oleic acid, the good fat found in olive oil. Research on the beef has shown that it raises good cholesterol levels in the people who eat it.

The Davis family started raising Akaushi yearlings about seven years ago, and

they’ve become one of the largest suppliers of Akaushi cattle to HeartBrand from the Northwest. In recognition of their contributions to the industry, the American Akaushi Association presented a “Securing the Legacy Award” to the Davis Family last October.

“It’s nice to have for a treat, nice to have if you’re going to entertain,” Davis says. “Show it to people, try this! Had a guy here one time and he said he’d eaten meat all over the world, and he’d never eaten any as good as that! Course it was my cookin’ but ... “

HeartBrand beef can be purchased online at [heartbrandbeef.com](http://heartbrandbeef.com).

*Steve Stuebner is the writer and producer of Life on the Range, an educational project sponsored by the Idaho Rangeland Resource Commission.*

# DUVALL

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*Continued from page 2*

I think of farmers like Tim McMillan, who would like to sustain their farms to pass on to the next generation. Instead, they are left wondering if it makes sense to go on when they don't have enough workers to plant, tend and harvest crops—and the problem gets worse every year.

The farm labor shortage also takes a bite out of our national economy. A study by the group New American Economy estimated that the shortage cost \$3.3 billion in GDP growth in 2012 alone. As I've said many a time, we're coming to a point where America will have to decide if we're going to import workers or import our food. Increasing food imports means losing thousands of American jobs that are supported by agriculture. That same NAE study

shows there would have been more than 89,000 additional jobs in 2012 if farmers had not faced workforce challenges.

Every time this topic comes up, there's an outcry for farmers to pay more. But those complaints tend to come from those who don't know the going rate for skilled farm work. For example, skilled workers harvesting specialty crops like apples and strawberries can earn well over \$20 per hour when paid piece-rate wages. Under the current federal agricultural guest worker program, H-2A, farmers pay the Adverse Effect Wage Rate as a baseline which, depending on the state, can be anywhere from 9 percent to 90 percent higher than the state minimum wage. That's on top of providing free housing to workers and paying for their travel from

their home country. H-2A also requires employers to post job openings to make sure Americans get first crack at farm jobs. But as any farmer can tell you, the average American has little interest in farm work. Even with the higher wage rates and strict requirements, H-2A applications are on the rise. Certified positions in 2017 are up 20 percent compared to this time last year, which shows just how hard-pressed farmers are to find workers.

Farmers need a guest worker program that meets both their needs and farm workers' needs, and brings stability to our food system. The AG Act, a bill sponsored by House Judiciary Committee Chairman Bob Goodlatte, is a good solution. It would create a new H-2C program for agriculture, allowing

workers who are already on our farms—whom farmers have trained and come to know and depend on—to remain in the U.S. under the new H-2C visa. The bill could be improved. For example, the American Farm Bureau believes it should not limit the number of worker visas. But we support Chairman Goodlatte's effort, because it opens the door for progress such as we haven't seen in more than three decades of hemming and hawing on this issue.

Immigration reform is a tough issue, but we cannot avoid it any longer. Instability in our farm workforce places American jobs and American-grown products at risk. We need members of Congress to work together to ensure Americans have access to a safe, sustainable supply of U.S.-grown food.

# KELLER

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*Continued from page 2*

Their first article in the Constitution addressed Congress, one house representing the people and the second representing geographical entities (the states). Each were given specific responsibilities and boundaries. Most of the federal government's real powers outlined in the Constitution rests with Congress – spend, tax, create federal programs, declaring war, approve treaties, confirm federal court appointments.

As we go to the polls as voters, we seek elected representatives open to intelligent and civil debates about competing ideas. We seek representatives who study the issues, from a

variety of resources, and make informed decisions that are best for the people who elect them. We seek representatives that listen to the silent majority rather than the vocal fringe on either side. We seek representatives that will solve problems.

However, from many outsiders' perspective, what we sought in the last election is different from the reality. We are not witnessing elected officials representing the people, but rather a power struggle between two private organizations or political parties. It appears Congress seeks to represent these private organizations by marching in lockstep on every issue, large

and small.

Many assume that's just how democracy works, that is how it has always been, that it's the system the Founders created. But what we have today is a far cry from what the founders intended. George Washington and James Madison both warned of the dangers posed by political parties.

A century ago, the progressive movement pushed the adoption of primary elections in which a party candidate was selected by a public vote, rather than by party leaders in backroom deals. The reform was supposed to give citizens a bigger role in the election process.

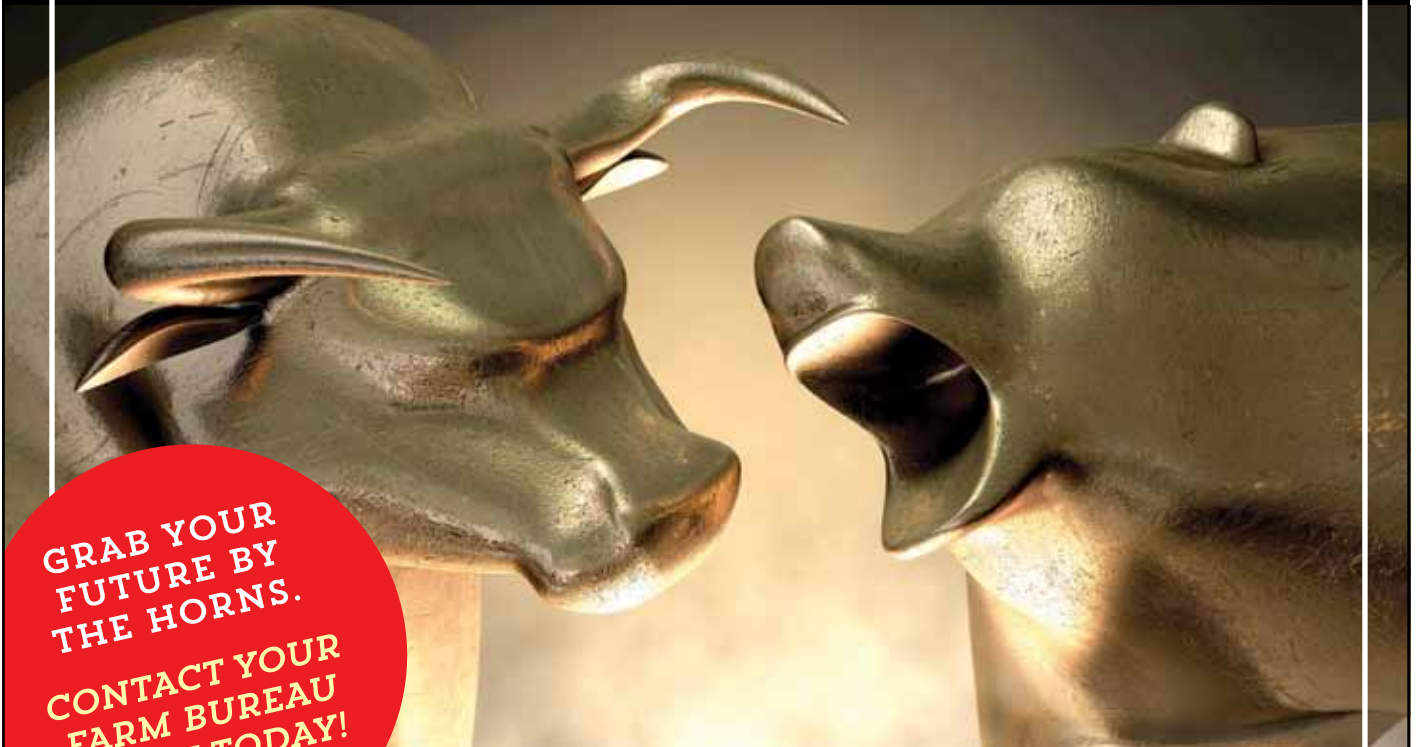
Instead, the influence of party leaders has been supplanted by that of a subset of party activists who are often highly ideological and largely uninterested in finding common ground.

During a period of even greater divide than what we currently have, Abraham Lincoln at the dedication of the Soldiers' National Cemetery in Gettysburg, outlined the ideal American government, a "government of the people, by the people, [and] for the people."

Congress needs to remember who elected them. They need to represent the people and not the party.

# TAME — THE — MARKET

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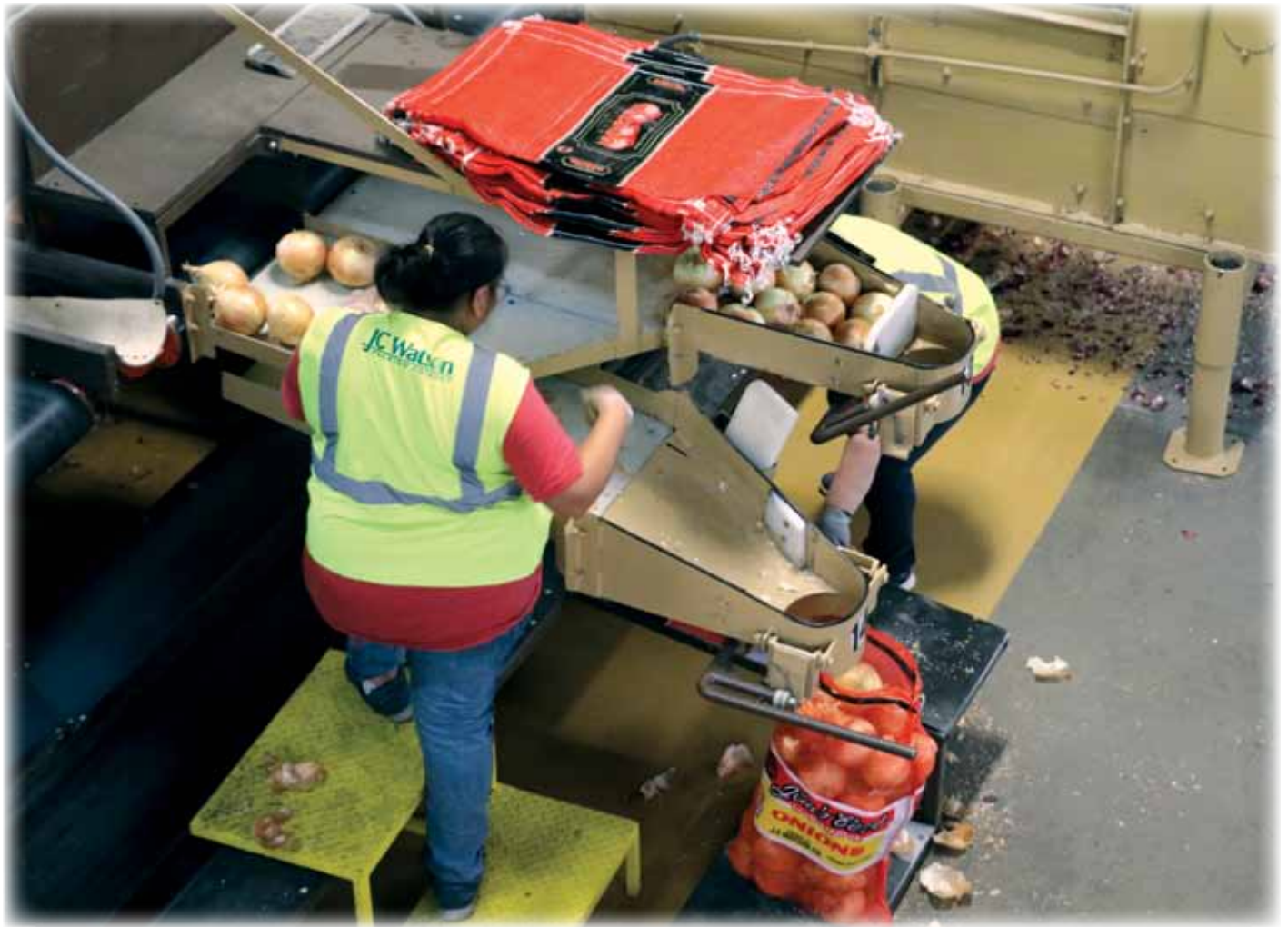


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# Mixed Onion Harvest in Idaho and Oregon

**By Jake Putnam**

After one of the most disastrous winters in history, the Treasure Valley's battered onion industry is back up and running.

Despite a slow start and low yields, strong market prices have growers enthusiastic.

"This is the second highest price I've ever seen," said Shay Meyers of Owyhee produce. "Onions are selling for \$10 per 50-pound sack. Last year they were going for \$4 dollars. We

have a long way to go but we're cautiously optimistic this season because we think we have a manageable crop."

Last winter Idaho and Oregon suffered through a heavy winter. By the end of January more than six feet of snow collapsed 60 onion storage sheds in Canyon, Washington and Malheur County, Oregon.

The storms also wiped out a good chunk of last year's bumper onion crop causing more than a \$100 million of damage and collapsed buildings.

Last year at this time onions were selling for \$3.50 a sack. When a third of the crop was lost, demand in February pushed the price past the \$10 mark.

This year the onion trucks started rolling two and a half weeks late. The crop got a late start due to wet, cold spring weather. Four weeks later a change in the weather created a 6-week heat wave. Meyers says because of the challenges this crop won't top last season's bumper yields.

"We're late with harvest this year because of that cold spring. It was hard to get planted in all of that mud. Right now we're starting to lift the onions out of the dirt and the hot days are good for drying them on the warm ground," said Jon Watson of the JC Watson Company out of Parma.

Packers are dealing with the lower yields, rebuilding sheds and budgets are tight.

Myers said Owyhee Produce lost four storage sheds. The main packing house was dam-

## **“This is the second highest price I’ve ever seen. Onions are selling for \$10 per 50-pound sack. Last year they were going for \$4 dollars.”**

aged but continued operations through the winter. Myers said eastern Oregon was hit first so their buildings were the first to be rebuilt and they’re off to an earlier start than Idaho neighbors.

“In terms of storage, all of our buildings have been rebuilt. We were fortunate in our misfortune and were able to rebuild first. We’re ready now for storage. We were affected first, our storages are complete” said Meyers.

In Parma JC Watson Company had a partial collapse of one of their main sheds in January.

“We’re rebuilding and everything is updated and state of the art,” Jon Watson said. The new sheds he refers to are climate controlled and can adjust to weather conditions. Onions, potatoes and many other stored vegetable crops require humidity, a constant temperature and either low-light or no light. The technology can adjust to outside climactic conditions to keep the crop in prime condition prior to shipping.

“Over the past five years we’ve been building new multi-tasking storing sheds that can handle the heat and the cold and we can change the climate at different times of the year for a reason. We have the ability to turn storage climates into weather conditions that we don’t have at the time, things like turn night into day,” Watson said.

Spanish bulb onions grown in Idaho and Oregon make up

a third of the total US crop. They’re typically stored and sold later in the marketing year. Market prices are improving because of the late harvest and several other factors.

“California got done early, Washington is just getting started and we’re going to be late,” said Watson. “Because of the late start we are probably going to see a smaller size profile. Add the lateness to harvest and there’s not as many onions offered for sale right now.”

Treasure Valley and eastern Oregon onion farmers grow more than 1- billion pounds of onions each year, making this the nation’s largest onion-growing region in terms of volume.

At least 90 percent of the onions grown in the region are yellow, while the rest are red and white varieties. Harvest usually starts in August and wraps up by the end of October.

There are 36 packing sheds in the region and the industry’s annual economic impact is an estimated \$1.3 billion.

Onion acreage is close to 20,000 this year but production estimates are well off last year’s record season.

“Compared to 2016 we’ll see a 30 percent reduction in yields,” said Meyers. “Last year we had record yields that were 15 to 20-percent over normal yield averages. And this year we’re 10-15 percent below an average year.”

From restaurants to big box stores, Watson says this year’s crop will impact major retailers across the nation.

“We ship our product all over the country,” he said. “We’re servicing outlets like Walmart and Taylor Farms. Taylor makes fresh cut onions for all of the major restaurant chains. Today we’re packing for Outback restaurants and they’re big onions but not as many as last year.”

Producers stress that it’s still early in the season and the most worrisome part of the year will start when they move onions into storage. They say storage

will be tight with no guarantees that prices will hold.

“The market today is between \$9 and \$10 dollars,” said Watson. “We hope they’ll stay. We hope that stays throughout the storage process. We haven’t harvested one onion for storage yet. They’re still out on the ground and some of the crop is still growing.”

2017 is a year of wild contrasts for onion producers. They had one of the biggest crops ever in storage followed by 40 inches of snow. The collapses took a big chunk of the bumper crop and caused \$100 million in shed damage.

“Prices are good, but like I said before we need two years profit this fall to make up for last years losses. I know it is a lot to hope for but it’s all we’ve got,” said Meyers.

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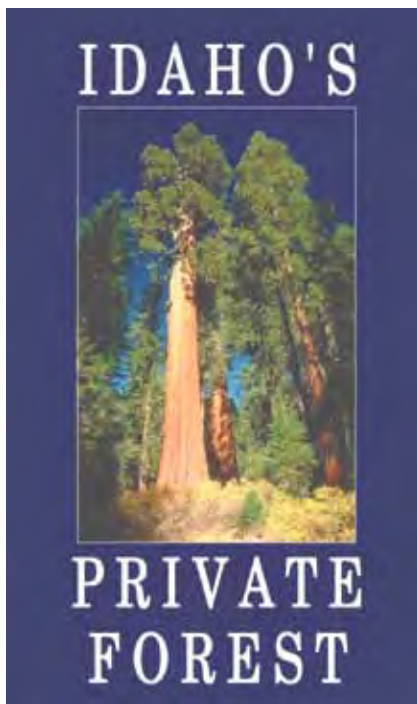
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Logs are scaled based on diameter inside bark, shown, as well as length. If length and diameter are known, volume can be determined. This log diameter is about 10.5 inches inside bark.

# Understanding Log Weight Scaling vs. Volume Scaling

By Randy Brooks

Changes in the forest products industry and fiscal insecurities are ultimately adjusting the medium through which sawlogs are bought and sold. It is becoming more common for forest industry companies and log buyers to purchase timber on the basis of weight in contrast to the traditional methods of volume (thousand board feet or mbf) which include individually measuring (scaling) each log delivered. This may be confusing for many forest landowners, especially when the time comes to market their timber. This article explains the basics of weight scaling so landowners can market their timber with confidence.

Weight scaling is the purchasing of saw logs or standing timber on the basis of weight. The development from scaled volume to scaled weight formed as a means of cutting costs and maintaining mill efficiency as harvest volumes increased and

average sawlog diameter decreased. Additionally, purchasing logs by weight in place of volume also created a universal way of assessing transactions across regions utilizing different log scaling methods.

In the 1950's, southeastern U.S. lumber markets began using weight scaling as an alternative to traditional stick scaling. This involved weighing log trucks entering and exiting mills and paying for the net weight in product delivered. The process has continued its development to current methods employed across the U.S. where sample weight scaling is utilized. Sample weight scaling has worked to utilize the efficiency of weight scaling while retaining a portion of sawlog loads for stick scaling as a means of accuracy adjustment and improving weight scaling conversion factors. Through systematic samplings of log trucks with stick scaling procedures, additional variables of species, season, and tare truckload weight, models can be developed to pre-

dict truckload volume from weight alone on non-scaled loads. This reduction of total scaled loads and increased truck turn times at mill yards has shown significant improvements from classical scaling practices. While the pulp and paper industry initially started the transformation, today weight scaling encompasses more than 70 percent of all commercial softwood scaling in the U.S.

As weight scaling was proven successful for handling pulpwood-sized timber, the rest of the market began to show interest for several reasons. First, the average sawlog size used for lumber was decreasing. This meant each mill needed to handle greater numbers of logs to maintain production levels. Second, the transition towards more efficient product utilization reduced waste. Today, computers and laser technology are used to maximize production and use all of the log including selling sawdust and chips to heat and power facilities with wood boil-



Logs can also be scaled by weight. Here a log truck is driving over scales to be weighed with logs loaded.

ers. While traditional scaling only accounts for board in each log segment, weight scaling accounts for the entire log.

A common question is “Why isn’t there a standard set of weights for all sawlogs and why does the conversion have to adjust?” The short answer is that there is no neutral conversion that would be fair, but there are accessible average weight conversions that landowners and loggers can use to help guide them in marketing timber.

There are several reasons that blanket conversion factors are not employed. First of all, trees are like fingerprints in that each one is unique from all others from its height, diameter, density, defect, and species. For example, the difference in wood density fluctuates not only amongst species but also geographically within the same

species. These changes are representative of stand density, soil characteristics, and slope position in which the trees grow. Additionally, the ability to account for defect within trees is limited in weight scaling as many defects do not cause weight reduction in the wood but are limiting in the amount of lumber a log can produce. These changes make it difficult to employ only one conversion factor.

A second reason that standard sawlog weight conversions have not been established is that the diameter of a log affects the amount of lumber the log will yield, i.e., it takes more small logs to produce 1,000 board feet of lumber.

Finally, changing climate and season have the ability to affect log weight through changes in moisture content within har-

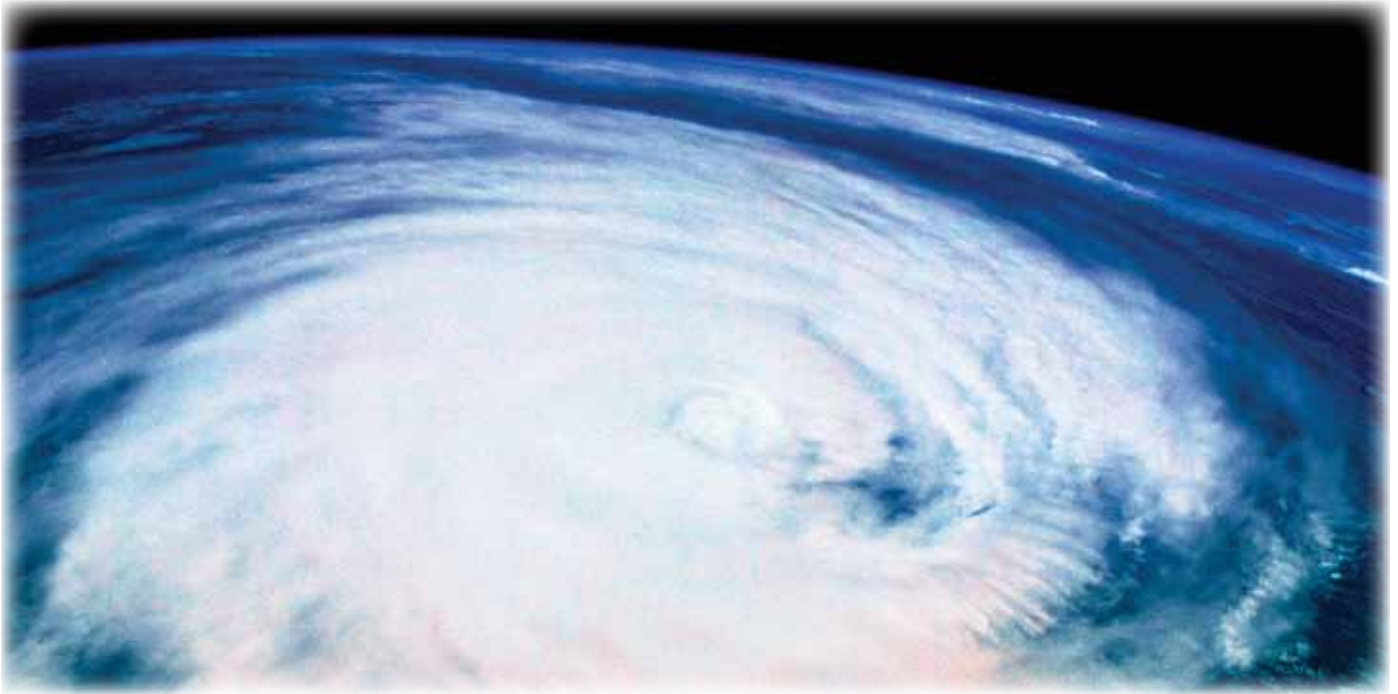
vested trees. Water makes up one-half the weight of wood and changes in temperature or precipitation can significantly change the weight of a log through adding or removing water from the logs through evapotranspiration. These climatic changes are most visible across yearly seasons. Sawlogs harvested in late fall and winter typically contain more moisture and are therefore heavier as a result of the cold and wet conditions. Whereas sawlogs harvesting in the summer months are exposed to hot, dry weather that significantly reduces the weight conversion factors of the wood.

The result of this situation is that there are no industry standard sawlog weights that guide the industry. Many private timber companies have constructed proprietary conversion factors while logging contractors

who are routinely immersed in the process have also developed an understanding of the conversion factors. These internal understandings remain private knowledge from which sawmill log prices are set accordingly. This is one reason why loggers and landowners observe that different mills are paying different rates per tons of sawlogs. As an example, the owner of one company knows it takes 4.8 tons of western redcedar to make a thousand board feet in January but only 4.35 tons in the August. Through understanding his operating costs he knows the greatest amount he can pay for redcedar sawlogs throughout the year.

The variations in seasonal sawlog moisture content as well as between each species make the accuracy of weight to volume

*See FORESTRY p. 23*



# Focus on Agriculture

## Weather Impacting Our Friends and Neighbors

By Amelia Kent

If you're remotely involved in agriculture, my guess is you've been doing the same; catching a glance while hurriedly harvesting what you can, or maybe helping neighbors get their crops out, and preparing the best you can. Given that in the last year nearly all of our state experienced flooding, we are empathetic for those now affected by this latest natural disaster.

The continued coverage coming out of Texas is staggering, but the pictures I've received from friends in southwestern Louisiana, as well as posts I've seen on social media about Harvey's impact on Louisiana's farming and ranching community, are heartbreaking. Many of us have similar personal experiences recently, so we understand the challenges so many are facing.

A week after Harvey left destruction in his wake, I had the opportunity to visit good friends in Cameron Parish to see how the water impacted their farm. They received nearly 30 inches of rain in two days, and water from further north was flowing through their property down to the Gulf of Mexico. During the visit, I received a lesson on the hydrology of the area in the form of a field trip. We took a side-by-side through their hayfield inundated with a foot of water to get to the mud boat. Once in the boat, we launched into an overfilled drainage ditch to go check their cattle, which were content and grazing on the levees. When I quizzed my friends about their needs, they were very humble and declared as long as the water keeps flowing they were in good shape.

In the midst of this devastation, there is a refreshing, beautiful sight. The sense of com-

munity in this time of urgent need is, quite simply, amazing. A friend in south Texas texted me that his family was safe, their livestock fared well, but they sustained a great deal of damage. Yet, this same friend is facilitating pet and horse feed donations through his feed store and is coordinating cooking camps and food delivery efforts in the small towns surrounding his family's ranch. A childhood friend of mine called me asking if I knew where hay was needed and that he already has two semi-loads of hay heading to Wharton, Texas. He is anxious to help any way he can, and fits hay loads into an already-busy schedule.

The Louisiana Farm Bureau's Livestock Advisory Committee restarted its hay clear-

*See FOCUS ON AGRICULTURE p. 30*

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- **Blake Ashcraft**, Twin Falls, (208) 733-7212, bashcraft@idfbins.com
- **Arden Anderson**, Idaho Falls, (208) 522-2652, aanderson@idfbins.com
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# FORESTRY

Continued from page 19



Once logs are weighed, they are off-loaded at the mill.

relationship conversions highly important from an economic standpoint. For example, Douglas-fir sawlogs lose an average of 34 percent moisture content from each log over a one month period after harvest in the summer, regardless of harvest system. Assuming a truckload contains 54,000 lbs, roughly matching state averages and legal highway limits, a 34 percent moisture content loss would result in roughly 4.59 tons of lost water weight or 17 percent loss in total truckload value if paid using a weight basis system. Current industry weight-to-volume relationships for Intermountain West Douglas-fir during the 3<sup>rd</sup> seasonal quarter are 5.51 tons/mbf. While most sawmills in Idaho have developed their own conversions, it is important that each landowner understand their own timber so they can be more

confident when marketing their timber. Other reasons for varying market prices might be a good supply of sawlogs, falling lumber prices, and so on.

There are many environmental and scaling factors affecting sawlog weight to volume relationships. Landowners who are marketing timber should not be intimidated by bids made in weight. Through a competitive-bidding process and careful consideration of species and season in conjunction with contacting local extension educators or state private forestry specialists for assistance, landowners can identify the best options to meet their forest management goals.

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

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# INSURANCE MATTERS

MIKE MYERS — *Farm Bureau Mutual Insurance Co. of Idaho*

## PREVENT FROZEN PIPES



Idaho winters don't always arrive as predicted. The tease of extended fall weather can end quickly and dramatically with surprise appearances of bitter cold fronts and underestimated snow storms. It's easier than we think to be caught off-guard.

A substantial concern for Idaho property owners during the winter is frozen waterlines. As most of us know, when a pipe freezes and bursts, the damage can be catastrophic to your property. If you haven't considered your readiness to endure the cold this year, now is the time. In addition

to the tips we've provided below, contact your Farm Bureau agent for more information on protecting your plumbing from freezing.

### BASIC PREVENTION

**Sprinkler systems.** Be sure to have your lawn irrigation system shut off and blown out with compressed air. Also, be sure to shut off the timer and remove the batteries.

**Check for gaps.** Crawl spaces, basement windows, garages/shops/barns, etc can have small areas where outside air flows in

near pipes. Use caulk or expanding foam where you can to seal small gaps. During extreme cold, you may need to close foundation vents if your home has them. For older homes with no storm windows, consider thermal plastic sealing kits.

**Exterior faucets.** Disconnect and drain all garden hoses. If possible, shut off the faucet's supply from inside the home and leave the faucet open for the winter. If you cannot control the faucet supply from an

*See INSURANCE MATTERS, page 30*

# Social Media **CONNECTS** Farmers & Consumers

Finding common ground between farm families and consumers is easier than ever thanks to social media.



## FOOD AND AGRICULTURE BLOGS TO FOLLOW



- Best Food Facts** | [bestfoodfacts.org](http://bestfoodfacts.org)
- Fill Your Plate Blog** | [fillyourplate.org/blog](http://fillyourplate.org/blog)
- Food Dialogues Blog** | [fooddialogues.com/blog](http://fooddialogues.com/blog)
- Food Insight** | [foodinsight.org/blogs](http://foodinsight.org/blogs)
- Food Integrity Blog** | [foodintegrity.org/news-blog/cfi-blog](http://foodintegrity.org/news-blog/cfi-blog)
- GMA Blog** | [gmaonline.org/blog](http://gmaonline.org/blog)

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Sources: AFBF; USDA-ERS

### DID YOU KNOW?

About 8 percent of U.S. farms market foods locally, through direct-to-consumer or intermediated sales (farmers' markets, farm stands, Community Supported Agriculture, food hubs, etc.). Buying local provides the opportunity to talk to those who grow or produce fresh fruits and veggies, flowers, meats, cheeses, baked goods and other value-added foods. Learn more at [www.ams.usda.gov/services/local-regional/food-directories](http://www.ams.usda.gov/services/local-regional/food-directories).



# TOP FARM BUREAU AGENTS

Agent of the Month:



Eastern Idaho Region  
Rhett Price

Rookie of the Month:



North Idaho Region  
Steven Zamora

Region of the Month:  
Eastern Idaho

# WORD SEARCH

ANSWERS from page 24

F	Q	R	G	A	N	I	Z	A	T	I	O	N
S	V	O	M	G	T	L	W	K	F	D	B	S
F	T	P	L	D	E	D	I	C	A	T	E	D
A	G	R	I	C	U	L	T	U	R	E	S	Y
M	P	W	E	R	E	B	M	E	M	E	K	S
I	T	P	S	N	F	D	G	N	U	P	R	T
L	H	R	G	D	G	S	V	L	T	V	F	O
I	V	O	L	U	N	T	A	R	Y	O	H	O
E	K	P	Z	R	D	V	H	W	C	H	N	R
S	W	E	K	N	C	S	D	E	P	A	K	S
R	S	R	O	B	H	G	I	E	N	D	Z	S
L	P	T	S	M	P	S	T	H	G	I	R	A
R	S	Y	T	B	U	R	E	A	U	Z	N	R
V	D	Z	P	R	O	T	E	C	T	I	N	G

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# INSURANCE MATTERS

Continued from page 27

interior valve, install an insulated faucet cover - available at any hardware/home improvement store. Free faucet covers are also available from your local Farm Bureau Insurance office while supplies last.

**Insulate pipes.** Wherever your pipes are accessible, adding snap-on pipe insulation can help retain those few degrees needed during a bitter cold Idaho night. Be sure the insulation is snug, with no gaps between it and the pipe. If you have exposed pipes anywhere in your home, spending a few bucks and an afternoon installing them can save you a disaster later on.

**Keep your home toasty.** If you're going away, leave your heat on your normal settings. That wives-tale method of turning your heat down while you're out of town can result in a huge disaster if the temperature takes an unexpected drop. It's just not worth those few dollars you might save on your heating bill.

**For the techies.** There are some very ingenious and intuitive home automation products that monitor your home's sprinklers, water pressure, temperature and more using any device with internet connection. If you are techie minded individual, check out some of the home "hub" systems that can let you be in control when you're not home.

## ON THE COLDEST NIGHT...

Sometimes basic prevention just isn't enough. When your favorite news meteorologist

starts talking about "temps in the sub-zeros", maybe you should take things a step further...

**Let it drip.** In your kitchen and at least one bathroom, open a faucet enough for a slow drip. It keeps water moving through the pipes. It also helps relieve built-up water pressure, in case they should still freeze. If you have water pipes running in outside walls, do this with the closest faucet to those pipes.

**Open cabinets.** If there is a cabinet under your kitchen, bathroom, laundry room, or shop sink; open it. If you store dangerous chemicals under the sink (as many still do), be sure to get them out of children's reach.

## "IF A PIPE FREEZES, WHAT DO I DO?"

If no water comes out of a faucet (or it comes out very slowly) during or after an unusually cold spell, a frozen pipe is the probable suspect. Check other faucets in your home to see if the situation is localized or if a main line is damaged. If it's widespread, turn off the main water to the house and call a plumber.

If only one pipe seems frozen, turn on the appropriate faucet to help get the water moving. Be aware of where the pipe runs through walls or in ceilings and be sure to watch and listen for water leaks. If the water has not returned to full volume after a short time, the pipe may have burst somewhere inaccessible. You will need to call a plumber.

# FOCUS ON AG

Continued from page 20

inghouse after members learned of the desperate need to feed stranded cattle. In spite of slim hay supplies this soggy year, we immediately began receiving hay donations from across Louisiana. With the help of our Extension agents in affected areas, we were better able to pinpoint urgent needs and help get hay to critical situations. Other connections with semi-trucks have become the life savers as they are transporting donated hay across the state. Witnessing the generosity of farmers, haulers and the Louisiana Department of Agriculture come together in an orchestrated, collective effort is heart-warming. Though these efforts are selfless, hearing the sheer gratitude in the voices of the farmers who received help is

priceless.

As our society seems more divisive with each passing day, observing the strong sense of community as farmers and ranchers unite in the time of need is certainly inspiring. Farmers' and ranchers' tenacity is one of the most beautiful traits, and is also part of what makes our kind unique. In times like these, we're not down and out, we're just letting the water flow through and eventually go down.

*Amelia Kent, a member of AFBF's current PAL class and the GO Team, raises cattle and hay with her husband in south-eastern Louisiana. You can follow Kent Farms on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram at kentfarms\_la.*

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

To all policyholders: The 2018 annual meeting for policyholders of Farm Bureau Mutual Insurance Co. of Idaho will be held on Friday, Feb. 2, 2018, 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. 2, 2018, 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

# New Documentary Shines a light on Science and Agriculture

By John Thompson

Science recently struck back in a new documentary from Black Valley Films. Food Evolution hammers home the point that it's much easier to scare people about food than it is to educate them about new technology.

The New York Times made the following observation about the new documentary available currently on Hulu: "With a soft tone, respectful to opponents but insistent on the data, Food Evolution posits an inconvenient truth for organic boosters to swallow: In a world desperate for safe, sustainable food, GMO's may well be a force for good."

This film throws cold water on the likes of Vani Hari, a.k.a. the Food Babe, Jeffrey Smith an anti-GMO activist, and Zen Honeycutt, an organic food activist. It points out that these people are not scientists, they're activists using no peer-reviewed data or science that can be duplicated, to frighten consumers. Their target audience is mainly mothers with young children. In addition, the film points out how these activists are profiting from inducing fear and uncertainty.

At one point in the film Honeycutt makes the statement that organic food is "how God intended it to be." However, she is then confronted with the fact that nearly all organic fruits and vegetables have been genetically modified throughout history for positive traits through selective breeding.

Filmmakers Trace Sheehan and Scott Hamilton Kennedy were reluctant at first, when they received a pitch for a film that presented a "fact-based public dialogue about our food system," from the Institute of Food Technologists (IFT), a non-profit. The documentary's website provides a thorough explanation of how the project was conceived. After an initial conversation



the film-makers learned three things that solidified their desire to make the film.

"First, as scientists they (IFT) understood the importance of an independent investigation into a topic as polarizing as the science behind how we grow and produce food, and as such, when we insisted on *complete creative control and final cut* before we could participate in the project, they willingly granted that control to us.

Second, IFT is not a trade association, they do not represent industry and amongst their members who work in the private sector, many work for the natural and organic food industry as well and not just for what many have come to call "Big Food" or "Big Ag." They represent science, scientists and the body of scientific knowledge that continues to evolve, as science does. As with nearly

all scientific societies, they charge companies that wish to advertise, sponsor or exhibit in their publications or annual food exhibition to help finance their operations as a non-profit. But, most importantly, neither the motivation nor the funding for this film would come from any grants or from any particular company or industry group, but solely from the scientific society itself on behalf of its diverse membership.

And third, as food scientists who were tired of seeing their work denigrated and diminished by less detail-oriented, if often well-intentioned, media and activists that focused on fear-mongering over facts, their overarching goal for this project was to *promote a more science-based conversation about food*, and not to advance any particular agenda."

This documentary takes a step back from the fray of food politics and misinformation and puts the science first. The conclusions it draws are based in fact and peer-reviewed. It's information about food that consumers can trust which is refreshing at a time when misinformation is the norm. But as Sheehan, the film's producer and writer explained to Forbes Magazine, evaluate the data and draw your own conclusions.

"That's how science works," Sheehan said. "Show us your data and let the experts and scientists debate the issues in all their glorious nuance. And as we take in the scientific process at work, let's do our best to put aside bias so we can have more productive conversations and make the most informed decisions we can. That's all we can ask of each other and ourselves."

# IDAHO FFA—GROWING AGRICULTURAL LEADERS

## Why FFA

FFA members are students who are preparing to help meet local and global challenges through careers in agricultural sciences, business and technology through their participation in high school agricultural education and FFA.



FFA has been an integral part of agriculture programs in Idaho high schools since 1929, currently with over 13,000 Idaho agricultural education students, 92 active chartered Idaho FFA chapters, and over 4,700 Idaho FFA members.

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- 3) Participation in FFA programs and Activities

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SAE is experiential, service or work-based learning through the **implementation** of an SAE program.

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FFA—Premier Leadership, Personal Growth and Career Success through Agricultural Education



# Modern Miracles or Malicious Murderers?

By Russ Hendricks

You rinse your mouth with it every night and morning. You slather it liberally on your hands before you eat, and on cuts and scrapes your children receive. You hire people to spray it on your lawn and around your house. Your vet recommends that you apply it to your pets and even feed it to them on purpose. Yet there is an entire industry committed to convincing you that it will kill your family if you don't stop using it, immediately. What is this mysterious product?

Actually, it's not a single product, but a class of products specifically referred to as bactericides, insecticides, rodenticides, herbicides, fungicides and several other scientific sounding names. They are all typically lumped together under the general label of pesticides.

The Food and Agriculture Organization defines a *pesticide* as "any substance or mixture of substances intended for preventing, destroying, or controlling any pest."

Despite the overheated rhetoric of internet "experts," pesticides are not only safe and effective, but are necessary to maintain the health and safety of our families.

Consider this, you don't give a second thought to using mouthwash, yet you are rinsing your mouth with a pesticide. It is designed to kill bacteria which can cause bad breath. You never worry about using hand sanitizer to kill germs on your hands before you eat, despite it being a pesticide. You happily apply pesticides to your pet to rid them of fleas or ticks, and give them pesticide laced "treats" to get rid of heartworms or other internal parasites.

Likewise, farmers use specifically targeted pesticides to keep insects, weeds, diseases, pathogens and other pests from negatively affecting food quality, quantity and ulti-

mately price. Sadly "a third to half of all food is lost to insects and pathogens before reaching the dinner table in developing countries" where pesticides are less available or unaffordable according to Sonny Ramaswamy, director of the National Institute of Food and Agriculture.

Although minute traces of pesticide residues may be detected on foods through routine inspections, the USDA and independent scientific studies have consistently found they are typically detected at levels below 1 percent of the Acceptable Daily Intake (ADI) set by federal regulations.

What does that mean? The ADI is based on animal exposure studies in a wide variety of species. Scientists feed animals specific amounts of pesticides on a daily basis throughout their lifetimes and monitor those animals for any effects. Through this, they determine the highest dose at which no effects occur. The ADI is then typically set 100 times *lower* than that level.

To put that in perspective, if you can drive safely at 70 mph on the freeway, the government then sets the speed limit 100 times lower than that safe level. You can then only legally drive at seven-tenths of a mile per hour. So an eggplant with a detectable residue at only 1 percent of the ADI is equivalent to an exposure 10,000 times lower than levels that are proven safe.

Therefore, you would have to eat 10,000 servings every day for your entire life before potentially seeing any negative effects from pesticides. You would literally be dead from overeating long before that.

Furthermore, these products are not cheap. Farmers want to use the tiniest amount possible to be effective. There is no additional pest control benefit from over-application, but there is a strong financial disincentive to do so.



Russ Hendricks

Today our food is fresher, cheaper and more wholesome because of the wise and prudent use of pesticides. In addition, we are healthier; we have far fewer plagues, communicable diseases and pestilence than our ancestors; all thanks to pesticides.

So if these products are so beneficial to the health and safety of people, pets, plants and livestock, why are unfounded internet scare tactics so successful?

Dr. Peter M. Sandman, a risk communication consultant in Princeton, N.J. explains "Risks that you control are much less a source of outrage than risks that are out of your control." Simply put, people are easily scared when they feel they have no control over farmers using pesticides on food crops, yet they are OK with applying the same products around their homes and children, often at much higher rates.

There is no meaningful difference between pesticides used to control pests in crops from those used to control pests in our homes, yards or hospitals, yet we never protest the latter. Used responsibly, pesticides truly are modern miracles that bless our lives daily from the ravages of nature.

*Russ Hendricks is the Idaho Farm Bureau director of governmental affairs. He can be reached at [rhendricks@idahofb.org](mailto:rhendricks@idahofb.org).*

# IDAHO FARM BUREAU FEDERATION 78th Annual Meeting

Fort Hall Convention Center, Fort Hall, Idaho  
"Idaho Farm Bureau – Unified In Agriculture"

December 5th-7th, 2017

Tentative Agenda

Tuesday, December 5

9:00 am - 4:00 pm **REGISTRATION DESK OPENS**  
Convention Lobby

11:00 am **GENERAL SESSION LUNCHEON**  
President Bryan Searle  
Rick Keller, Executive Vice President  
*Tendoy/Taghee*

1:00 pm **FARM BUREAU'S LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE AND WORKSHOPS**

**Legislative Issues**  
IFBF Governmental Affairs  
*Arimo*

**Market Outlook**  
Clark Johnston - J.C. Management  
*Racehorse A*

**Working With & For The BLM (A Double Perspective)**  
John Reese  
Rancher, BLM Range Con, Former AFBF YF&R Committee  
*Pocatello*

2:00 p.m. **REFRESHMENT BREAK**  
*Event Center Lobby*

2:15 p.m. **FARM BUREAU'S LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE AND WORKSHOPS (continued)**

**How and Why you Should Apply for Stockwater Rights on Federal Grazing Allotments**  
Norm Semanko - Parsons Behle & Latimer  
Michael Holliday – Idaho Dept. of Water Resources  
*Pocatello*

2:15 p.m. **WORKSHOPS (continued)**

**The Food Safety Craze: Labeling, Farming, & You**  
Jamie N. Wigglin  
Director of Food Safety & Policy, Northwest Food Processors Assoc.  
Jeff Kronenberg  
University of Idaho Extension Food Processing Specialist  
*Racehorse A*

**Seeing The Bigger Farm Bureau Picture/New Website**  
Rick Keller  
Idaho Farm Bureau Federation Chief Executive Officer  
Joel Benson  
Manager of Member Benefits & Digital Marketing  
*Arimo*

3:00 pm **DISCUSSION MEET PARTICIPANTS AND JUDGES**  
*Tyhee*

3:15 pm **DISCUSSION MEET SEMI-FINALS**  
*Racehorse B/Snagg/Tyhee*

5:00 pm **CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE MEETING**  
*Snagg*

5:15 pm **SCREENING COMMITTEE MEETING**  
*Tyhee*

5:15 pm **YOUNG FARMERS AND RANCHERS CAUCUS**  
*Racehorse B*

5:30 pm **DISCUSSION MEET JUDGES**  
*Arimo*

6:00 pm **DISCUSSION MEET FINALS**  
*Racehorse A*



Keynote Speaker:  
Gus Gustafson

**December 5th-7th, 2017**

**Tentative Agenda**

7:00 pm **YF&R AWARDS BANQUET**  
YF&R Awards  
(Farm Safety Minute, Live auction will follow)  
*Tendoy/Taghee*

Wednesday, December 6

7:00 am **RISE 'N SHINE BREAKFAST**  
Paul Roberts, Executive Vice President & CEO  
Idaho Farm Bureau Mutual Insurance Co.  
Zak Miller, Coordinator of Commodity &  
Marketing  
*Tendoy/Taghee*

8:00 am -  
10:00 am **REGISTRATION DESK OPENS**  
*Event Center Lobby*

8:00 am -  
8:45 am **"Linking AFBF and State Farm Bureaus"**  
Julie Anna Potts, Executive Vice President,  
AFBF  
*Tendoy/Taghee*

9:00 am -  
11:30 am **HOUSE OF DELEGATES SESSIONS BEGINS**  
*Racehorse A*

9:00 -  
10:00 am **DISTRICT WOMEN'S CAUCUSES**  
District I *Tyhee*  
District II *Snagg*  
District III *Women's Hospitality Room*  
District IV *Racehorse B*  
District V *YF&R Hospitality Room*

10:30 am **REFRESHMENT BREAK**  
*Event Center Lobby*

10:00 am  
12:00 pm **WOMEN'S COMMITTEE BUSINESS MEETING**  
*Racehorse B*

12:00 pm **AWARDS LUNCHEON**  
Ron Leavitt - FB Mutual Insurance Company  
Rod Eggleston - FB Finance Company  
Women of The Year  
County Showcase Top Awards  
*Tendoy/Taghee*

2:00 pm **HOUSE OF DELEGATES CONTINUES**  
*Racehorse A*

2:00 pm **Natural Disaster Discussion Panel Workshop**  
General Brad Richy - Idaho Office of  
Emergency Mgmt.  
Jon Reid - FBMIC Insurance Regional Claims  
Manager  
*Racehorse B*

3:15 pm **REFRESHMENT BREAK**  
*Event Center Lobby*

4:30 pm **DISTRICT CAUCUSES**  
District I *Pocatello*  
District II *Taghee*  
District III *Racehorse B*  
District IV *Snagg*  
District V *Tyhee*

7:00 pm **FARM BUREAU'S ANNUAL BANQUET**  
(Farm Safety Minute)  
President's Cup Award  
Keynote Speaker: Gus Gustafson  
*Tendoy/Taghee*

Thursday, December 7

7:00 am **COUNTY PRESIDENTS BREAKFAST/CTY. AWARDS**  
(County Presidents/State Board and Spouses  
Only)  
*Taghee*

8:00 am **ELECTION of DIRECTORS**  
*Racehorse A*

8:20 am **HOUSE OF DELEGATES CONTINUE**  
*Racehorse A*

10:00 am **REFRESHMENT BREAK**  
*Event Center Lobby*

12:00 noon **ADJOURN HOUSE OF DELEGATES**  
*Racehorse A*

12:30 pm **STATE BOARD OF DIRECTORS LUNCHEON**  
*Taghee A*

12:30 pm **STATE BOARD SPOUSES LUNCHEON**  
*Snagg*

## Summit Brings Entrepreneurs and Investors Together

For the second year, the American Farm Bureau is offering a one-day conference to help entrepreneurs tap into the billions of dollars venture capital fund managers are looking to put into agriculture and food businesses. The 2018 Farm Bureau Agriculture Investment Summit, hosted in conjunction with the organization's Annual Convention, is slated for Jan. 6 at the Gaylord Opryland Resort and Convention Center in Nashville, Tennessee.

Geared toward entrepreneurs,

investors and Farm Bureau staff who want to support entrepreneurs in their states, the conference will address pitching to investors and working with them in the early stages, attracting later stage private equity investors, and dealing with legal issues.

"As a start-up, there is a cost to going out and meeting people and raising capital. One of the best things about this conference is the American Farm Bureau is bringing together some of the top ag tech investors in the country. Having access to

those resources in one place, at one event, is an outstanding opportunity," said Casey Niemann, founder of AgriSync, an app that allows advisors to reach their farmer-customers with mobile-first, video-first support on any connected device. Niemann attended the 2017 conference.

Attendees will also hear about both sides of the venture capital coin; entrepreneurs will share their stories of taking on investors, while investors will explain exactly what they're looking for.

"It was very helpful to look at investment capital from the other side of the table. As a start-up, you're so focused on your business and your capital needs. It's really valuable to look at the risk and the strategy of the investor, meaning what do they need in terms of their portfolio to make a return for their investors," Niemann said.

In addition, the conference will give the best entrepreneurs the opportunity to pitch their businesses to investors during rapid-fire pitch sessions.

## House Committee Moves Monument Transparency Bill

The House Natural Resources Committee yesterday approved a bill that would restore Congress' original intent in passing the Antiquities Act in 1906. In modernizing the law for the 21st century, the Farm Bureau-backed National Monument Creation and Protection Act (H.R. 3990) would protect archeological resources while ensuring public transparency and accountability in the president's use of the Antiquities Act.

Approved by Congress more than a century ago, the Antiquities Act does not explicitly require the president to consult with local and state authorities, but it does mandate that the president reserve "the smallest area compatible with the proper care and management of the objects to be protected."

However, over the last eight years, the Obama administration used the authority provided by the Antiquities Act to go well beyond Congress' intent, locking up millions of acres of land from

multiple-uses by designating land as national monuments.

In a letter sent to President Donald Trump early this year, Farm Bureau and 18 other organizations highlighted their concerns and called for action. The groups represent the landowners, grazing permittees, loggers, forest products companies, miners and local governments who have been harmed by federal government's overreach in the national monument designation process.

"We strongly oppose the ongoing misuse of the Antiquities Act by the executive branch and request your administration to work swiftly to resolve these conflicts and work with Congress to pass legislation to improve accountability and transparency in the designation of national monuments. Such reform will ensure that the will of local communities is respected and true American antiquities can be protected," the groups wrote.

The National Monument Creation

and Protection Act addresses several of the groups' concerns. It includes provisions to protect endangered antiquities and to prevent abuse of executive authority and the designation of excessive national monuments. The bill would also empower impacted local communities and protect property rights.

Key provisions of the bill would:

Retain flexibility to designate a National Monument up to 640 acres, allowing the president to rapidly protect objects of antiquity in imminent danger and restore the original intent of the Antiquities Act.

Ensure all new monument designations between 640 acres and 10,000 acres are reviewed under the National Environmental Policy Act prior to being finalized. Proposed new monument designations between 5,000 and 10,000 acres must be reviewed under an environmental assessment or environmental impact statement.

Require the approval of all county commissions, state legislatures and governors impacted by a national monument for any designation between 10,000 acres and 85,000 acres.

Require prior written consent of impacted state and private landowners before private property is included in a national monument.

Allow the president to designate new "Emergency National Monuments" for up to one year to protect areas of any size in times of emergency.

Redefine the terms used in the Antiquities Act to prohibit the designation of marine national monuments, restoring the original purpose of the act to only protect objects on lands owned by the federal government.

Require monument reductions greater than 85,000 acres in size to be approved by the impacted counties, state legislatures and governors, and to have undergone NEPA analysis.

# Tax Code Revamp Should Support Agriculture

As Congress gets to work on a tax code overhaul, Farm Bureau is calling for a fair and equitable tax system that encourages success, savings, investment and entrepreneurship for all farm and ranch businesses.

Lawmakers' overarching goal for tax reform should be reducing effective tax rates, the organization said a statement submitted for the record to the Senate Finance Committee.

"Because profit margins in farming and ranching are tight, farm and ranch businesses are more likely to fall into lower tax brackets. Tax reform plans that fail to factor in the impact of lost deductions for all business entities and for all rate brackets could result in a tax increase for agriculture," Farm Bureau cautioned.

The organization emphasized the importance of various cost-recovery tools like business interest expensing, cash accounting, Sect. 1031 like-kind exchanges and deductions for local and state taxes.

"Farmers and ranchers need to be able to match income with expenses in order to manage their businesses through challenging financial times. Expensing allows farm and ranch businesses to recover the cost of business investments in the year a purchase is made," Farm Bureau said.

Cash accounting allows farmers to improve cash flow by recognizing income when it is received and recording expenses when they are paid, while like-kind exchanges allow them to defer taxes when they sell assets and purchase replacement property of a like-kind.

Farmers and ranchers typically rely on borrowed money to buy production inputs, vehicles and equipment, and land and buildings, making interest expense deductions also very important.

Farm Bureau renewed its call for estate tax repeal, the continuation of unlimited stepped-up basis and the reduction of capital gains tax rates.

"Capital gains taxes are owed when farm or ranch land, buildings, breeding livestock and some timber are sold. While long-term capital gains are taxed at a lower rate than ordinary income to encourage investment and in recognition that long-term investments involve risk, the tax can still discourage property transfers or alternatively lead to a higher asking price," Farm Bureau said.

The organization would also like to see a capital gains tax exclusion for land that remains in production.

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# Marketbasket Survey



## Nationwide Grocery Price Survey Shows Increases

### AFBF

Higher retail prices for several foods, including bacon, chicken breast, orange juice, sliced deli ham and flour resulted in a slight increase 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 \$51.13, up \$1.43, or about 3 percent, compared to a survey conducted a year ago. Of the 16 items surveyed, 12 increased and four decreased in average price.

Several foods showed significant retail price increases from a year ago, including bacon, chicken breast and orange juice, according to Dr. John Newton, AFBF's director of market intelligence.

"Bacon was up significantly because of the lower inventory and higher prices of pork bellies. We saw a rally in wholesale bacon prices this summer and fall which is being reflected at the retail level," Newton said. "Bacon is a sexy food item in restaurants and everywhere else, creating an inventory decline and thus a price increase."

"Supply and demand for chicken breasts is tight, which is why retail prices are higher," Newton said. In addition, he said the price increase for orange juice

is related to the lower supply of oranges, which could worsen due to the impact of Hurricane Irma.

Consumers saw a slight decline in egg prices. "Egg supplies are fully rebuilt from what we saw a few years ago and we are seeing egg prices continue to come back to where they were prior to the bird flu a few years ago," Newton said.

Price checks of alternative milk choices not included in the overall marketbasket survey average revealed the following: 1/2 gallon regular milk, \$2.07 and 1/2 gallon organic milk, \$4.27.

For many food items, the year-to-year direction of the marketbasket survey tracks with the federal government's Consumer Price Index report for food 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 15.6 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 \$51.13 marketbasket would be approximately \$8.00.

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 Cook-out 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 81 shoppers in 25 states participated in the latest survey, conducted in September.

### The following items showed retail price increases from a year ago:

bacon, up 19 percent to \$5.24 per pound  
chicken breast, up 9 percent to \$3.13 per pound  
flour, up 7 percent to \$2.37 per 5-pound bag  
orange juice, up 6 percent to \$3.46 per half-gallon  
vegetable oil, up 5 percent to \$2.52 for a 32-ounce bottle  
sliced deli ham, up 3 percent to \$5.62 per pound  
sirloin tip roast, up 3 percent to \$5.17 per pound  
whole milk, up 3 percent to \$2.93 per gallon  
white bread, up 2 percent to \$1.61 for a 20-ounce loaf  
toasted oat cereal, up 1 percent to \$2.84 for a 9-ounce box  
shredded cheddar, up 1 percent to \$4.11 per pound  
apples, up 1 percent to \$1.61 per pound

### These items showed moderate retail price decreases compared to a year ago:

bagged salad, down 16 percent to \$2.41 per pound  
ground chuck, down 3 percent to \$3.99 per pound  
eggs, down 3 percent to \$1.44 dozen per dozen  
potatoes, down 2 percent to \$2.68 for a 5-pound bag



AMERICAN FARM BUREAU FEDERATION\*

# Fall Harvest September 2017

MARKETBASKET SURVEY

**TOTAL: \$51.13**

Up \$1.43 or 3% compared to a year ago.  
Up 2% 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



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\*Certain restrictions apply. Please see the Rewards Program flyer available from your Farm Bureau Insurance agent for complete details.

## Farm Bureau Video: Farmers Squashed by Labor Shortage

WASHINGTON, D.C., – Without access to an adequate and stable workforce, many farmers are being forced to leave fresh produce to rot in the fields. Farmers and ranchers across the country are calling for long-overdue reform to the current guest worker visa program that would create flexibility and provide stability in the agricultural workforce.

Burr and Rosella Mosby explain in a new video from the American Farm Bureau Federation, the farm workforce is dwindling, and even with higher wages, it's hard to find enough workers for harvest. The Mosbys were forced to abandon a field of zucchini squash on their farm just south of Seattle when their workforce came up 25 percent short this season.

"I think we need more options," Rosella Mosby said in talking about the guest worker visa program. She said there is an availability of foreign workers ready to come work in agriculture, but the current system does not give farmers or workers the flexibility needed to fill farm jobs.

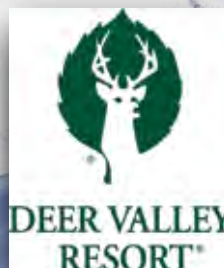
"It's supposed to be that you work hard and produce something, and you're getting paid at the end of the day," Burr

Mosby said as he watched the 20-acre field being plowed under. "Here we produced something. We grew it, and I don't have enough hands to pick it, put it in boxes, and sell it to the grocery store. That's what hurts." The Mosbys estimate that their workforce shortage this year will cost them \$100,000 in lost profits and productivity.

As Washington state farmers

"I think we need more op-

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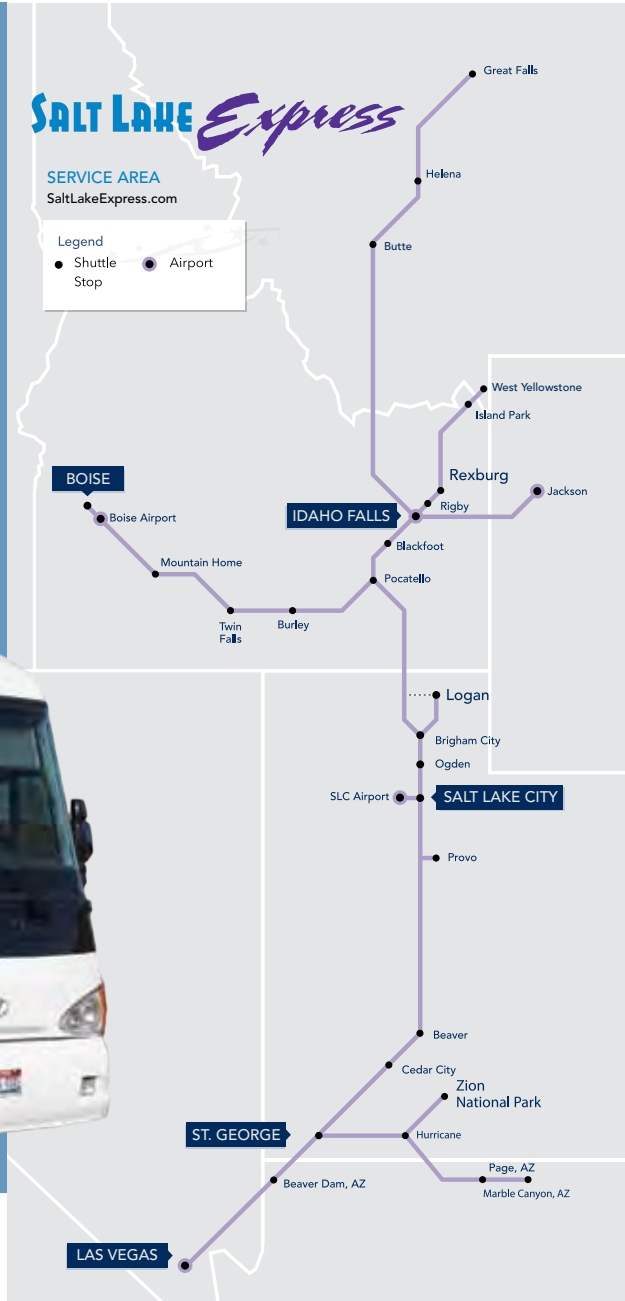
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# CLASSIFIEDS

## Animals

Idaho State Livestock Brand DC (D hanging C). Location: Cattle RHC, Horses RHH. \$300. 208-358-1739.

Himalayan Yaks for sale. Calves, Yearlings, Cows \$800.00 - \$3000.00. Yaks produce fiber, milk, meat and can be trained to pack. Excellent mothers that will protect their calves from predators. Call, email or text Anna at yakranch@frontier.com or (208)890-6399.

Black, long yearling SimAngus bulls for sale. Easy to handle, good feet and legs, good calving ease. Caldwell, Id. Phil at 208-454 3790.

## Farm Equipment

1978 680 E Case backhoe. Runs good, fair condition. \$12,500. Obo. 208-879-2208.

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.

Farmall International Harvester Tractor. Runs good Model M. Serial#171417, 1595RPM max idle speed with Delco Romy 11D7448 8H26. \$2000. All metal in good condition. 208-267-2857

2012 Massey Ferguson/Hesston 9740 Swather, 718 hours (like new) 16 ft. sickle head; R23A Vermeer Rake. Challis, ID 208-339-2434.

1990 Ford flat-bed dually. New paint, 7.3 diesel, auto, 28,000 miles. \$3800.00 OBO. International 3444 industrial loader tractor, gas, new paint, lights, seat. \$3400.00 OBO. Preston area. 208-681-3581

## Hay

2nd and 3rd crop hay, small bales. \$135.00/ton. Can load/deliver. Preston area. 208-681-3581.

## Recreational

1990 Dodge camper van, V8, electric air conditioner/heater, 3-way refrigerator, Propane stove, furnace, water heater. Tub / shower, lots of storage, sleeps 4, runs good. Sylvia 208-731-0545.

## Miscellaneous

Outdoor Pellet Stove for sale. Can be used to heat home, hot water, shop, barn, etc. Stove sits outside. Wood heat made easy. Beats propane, electric, and diesel fuel costs. Comes with hopper, can be used for cord wood. 208-781-0691.

1947 Piper PA-12 Super Cruiser Lyc 290-D2 All Alaska Mods Super Cub Wings/Tail feathers TTSN approx. 3200 hrs \$60k 208-869-5277.

Woman's Saddle. Handmade 1980, small adult, clean, good condition, western style. \$300 OBO. Call Karen 208-305-6635.

Happy Valley Ranch American Harvester double tub cider mill and wine press. Rugged hard rock maple and cast iron. Includes wooden hopper; wheels; and more. Absolutely beautiful! Never used. \$600, pictures available. Call Kurt 208-983-1417 leave message.

Canvas wall tents (3) \$200-250; tent stoves (2) \$25 each; heavy canvas pannurs pack bag (\$90); canvas saddle bag \$30; sawbuck pack saddle \$140; U.S. Army cots, like new, some in original boxes \$100 each. Twin Falls 208-731-3246.

## Real Estate/Acreage

2007 26x60 Manufactured Home, cedar style siding, red metal roof, large covered porch. Pocatello, ID 208-237-5748

Horse property in N. Idaho 19+ acres, hay or pasture, 4Bd 3b 3600 sq ft home. 40x80 barn 4 indoor stalls, +covered feed area. 20x30 heated shop, 42x60 equip. shed. \$629,500. Deary, ID. Terry 208-699-0816 or ctmaple@deary-id.com.

1/2 acre building lot for sale. City water, Utilities to property line, unobstructed view of Dragoon Mountains, sunsets. Pearce, AZ Text or call 208-993-1313.

General contractor's personnel log home on twenty forested acres. 2,400 square feet, three bedrooms, two baths. 30'x55' heated shop, RV storage building. Professionally landscaped. 40 minutes to Coeur d'Alene or Sandpoint. One hour to Spokane airport. \$599,000. Call Ron, 208-263-9141.

## Real Estate/Acreage

48-77 acres - 1800 sq. ft. home. Built 2014. 6 other outbuildings, fenced with ponds, hunting and fishing. \$395,000. Bovill, Id. 208-826-3610.

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.

5 acre horse property with furnished 2 bedroom, 2 bath mobile home in Bouse, AZ \$75,000. 208-670-4908.

## Vehicles

1988 Mazda RX7 Convertible. \$3200. 1.3 L R2 Motor. 5 Speed manual overdrive transmission 208-793-3685

1955 Chev Belair 2-D HT 350 engine. 350 trans frame off restoration. Pics available \$55,000 vernlovescars@gmail.com

208-772-7072.

1993 Isuzu truck, diesel, 16" bed low profile, \$600 obo. Timber king 1220 bandsaw on trailer, \$6,000 obo. 1984 Ford van, 302 motor, \$1,500. 1999 Ford 150 4x4 \$4,000. Kendrick, Id. Call 208-310-2734.

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Older Farm Bureau member looking for a Farm Bureau member that will allow me to hunt deer on their land. The property owner can specify time, place, weapon, etc. call 208-584-3662.

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

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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903 NW 16TH ST  
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