

Idaho Farm Bureau. Quarterly

Fall 2019 • Volume 19 Issue 4

Air Force vet integrates
animal care into day care



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Celebrating a century of the American Farm Bureau



Your American Farm Bureau turns 100 this month, a truly special cause for celebration.

All year long we have been celebrating a century of working together for the men and women who grow our food, fiber and energy. This remarkable milestone is a testament to how much stronger we are when we speak with one voice.

A lot has changed in 100 years, but farmers' and ranchers' most essential needs and concerns have not. Then and now, we need markets for what we produce, labor to grow and

harvest it, infrastructure to transport it, and fair prices to keep our businesses moving forward.

Thankfully, there is a strong, national organization working for those goals. Founded in November 1919, the American Farm Bureau Federation has given all farmers and ranchers a voice in our nation's capital.

Because of the decision 100 years ago to establish the American Farm Bureau Federation, farmers and ranchers are represented when Congress works on a wide range of issues.

See **DUVALL**, page 6

The President's Desk

By Bryan Searle

President Idaho Farm Bureau Federation

Thank a farmer for nation's bountiful food supply



By the time you read this, Idaho's 2019 agricultural harvest will be pretty much wrapped up.

For some people, having to wait in their vehicle behind a combine, potato truck, farm implement or cattle herd making its way to another field or pasture might seem like an inconvenience.

But maybe they should look at it this way: Idaho farmers and ranchers are part of a relatively small group of Americans who provide the safest and most affordable and reliable

food supply in the history of the world.

And they do it while taking great financial risk, every year, in the form of market prices, insects, crop diseases, increasing input costs, labor shortages, seemingly never-ending regulations, and, of course, the weather.

During the first part of October, farmers who produce the state's iconic potato crop were up against it as they faced rainstorms, which caused delays in the harvest process, and then they had to rush to harvest their

See **SEARLE**, page 7

Inside Farm Bureau

By Rick Keller

CEO Idaho Farm Bureau Federation

Stop and read the signs



My work with Farm Bureau has provided me an opportunity few realize. I have crisscrossed the beautiful state of Idaho many times from east to west and south to north and back again.

Often, I've thought, I wish everyone in the state could see what I'm seeing.

Idaho, the Gem State, has a unique gem in its Highway Historical Markers which we see as we hurry from one destination to the next.

The markers are the large 4 foot by 8 foot, yellow and brown wooden road signs that dot

this state in nearly 300 locations.

The signs are located at roadside turnouts or near other available parking so that you will not have to park on the shoulder of the highway to read them. Most you can read while sitting in the comfort of your car.

Historical markers are not new and Idaho's program is one of the best in the nation.

We usually see one in every small town or bluff. Most come in various shapes and sizes and are installed by private organizations or local residents.

See **KELLER**, page 6

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Photo by Sean Ellis

ON THE COVER: Day care owner Lisa Foes and children she cares for feed "Scout." See story on page 4.

Day care on the FARM

Farm animals are an integral part of Victor day care

By Sean Ellis

Idaho Farm Bureau Federation

VICTOR — Children who attend Lisa's Child Care in Victor receive a daily hands-on experience in animal care.

Lisa Foes has cows, horses, chickens, turkeys and milk and meat goats on her property, and the children at her day care feed and care for the animals.

Every day.

That includes milking the goats in the morning, collecting eggs, and the kids carry scoops of grain to feed the animals themselves.

They have even got to see a cow being born.

"The kids help with everything," said Foes, an Air Force veteran who started the day care 18 years ago.

"They get to experience a little bit of everything involved with animals. I teach them that we have to take care of the animals and they just love it."

Teton County Farm Bureau President Stephen Bagley said he was floored to discover someone in his



Photo by Sean Ellis

Lisa Foes is shown with her horse, "Scout," one of the many animals at her day care in Victor. Animals are an integral part of her day care and the children she cares for help feed and care for them on a daily basis.

area was running a day care that incorporates farm animals so closely into its day-to-day activities.

“It’s a really phenomenal way to get kids involved in learning where their food comes from,” said Bagley, a farmer and rancher. “It is just phenomenal what she’s doing to help little kids learn, in a very hands-on way, where their food comes from.”

Foes said the children understand that some animals end up in their stomachs.

“They understand they go into the freezer and that’s where their meat comes from,” she said.

As much as the kids enjoy all of the animals, their favorite is probably “Simba,” an attention-loving cat that is fawned over by the children.

All the animals have names, except for the turkeys, which the children just call “gobbles.”

When Foes was working in the corporate world and couldn’t find a good day care for her son and daughter, she started her own and it turned into a full-time endeavor.

The animals she keeps on her property have been part of her day care from day one.

“I just think every child should know where their food comes from and know that it takes work to take care of the animals,” she said. “That’s why every child who comes here in the morning has to help care for the animals first. They don’t get to eat or do anything until we take care of the animals first because the animals can’t feed themselves; we have to feed them.”

Foes cares for children up to the age of 5 and many don’t come from families involved with agriculture so they start with no clue about the important role animals play in people’s lives, she said.

“So I teach them about all of it and get them involved with all of the animals, on a regular basis,” she said.

Being around and involved with the animals is intricately woven into the day care’s curriculum and so is being outside.

“If it’s not raining, they’re outside with the animals,” she said.

That emphasis on animals is not for everyone, though. Foes interviews parents before agreeing to care for their children to make sure they’re OK with the animal part.



Photos by Sean Ellis

Day care owner Lisa Foes and children she cares for feed “Scout.”

TOP: Lisa Foes and some of the children at her day care in Victor feed turkeys. The children call the turkeys “gobbles” and they help feed and care for all the animals that are part of the day care.

“It’s a fit for some and it’s not for others,” she said. “I am who I am and I include all the animals in the day care. Some people would rather keep their children in a bubble and that’s fine. But this is how I raise children. They are always around the animals and I keep them involved.”

The parents who do want their kids to

attend her day care “just love the fact that they get to experience something like this,” Foes said

Foes said she doesn’t make a ton of money in her day care business, “but the way I look at it, I’m living the dream. It’s not really about the money; it’s about these kids.” ■

DUVALL

Continued from page 2

No matter what they grow or where they grow it, farmers and ranchers come together through Farm Bureau to work for the good of all of agriculture.

On a day-to-day basis, it's easy to take this organization for granted. It seems as if it always has been here for us farmers and ranchers, and it always will be. But to appreciate something's true value, you need to imagine how things would be without it.

Without Farm Bureau, we would not have federal programs to provide risk management tools to help farmers and ranchers survive volatile ups and downs in the farm economy. Without this great organization, non-farm interests would drown out the voice of farmers and ranchers.

The American Farm Bureau was the first organization to bring groups of grassroots members to Washington,

D.C., to influence their members of Congress in favor of farm legislation. Our Farm Bureau forefathers wrote the book on grassroots advocacy and influence, and we're still proud of our grassroots structure.

We have been standing firm for farmers since day one. In the early days of Farm Bureau, Congress wanted to recess without voting on a farm bill. The American Farm Bureau worked with a "farm bloc" of senators and representatives, however, to stop Congress from recessing until the farm legislation was considered.

With that same passion, we continue to band together across Farm Bureau to ensure that Congress, the White House and federal agencies make our farmers and ranchers a priority.

We in Farm Bureau often say that if there wasn't an American Farm Bureau, we'd have to create one today. Of course, the reality is we do "recreate" Farm Bureau with each new generation

of grassroots farm and ranch leaders.

Each generation determines where this movement will go next, how engaged they will be and, therefore, how effective and influential Farm Bureau will be.

Each generation strengthens Farm Bureau for the next, so that future farmers and ranchers will have a strong, united voice working for them, too.

In an age when it seems that so much is coming and going faster than ever, it is such a blessing to be able to celebrate 100 years as an organization.

Much like the farmers and ranchers we represent, we tend to keep our heads down and hands on the plow here at American Farm Bureau, moving forward with the work that needs to get done.

I'm so thankful for this opportunity to pause and reflect on our organization's history and the good work we've accomplished together.

May God bless us with another fruitful century of Farm Bureau! ■

KELLER

Continued from page 2

What is special about Idaho's markers is their uniform and easily recognizable design and placement.

The Idaho Transportation Department and the Idaho Historical Society began promoting the historical heritage of Idaho through the use of highway markers in 1956.

The historical society proposes sites and prepares information for the signs. The transportation department directs the preparation, location, installation and maintenance of the wooden signs.

The highway markers provide a rich history, culture and geology of where we live. They provide insight into our past as we contemplate our future. Many of the historical events reflect some of the situations we experience today.

In preparing for Idaho's Centennial in 1990, a federal grant allowed the transportation department and historical

society to publish the Idaho Historical Marker Guidebook.

Though out of print and in need of updating, the historical society has made the guidebook available through its website as a downloadable PDF for your devices. I urge you to download the book.

I find that by reviewing its pages before I begin to travel, the driving distances seem to be shorter and I look for and anticipate the next sign.

We have many highway marker signs within a 50-mile radius of where we live that we pass by in a hurry.

Get off the interstate, take a back road. Take some time, even if it is an hour or so, and explore those signs close to you. It's one thing to read about the history in the guide, but the added benefit is being on site of the location and viewing history in the present.

I think you will like what you see. I do. ■

'Get off the interstate, take a back road. Take some time, even if it is an hour or so, and explore those signs close to you.'

Continued from page 2

spuds before an early cold snap hit the region. Their crop was severely damaged due to unseasonably low temperatures.

But every year, people who work on the 2 million farms in this nation produce an amazing agricultural bounty that not only feeds the people in the United States but a good portion of the world as well.

Farmers make up 1.5 percent of the country's total population but produce more food and fiber per farm than during any time in history.

Think about what that means for a moment. These men and women produce so much food, annually, that the rest of the nation doesn't have to worry about where their food comes from and can pursue their various careers and a host of hobbies.

According to a recent column penned by U.S. Agriculture Secretary Sonny Perdue, the average American spends just over 6 percent of their disposable income on food, down considerably from 20 percent in 1950. That's the lowest percentage of any nation in the world and people in most countries spend way more than that on food.

While the number of farms in the United States has decreased significantly over the years, the total food and fiber produced in America has soared.

That increased productivity is the result of farmers adopting technological innovations that have allowed them to produce yields that farmers 50 or even 30 years ago would have said was impossible.

That increased production has also allowed food prices in this country to remain amazingly affordable. The prices that farmers receive for their commodity today aren't that much greater than they were 100 years ago.

A local farmer who was doing a recent remodel on his property found a 100-year old newspaper. It showed the average price for a bushel of wheat – that's 60 pounds – was \$2.26 in 1919. This year, the average price for a bushel of wheat was around \$4.48.

The price for a bushel of wheat has not even doubled in 100 years and yet all the input costs associated with producing that bushel have increased many times.

Every time you go to a grocery store in America, you can choose from a mind-boggling number of food items, including aisles of colorful fresh produce.

A recent conversation that a close friend and her grandson had with a couple from Atlanta, Ga., made me proud to be a farmer but more importantly, it humbled me and made me also realize the awesome responsibility that I have as a farmer to continue to feed a growing population.

The couple had just visited Yellowstone National Park but

instead of wanting to talk about that, they were more impressed with the farms they saw as they drove from Ashton to Driggs.


They told our friend that they had never before seen where their food was grown and were humbled by the vast amounts of farm fields.

The woman became emotional and said that as they drove between Ashton and Driggs, she asked her husband to stop and they went out into a farm field and knelt down and thanked God for the bounteous food supply we have in America.

"They both said they cannot thank farmers enough for their sacrifice to give us food," our friend recalled. "The wife of the couple kept crying as she told us about this experience and pretty soon I had tears."

The woman asked our friend if she could personally thank a farmer on behalf of a grateful couple from Georgia.

So, on behalf of that couple, thank you every farmer in Idaho and the United States for all you do to help provide our nation with the most bountiful, safest and affordable food supply in history. ■

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Idaho Farm Bureau Financial Services is happy to announce



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To learn more or to apply, please call your nearest Idaho Farm Bureau Financial Services office at their number above or call Idaho Farm Bureau Financial Services at 1.888.566.3276.
You may also visit idfbfs.com online anytime.

Some restrictions apply based on the make and model of vehicle offered as collateral. Loans are subject to credit approval. 100% loan value based on NADA high retail, or purchase price, whichever is less. Finance charges accrue from origination date of this loan.

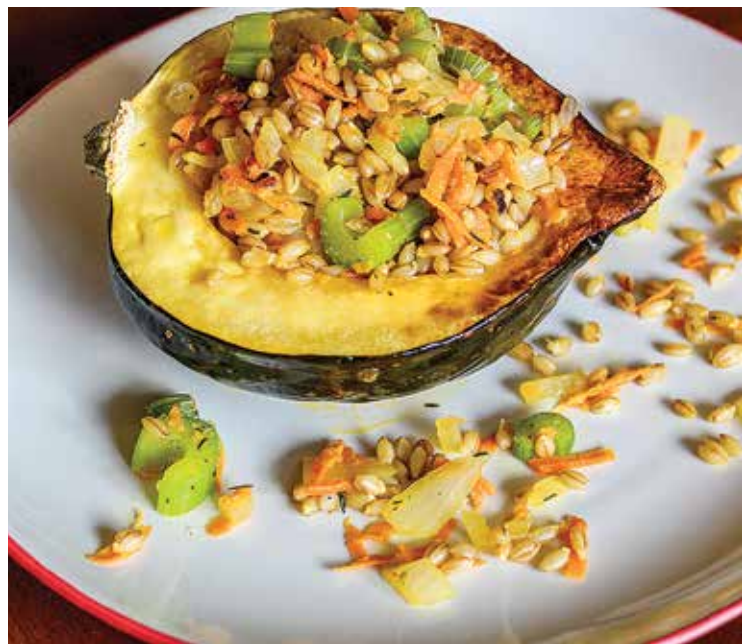
Fall for barley

By Laura Wilder
Idaho Barley Commission

With chillier months upon us, it's time to switch up the kitchen routine for some hearty, satisfying dishes. Not only does barley fit the bill in that regard, it also packs some impressive health benefits.

Although barley is one of the most widely consumed grains in the American diet, this versatile grain is probably the most underappreciated. Besides its nutty flavor that can complement many dishes, barley is also rich in many nutrients and boosts health, ranging from improved digestion and weight loss to lower cholesterol levels and a healthier heart.

Try barley as a side dish instead of couscous, white pasta or white rice. Barley also makes a great addition to soups, stuffing, stews, salads and loaves or eaten as part of a hot cereal breakfast. For more barley inspiration and recipes, visit www.eatbarley.com. ■



Barley-Stuffed Squash

Ingredients

- 1 Cup barley (pearl, hulless, or hulled)
- 1/2 Cup chopped onion
- 1/2 Cup chopped celery
- 1 Cup shredded carrot
- 4 Teaspoon butter
- 3 Cups chicken broth
- 1/2 Teaspoon thyme
- 2 medium acorn squash (about 1 lb. each), halved and seeds removed
- salt to taste

Directions

In large saucepan over medium heat, sauté barley, onion, celery and carrot in 2 tablespoons butter until barley is lightly browned.

Add chicken broth and thyme. Bring to boil. Reduce heat, cover and simmer 45 minutes (50-55 if hulless or hulled barley) or until barley is tender and liquid is absorbed.

In the meantime, place squash halves in greased baking dish, cut side down.

Bake at 400° F for 30 minutes or until squash is tender.

Remove squash from oven and turn, cut-side up. Sprinkle lightly with salt.

Spoon equal portions of cooked barley mixture into centers of squash. Drizzle with 2 tablespoons melted butter.

Return filled squash halves to oven. Bake at 350° F for 20 minutes longer.

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

To all policyholders: The 2020 annual meeting for policyholders of Farm Bureau Mutual Insurance Co. of Idaho will be held on Friday, Feb. 7, 2020, 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. 7, 2020, 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

CALLING ALL IDAHO FARMERS

If you've ever considered going organic, but were discouraged by the risks of the transition, please call us. Together, we can change the future of your farm.

Michelob ULTRA Pure Gold, the largest organic beer on the market, created Contract for Change: a commitment to help farmers like you go organic, so you can start growing organic barley.

We understand the challenges of converting your land. But if you're willing to make the switch, we'll purchase, at a premium, barley grown during the transition, and after you've gone organic.

Each day, more farmers want to go organic, but right now, only 1% of U.S. farmland is certified organic. We're determined to make that number grow.

That's why we're calling all Idaho farmers to join our Contract for Change. Together, we can create an organic future.

Give us a call when you're ready.

1-833-GROW-ORG
ContractForChange.com

CONTRACT
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FOR CHANGE



Dan Lakey
transitioning farmer



Photo by Zak Miller

Potatoes are harvested during the night near St. Anthony before a bitter cold-snap hit the region. Idaho potato farmers said neighbors, fellow farmers and other members of the community helped them in their effort to get as many spuds harvested before record-setting cold temperatures hit the region Oct. 9.

Farmers, neighbors unite in effort to save potato crop

By Sean Ellis

Idaho Farm Bureau Federation

POCATELLO — When it became clear that a bitter early October cold snap was bearing down on Eastern Idaho, potato farmers in the heart of spud country began scrambling to get as much of the remaining crop in as possible.

Though as much as 15-20 percent of the state's iconic potato crop was still in the ground when the record-setting cold

weather hit, it wasn't for lack of effort.

When word got out that potato farmers throughout Eastern Idaho were under the gun — the kind of cold temperatures that hit the region can cause major damage to spuds in the ground — fellow farmers and even non-farmers joined in a massive effort to minimize the damage.

When one farmer was done harvesting their spuds, they quickly lent a hand and equipment to their neighbors.

"There are stories up and down the

valley about people sharing equipment and labor in an effort to get the potato crop in before that cold snap," said Shawn Boyle, president of the Idaho Grower Shippers Association, which represents potato growers and shippers. "As farmers finished up getting their own crop in, they took their crews over and helped their neighbors out."

"There was a lot of that you didn't hear about," Boyle added. "People just silently going and helping their neighbor. That's

Idaho at its greatest.”

But it wasn't just farmers helping farmers.

Some farmers report that neighbors and other members of the community who have nothing to do with agriculture seemingly popped out of the woodwork to pitch in.

“On my little farm personally, people started calling and said, ‘I’m coming to help, figure out how to use me,’” said St. Anthony potato farmer Zak Miller. “I saw people on my farm that I didn’t know. They could just see we were in need and they came to help, and that sort of thing happened everywhere.”

“A lot of people that have nothing to do with farming came out of the woodwork to help,” said Idaho Farm Bureau Federation President Bryan Searle, a potato farmer from Shelley.

What resulted was farmers and their neighbors and communities mobilizing in a herculean effort to try to save the state’s important potato crop.

A good chunk of the crop didn’t get harvested before the cold hit – potato harvesting equipment can only move so fast – but it wasn’t for lack of trying.

“Everybody was just so willing to help out,” said Aberdeen farmer Ritchey Toevs. “Neighbors on both sides of me called and asked if there was anything they could do to help.”

Record low temperatures were recorded throughout Eastern Idaho the night of Oct. 9-11. Though the extent of the damage won’t be known for several more weeks or even months, it is expected to be significant.

“It could have been a lot more disastrous than it was if we hadn’t had the help that we did,” Miller said.

As heart-warming as the stories are, many farmers said it was important to keep in mind that this sort of neighbor-helping-neighbor thing happens a lot in farm country. It was just more evident this year because the media picked up on the “looming cold snap” story.

“It was a feel-good story and it happens all the time in farm country,” said American Falls potato farmer Klaren Kooppin. “That’s normal.”

“I think this type of thing really happens quite often,” said Travis Blacker, industry relations director for the Idaho Potato Commission.

Searle said he can remember this sort of thing happening when he was a young boy.

See **POTATOES**, page 13

Photo by Zak Miller
Potatoes are harvested and sorted near St. Anthony before a bitter cold-snap hit the region.



FROZEN

Photo by Sean Ellis

Onions are left in field to dry in Southwestern Idaho. About 2,000 acres of dry bulb onions were still in fields when a bitter October cold snap hit Idaho Oct. 9. Industry leaders say the crop that was not harvested at the time could have sustained significant damage.

Cold snap impacted several Idaho crops

By Sean Ellis

Idaho Farm Bureau Federation

POCATELLO – An early October cold snap that brought record low temperatures to many parts of Idaho affected thousands of acres of crops that were still in the ground.

The unseasonably cold weather had an impact on several major crops grown in the state, from potatoes and sugar beets in Eastern and Southcentral Idaho to onions, sweet corn seed and dry beans in Southwestern Idaho.

The kind of cold weather that hit Eastern Idaho – temperatures as low as single digits in some places and from 12-17 in most others – can affect potato quality and also the storability of spuds.

While the full extent of the damage won't be known for a while, it's expected to be significant.

"From what I see, there is significant damage," said Aberdeen spud farmer Ritchey Toevs.

Anywhere from 10-20 percent of Idaho's potato crop was still in the ground when the cold weather hit beginning Oct. 9, said Shawn Boyle, president of the Idaho Grower Shippers Association, which represents spud farmers.

St. Anthony farmer Zak Miller said he's hearing that as much as 10 percent of the state's 2019 potato crop could have sustained major damage.



Photo by Sean Ellis

Onions are harvested from a field near Greenleaf in Southwestern Idaho. About 2,000 acres of dry bulb onions were still in fields in that region when a bitter October cold snap hit Idaho Oct. 9.

"The impact is going to be widespread across all of Eastern Idaho, from American Falls north," said Miller, Idaho Farm Bureau Federation's director of commodities. "It's going to be a bit financial hit for some farmers; you don't plant potatoes without a lot of investment."

"We won't know the full extent of

the damage for another 30 to 60 days," IFBF President Bryan Searle, a potato farmer from Shelley, said Oct. 14.

Sugar beets

Sugar beets from Twin Falls to Eastern Idaho sustained some cold weather damage as well, said Rupert farmer Duane Grant, chairman of the Snake River Sugar

Co.'s board of directors.

"There is definitely some damage; we didn't escape unscathed," he said.

The cold could impact the storability of sugar beets, he said, though the extent of the damage is unknown at this point. The company held up sugar beet harvest for a few days to give the beets time to heal.

The state's sugar beet harvest was just beginning when the cold hit and Grant said the possibility of having 85-90 percent of the crop going into storage in a somewhat compromised position is a little concerning.

"What we don't know yet is to what extent the storability of the crop has been impacted," Grant said. But, he added, "So far, the indications are that the beets are going to heal up...."

Onions

There were a couple thousand acres of bulb onions still in the field when the cold weather hit the Treasure Valley area of southwestern Idaho, according to onion industry leaders.

Onion farmers in the Idaho-Eastern Oregon growing region produce about 25

percent of the nation's Spanish bulb onion supply.

Temperatures in that region fell into the mid-20s for several days and that kind of cold can cause major damage to onions, said Eddie Rodriguez, co-owner of Partners Produce, an onion shipper in Payette.

"It was well into the mid-20s from Vale to Ontario (in Oregon), from Parma to Weiser (in Idaho) and everywhere in between, and there were a lot of onion acres still out," he said.

Early indications are the cold caused significant damage to onions that were still in the field, Rodriguez said.

"From what I've seen, it doesn't look good," he said.

Sweet corn seed

More than 60 percent of the world's temperate sweet corn seed is grown in the Treasure Valley and that crop may have taken a beating because of the cold weather, said George Crookham, CEO of Crookham Seed Co.

As much as 15-25 percent of the valley's sweet corn seed was still in the field when the cold hit, he estimates.

"We really won't know the extent of the damage until we harvest and test it ... but we're fairly certain there was damage out there," Crookham said.

He said the damage may lead to a global shortage of temperate sweet corn seed. Most of the world's sweet corn seed is temperate, while some is grown for tropical regions.

"The cold weather did some damage to some onion fields and it did some damage to some sweet corn fields as well," Crookham said.

Crookham is the only company that produces popcorn seed in the Treasure Valley and Crookham said that crop was hurt by the cold as well.

Dry beans

According to Treasure Valley Seed Co. Production Manager Don Tolmie, most of the region's dry bean seed was harvested before the cold weather hit but it did severely impact some dry beans that were still in windrows at the time.

"I would estimate that less than 250 acres of dry beans got decimated in the valley due to the cold," he said. ■

POTATOES

Continued from page 11

"It's the goodness of farmers and I've seen it my whole life," he said. "We are in competition for ground and for markets but, boy, when there's a need, all the competition is gone and the generosity of farmers comes through."

Miller, IFBF's director of commodities, said when people look back on this event, he wants them to remember the goodness of farmers and their communities pitching in to help rather than whatever financial losses will result.

"When history is written on this year ... what I really hope is that people remember the rallying of the community," he said. "It's just a reminder that there is so much more that unites us than divides us. I hope we can all remember that lesson. I know that I will." ■



Potatoes are harvested during the night near St. Anthony before a bitter cold-snap hit the region.

Photo by Zak Miller



Photo by Sean Ellis

Soda Springs barley farmer Scott Brown, third from right, shows members of a Chinese trade team an unharvested barley field Oct. 10. The team representing China's craft beer industry visited Idaho to learn about the state's malt barley industry.

Chinese barley malt trade team visits Idaho

By Sean Ellis

Idaho Farm Bureau Federation

GRACE – A trade team representing China's craft beer industry visited Idaho Oct. 9-12 to learn about the state's malt barley industry.

China is the world's largest beer consuming nation and the eight-member trade

team was interested in learning about the U.S. and Idaho barley industry, said Bryan Lohmar, director of the U.S. Grain Council's China office in Beijing.

The grains council sponsored the trade team's nine-day U.S. visit, which included stops in North Dakota and Colorado. The trade team included craft brewers and ingredient importers from across China.

The purpose of the visit was to link U.S. malt suppliers with key stakeholders in China's craft brewing industry and the ultimate goal is to increase sales of U.S. malted barley to craft brewers in the world's most populous nation.

Lohmar said the craft brewing industry in China is still small but starting to take off and the visit could potentially result in

significant market opportunities for U.S. farmers in the future.

The rapid growth of craft brewing in China is increasing demand for malted barley.

“The craft brewing industry in China ... is really starting to accelerate,” Lohmar said while the trade team visited a barley farm in Grace. “This visit is a great opportunity for customers in China to learn more about U.S. barley and how they can procure the quality characteristics they are looking for.”

He said the potential for U.S. growers to benefit off the growth of China’s craft brewing industry is enormous.

“China is the biggest beer-consuming country in the world and growing,” Lohmar said. “As incomes there grow, you’re going to see more beer consumption and more craft beer consumption. I think there is a really big potential in the future as China’s craft brewing industry grows and develops.”

The visit to Idaho was organized by the Idaho Barley Commission, which provides some funding to the USGC. The commission is funded by Idaho’s barley farmers.

“This visit is an exciting opportunity for Idaho barley growers,” said IBC Administrator Laura Wilder. “It’s another example of how grower dollars add value back to the industry through development of markets such as this potential market in China.”

Because of the ongoing trade war between the United States and China, any U.S. barley exported to China currently faces a 25 percent tariff.

“We are very interested in buying U.S. malt but right now the tariff situation is” making it not economically feasible, said Wang Zhi, brewery director for Bravo Brewing Co. in China.

He also said quality is the most important thing that Chinese brewers are interested in.

Idaho, which ranks No. 1 in the nation in barley production, is known for its consistently high-quality crop because of southern Idaho’s cold, dry climate and plentiful water supply, which allows farmers to control irrigation.

“One of the problems (the Chinese brewers) have seen with other sources is



Photo by Sean Ellis

Stoddard Farms co-owner Jeremy Stoddard talks about barley production with members of a Chinese trade team Oct. 10. The team representing China’s craft beer industry visited Idaho to learn about the state’s malt barley industry.

the lack of consistency in quality, and Idaho has the most consistent, reliable barley crop around,” Wilder said.

During their visit to Idaho, trade team members visited with barley growers, malting companies and USDA and University of Idaho barley researchers.

“We want to highlight the overall strength of the industry, from the farmer to the malting side, and how we all work together to have an industry that will be sustained long into the future,” Wilder said.

She said initial feedback from the trade delegation was positive.

“They’ve been very excited about what they’ve seen,” Wilder said. “I think the trade team members have come to realize the quality of Idaho barley, from the farm through every step of the industry, and our commitment, statewide, to sustain the level of production and quality well into the future.”

She said the trade team’s visit to Idaho presents an exciting potential payoff in the future for the state’s barley industry.

Wilder said that while the trade standoff between the two nations is currently a

hurdle, “we want to be ready to help our growers get in on the opportunity in the beginning when those opportunities do become available.”

During a visit to Stoddard Farms in Grace, co-owner Jason Stoddard gave the Chinese trade team members a brief agronomic lesson in why Idaho growers are able to produce a consistent barley crop year after year.

Besides the favorable climate, farmers also have a very reliable water supply. In the case of Stoddard Farms, there is plentiful water from nearby Bear Lake.

“Over our history, it’s been a very reliable system for irrigation,” Stoddard said.

He also explained how rotating crops such as barley and potatoes benefits the soil and both crops.

“The grain and potatoes balance each other out,” he said. “What the grain takes out, the potatoes put back in ... We use rotations to keep our soils healthy.”

During the tour of Stoddard Farms, a member of the trade team told Stoddard his company has 5,000 customers in China “and many of them want to use U.S. malt.” ■



Heavy snowfall in recent years caused a series of roof collapses in Idaho.

Heavy snowfall makes roof snow removal a concern

Few winter scenes are more tranquil than a home decked in freshly fallen snow. In areas of heavy snowfall however, what lies beneath the surface of a snow-covered roof can be anything but tranquil. Record-setting snowfall in recent years caused a series of roof collapses across Idaho.

“Recent winters have brought some the heaviest snowfall we’ve seen in decades,” said Rich Burgoyne, Vice President of Claims at Farm Bureau Mutual Insurance Company of Idaho. “This has created problems for homeowners that they normally don’t have to think about, including removing snow from roofs.”

Temperatures often warm when a winter storm front passes through, causing any existing roof snow to melt and become denser. As this cycle of snowfall and melting continues, the weight of snow and ice on your roof can quickly add up. The

moisture content of snow can range from approximately 1% to 33%, meaning snow can potentially weigh anywhere from one to 21 pounds per cubic foot.

The amount of snow and ice your roof can support depends on a number of factors, including the roof type and the age and condition of the structure. But a good rule of thumb is if more than a foot of snow and ice has accumulated on your roof, you should consider roof snow removal.

When removing roof snow, please keep these tips in mind:

- When snow buildup occurs, use a roof rake with an extended handle to pull snow off the roof from the safety of the ground.
- Start from the edge and work your way up the roof using downward strokes.
- There’s no need to scrape the roof entirely clean, as this can damage your roof

shingles or other roof coverings.

- Metal roof rakes conduct electricity, so use caution near power lines.

- Avoid using a ladder. Its rungs can freeze and cause you to slip.

- Instead of a ladder, buy extension poles or a longer roof rake.

- Roof snow removal can be dangerous. Hire a professional snow removal service if you need help.

- Removing roof snow can also prevent ice dams. Ice dams can form when roof snow melts and refreezes in gutters, clogging them. As more snow melts, water is forced to travel under shingles and can leak into the house. Keep gutters and downspouts clean and clear all the way to ground level during winter months.

Roof snow removal may be a nuisance, but it’s much easier than fixing the damage from a collapsed roof. ■



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IDAHO FARM BUREAU FEDERATION 80TH ANNUAL MEETING

Coeur d'Alene Resort December 3-5, 2019

Tentative Agenda

Tuesday, December 3

- 9:00 am – 11:00 pm** **HOSPITALITY ROOM OPENS - Beauty Bay**
- 9:00 am – 4:00 pm** **REGISTRATION DESK OPENS - CC Lobby**
- 11:00 am** **GENERAL SESSION LUNCHEON - Bay 1,2,3**
Bryan Searle – President, Idaho Farm Bureau
Rick Keller – CEO, Executive Vice President
- 1:00 pm** **FARM BUREAU'S LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE & WORKSHOPS**
- Legislative Issues – IFBF Governmental Affairs - *Casco Bay*
- Electrical Safety - *Kidd Island*
- Looking Outside the Box on Trade Opportunities – Laura Johnson, Bureau Chief, Idaho Department of Ag. - *North Cape*
- 2:00 pm** **REFRESHMENT BREAK - Beauty Bay**
- 2:15 pm (continued)** **FARM BUREAU'S LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE & WORKSHOPS**
- Machine Learning/Insect/Pest Recognition, Dr. Marek Boroweic and Dr. Arash Rashad, IPM Specialist UI - *Casco Bay*
- Labor Crisis and Possible Solutions (Panel) – Ed Atkins, General Manager for Elk Mountain Hop Farm, Boundary County and Jon Warling, labor contractor in the Columbia Basin
Kidd Island
- Looking Outside the Box on Trade Opportunities – Laura Johnson, Bureau Chief, Idaho Department of Ag. - *North Cape*
- 5:00 pm – 6:45 pm** **HOSPITALITY ROOM OPENS - Beauty Bay**
- 3:00 pm** **DISCUSSION MEET PARTICIPANTS AND JUDGES - Kidd Island**
- 3:30 pm** **DISCUSSION MEET SEMI-FINALS - North Cape/Kidd Island/Casco Bay**
- 5:00 pm** **CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE MEETING - Boardroom 6 – 7th Floor**
- 5:15 pm** **SCREENING COMMITTEE MEETING - Boardroom 7 – 7th Floor**
- 5:15 pm** **YOUNG FARMERS AND RANCHERS CAUCUS - Casco Bay**
- 5:30 pm** **DISCUSSION MEET JUDGES - Boardroom 5A**
- 6:00 pm** **DISCUSSION MEET FINALS - Bay 4,5**
- 7:00 pm** **YOUNG FARMER AND RANCHERS AWARDS BANQUET - Bay 1,2,3**
Farm Safety Minute , YF&R Spotlight & Awards
Mark Harris – Idaho State Senator

Wednesday, December 4

- 7:00 am** **RISE 'N SHINE BREAKFAST - Bay 1,2,3**
Affiliated Company Reports, FBMIC, Paul Roberts
Marketing, Zak Miller
- 8:00 am – 10:00 am** **REGISTRATION DESK OPENS - Convention Lobby**
- 8:00 am – 9:00 am** **GENERAL SESSION – Surviving The Hardest Days Of Farming**
Darla Tyler-McSherry - Bay 1,2,3
- 9:15 am – 11:30 am** **HOUSE OF DELEGATES SESSIONS BEGIN - Bay 4,5**
- 9:15 am – 9:45 am** **DISTRICT WOMEN'S CAUCUSES**
District I *Casco Bay*
District II *Boardroom 3*
District III *North Cape Bay*
District IV *Kidd Island Bay*
District V *Boardroom 5AB*
- 10:00 am** **REFRESHMENT BREAK - CC Lobby**
- 10:15 am – 11:30 am** **WOMEN'S COMMITTEE BUSINESS MEETING - Bay 6**
- 12:00 pm** **AWARDS LUNCHEON - Bay 1,2,3**
County Showcase, Women's Awards & Farm Safety Minute
- 2:00 pm** **HOUSE OF DELEGATES CONTINUES - Bay 4,5**
- 2:00 pm** **WORKSHOP– An Inside View Of Distracted Driving - FBMIC - Bay 6**
- 3:15 pm** **REFRESHMENT BREAK - CC Lobby**
- 4:15 pm** **DISTRICT CAUCUSES**
District I *Kidd Bay Island*
District II *North Cape Bay*
District III *Bay 6*
District IV *Boardroom 5AB*
District V *Casco Bay*
- 5:30 – 7:15 pm** **FARM BUREAU'S ANNUAL BANQUET - Bay 1,2,3**
President Cup Award
- 7:45 pm** **LOAD BOATS AT RESORT DOCKS**
- 8:15 pm** **EVENING CRUISE DEPARTURE**

Thursday, December 5

- 7:00 am** **COUNTY PRESIDENTS BREAKFAST - North Cape/Kidd Island**
(County Presidents/State Board and Spouses only)
- 8:00 am** **ELECTION OF DIRECTORS - Bay 4,5**
- 8:20 am** **HOUSE OF DELEGATES CONTINUES - Bay 4,5**
- 10:15 am** **REFRESHMENT BREAK - CC Lobby**
- 12:00 pm** **ADJOURN HOUSE OF DELEGATES - Bay 4,5**
- 12:00 pm** **STATE BOARD OF DIRECTORS LUNCHEON - Kidd Island/North Cape**
- 12:00 pm** **STATE BOARD SPOUSES LUNCHEON - Boardroom 5ABC – 7th Floor**
- 1:30 pm** **STATE BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING - Casco Bay**

Idaho Farm Bureau

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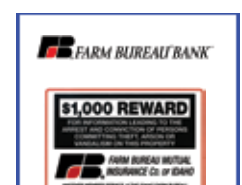
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Idaho Shags' livestock handling spur their surge in popularity

By Dianna Troyer

For Idaho Farm Bureau Federation

The Idaho Shag's breeding origins may be as fuzzy as their frazzled hair coat, yet after working with the comical-looking cow dogs, ranchers swear their loyalty to the breed.

The Idaho Shag is renowned for its stamina, herding instinct, and most of all its unmistakable scruffy appearance as if it had an accident with an electric fence that left its hair permanently fried. A blend of Airedale terrier, border collie, kelpie or heeler, an Idaho Shag sounds like a breeding accident.

Curious about the breed, Susie Morton, who lives south of Mackay and manages a ranch, bought her first Idaho Shag three decades ago and became one of the first breeders in central Idaho.

"Whatever people think about their appearance, they're really faithful and tough," Morton said of the dogs, which generally weigh 40 to 50 pounds. "If they get kicked or beat up, they go right back at it."

After buying her first female Idaho Shag in southern Idaho and working cattle with her, Morton was impressed.

"When she had pups, I kept some and started breeding them," Morton said. "They're becoming really popular, so more people have started breeding them."

For decades she relied on her Idaho Shags while working for livestock associations near Challis, the Pahsimeroi and the Lost River Valley.

"They can go all day," Morton said. "They can be hard-headed, so you just learn to deal with it. Early on, you have to make sure they know who the boss is. They really have a lot of personality."

Whenever she checks cattle, her Shags, Monte, Henry, Mary, and Shorty accompany her.

Although rancher Sam Clark grew up near Mackay in the Lost River Valley, he never worked cattle with an Idaho Shag until about a year ago.

"I bought my first one from a friend in Malta and wouldn't have any other breed now," said Clark, who moved to the Raft River Valley in southeastern Idaho several

years ago.

Working cattle, he said his Shag, Buddy, "goes all day, won't back down, and rides on the back of my horse. At home, he's protective of our daughter Payzlee."

In eastern Idaho, Bill Fuchs, who owns the Henry's Fork Ranch, a cattle and guest ranch near Chester, became a convert about eight years ago.

He and his son Tanner, 25, bought one and liked how she worked livestock so much they began breeding Shags.

Their small size may make livestock not take them seriously at first.

"If a cow doesn't respect Marley or looks at her the wrong way, she lets them inch closer to her for a sniff, then she grabs their nose," Fuchs said. "It's her way of telling a cow to respect her space."

"It's amazing how many people are looking for that specific breed," Fuchs said. "They're great working dogs and companions. They're friendly, not huge, and love moving cattle. If they need to be aggressive with a stubborn cow, they'll get right in there and get her moving."

The puppies amuse him.

'They can go all day'

"They have such a herding instinct they try to herd each other and are always wrestling as youngsters," he said. "They look so easygoing, but we joke they turn into Tasmanian devils at dinner because they're so protective of their food."

Their herding instinct is so intense that they need some direction.

"We have sheep here, too, and they want to herd them, but we teach them that sheep are not on the herd menu," he said. "Like all youngsters, they need an education. What makes them happiest is to go out and work cattle."

Fuchs and his wife, Theresa, socialize the puppies, then their son Tanner trains them to work cattle.

Tanner said he prefers the breed because the Idaho Shags are gritty and persevere. "They really handle the weather well. The cold doesn't bother them, probably because of the Airedale in them. They're really loyal, too."

In central Idaho, the scruffy dogs are known as the Pahsimeroi Fuzzy, said Dr. Andrea Clifton, a veterinarian in Salmon.

"They're awesome dogs," she said. "I remember one named Fritz that was kicked by a cow and still kept working all day."

They can be fearless, too.

"I've had some come in with porcupine quills," she said. "They learn quickly to leave them alone."

She said the dogs are intelligent, protec-



Photo by Dianna Troyer

Sam Clark's Idaho Shag, Buddy, is renowned for his stamina in the Raft River Valley of south-eastern Idaho.

TOP: An Idaho Shag watches over a herd at Bill Fuchs' ranch. (Photo courtesy of Bill Fuchs)

tive of family, have stamina, and want to please their owner.

"They're tough and have an instinct to work cows all day, yet they can come home and play ball with the kids in the

evening," she said.

Cowboys are loyal to the breed, Clifton said.

"Once they start seeing how they work, that's the only breed of dog they want." ■



Photo by Idaho Fish and Game Department

What uniqueness divides, wolves re-unite

By Justin Webb

Foundation for Wildlife Management

Private landowners from the farming or ranching community are often also sportsmen. Unfortunately, in what is a growing theme across the country, sportsmen and landowners sometimes clash due to disrespectful behavior exhibited by a select few.

Everything from littering, to leaving gates open, or even shooting in the direction of, or around livestock, has caused some landowners to turn sportsmen away

from hunting or recreating on their land.

In today's world, sporting groups are numerous, each having their own unique focus. Not unlike landowner-sportsmen relations, the uniqueness in focus from one sportsmen group to the next often drives wedges where there was once unity.

Rifle hunters vs. archers, archers vs. houndsmen, waterfowl hunters and bird dog guys vs. trappers, long-range shooters vs. traditional gun-men, trophy hunters vs. meat hunters ... The list goes on and on.

If there was one thing that could bring

all this division to a screeching halt and re-unite rural America, however, it is wolves.

Wolves are having widespread impacts on the entire rural Northwest, in many ways, and not much of it is good.

All of a sudden, livestock producers need the help of the hunting and trapping community in order to keep wolves out of their livestock.

Many houndsmen and bird hunters with retrieving dogs suddenly support trapping immensely, as a means to avoid the grisly fate of finding "Fido" literally ripped into

two pieces by the wolves, which view house dogs as invaders of their territory and are quick to attack.

Many big-game hunters in Idaho, regardless of their weapon or season of choice, suddenly have a similar story to share – lots of wolf tracks and very little game in the back country.

Some family traditions of back-country “elk camp” are going away, and many hunters are having to hunt the foothills, river bottoms, and private lands to find success.

Much of those private lands are agricultural ground that’s suddenly swarmed with large herds of elk which are decimating crops and running through fences, severely impacting farmers’ profits.

The Idaho Department of Fish and Game, in an effort to help the farmers, is handing out depredation tags and opening seasons to encourage sportsmen to help with these elk that have been displaced from the back county, and now refuse to return, because wolves inhabit those mountain ranges.

Foundation for Wildlife Management (F4WM) is a non-profit organization whose mission is to promote ungulate population recovery in areas negatively impacted by wolf predation, assist IDFG in reaching its wolf management objectives, promote youth in the outdoors, and to educate the public on the negative impact the successful reintroduction of wolves has had on Idaho’s ungulate populations.

Founded by passionate elk hunters from Sandpoint who wanted to do something

productive to create positive change where wolves had negatively impacted the wildlife in the region, F4WM started presenting proposals to IDFG that would liberalize sportsmen’s ability to harvest wolves.

We have since built relationships with the trapping community, Idaho houndsmen groups, numerous sportsmen organizations, and many landowners affected by wolves.

Our latest proposals to open wolf trapping in numerous new units, to extend statewide trapping seasons by opening most units starting Oct. 10, and doubling the number of wolf tags sportsmen can purchase annually, were passed by the Idaho Fish and Game Commission recently, due to this united support.

Rural America is coming together to find productive solutions to an out of control wolf population. The Foundation for Wildlife Management is challenging all rural-based organizations and residents to set their differences aside and unite with F4WM to better manage our wildlife.

United, we have a much larger voice. United, we are making a difference. United we are creating positive change.

The Foundation for Wildlife Management’s wolf harvest compensation program has helped remove more than 625 Idaho wolves with zero tax funding, by bringing those who want wolves managed together with those who have the ways and means to get the job done, as well as lobbying to expand sportsmen’s ability to harvest wolves.

The wolf harvest reimbursement program is funded by membership dollars, fundrais-

ing banquets, sponsors and donors.

The money is being raised to compensate people who actually get the job done. For more information about this program, visit f4wm.org.

Idaho had a minimum estimated wolf population of more than 800 wolves and 100 packs when IDFG took over wolf management in 2011 and established wolf hunting and trapping seasons across the state.

Even with the sale of more than 40,000 wolf tags a year, hunters are harvesting less than 150 wolves a year, and trappers are harvesting around 100 a year.

In short, with each pack having a litter of seven pups or more (100 packs times seven pups each equals 700-plus pups), more wolves are born each spring, than the total harvested annually.

Imagine what our record-setting livestock depredation numbers would be with 625 more wolves on Idaho’s landscape.

F4WM, together with all the organizations who have chosen to set their differences aside and unite for the greater good, will work to identify what a healthy number of wolves looks like for our great state.

The ultimate goal is to help reinstate balanced predator-prey ratios that allow all our wildlife to thrive and get our elk back into the back-country where they belong, far from our agricultural fields and pocketbooks.

For more information, visit f4wm.org. ■

Justin Webb is executive director of Foundation for Wildlife Management.

Top Farm Bureau Agents

Agent of the Month



Marcie Brodine,
Twin Falls County

Rookie of the Month



Andrew Meyer
Ada County

Region of the Month



Magic Valley,
Scott Badger,
Regional Executive

Word search

Horse breeds

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Hemp holds promise for farmers

By Scott Bennett

American Farm Bureau Federation

If you visited a gas station or convenience store in 2019, you likely noticed the sale of CBD or cannabidiol and other industrial hemp-derived products.

Touted by marketers as having a range of body and mind benefits, Americans have flocked to these products. But what is CBD, why now and is it even legal?

In December 2018, President Trump signed into law the 2018 farm bill, which included provisions making hemp legal for farmers to grow and sell.

The initiative in the farm bill was pioneered by Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell of Kentucky, the state that is leading the country in the development of this industry.

Not to be confused with its cousin marijuana, hemp by definition must not contain more than 0.3% of the psychoactive compound tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) on a dry matter basis.

As farmers look to diversify and make money through new markets, many have incorporated hemp into their farms and many more are evaluating its prospects.

According to the Agriculture Department's Farm Service Agency, U.S. farmers planted 128,000 hemp acres in 2019. Compare that to only 25,000 acres in 2017, when hemp could only be grown for research purposes.

Now, back to CBD. It's sold seemingly everywhere, but is it legal? It's complicated.

Purchasing CBD is federally legal as long as it doesn't contain more than 0.3% THC, but some states have cracked down with restrictions.

For example, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration has prohibited the sale of CBD in any unapproved health product, dietary supplement or food.



National Hemp Association photo

Hemp plants are shown in this photo provided by the National Hemp Association.

But these federal provisions have a loophole that permits a store to sell an unlimited amount of CBD products, as long as it doesn't make any health claims, put it in food or add it to dietary supplements. The FDA is working to define how it will regulate CBD, but don't expect that to happen anytime soon. The process can take years.

Why does Farm Bureau care? As it currently stands, CBD is the price driver for hemp. Farmers across the country are interested in growing this new crop, both for its fiber applications to produce rope, clothing, shoes, paper and building materials, and for CBD products.

If CBD regulation becomes too onerous or complicated, we could very well lose a significant portion of the overall hemp market, driving down demand – and prices – for hemp.

While there are risks and many unknowns in the cultivation and harvest of hemp, farmers are clearly interested in its potential, and understandably so as they stand to gain, provided FDA takes a reasonable approach to regulating CBD.

Farm Bureau will continue to work diligently on all aspects of policy that potentially benefit America's farmers and rural communities.

(Scott Bennett is director of congressional relations at the American Farm Bureau Federation. At the end of September, AFBF and the National Industrial Hemp Council asked the Environmental Protection Agency to add 10 crop protection products to those applications approved for use on hemp. The groups made the request in rulemaking comments submitted to the agency.) ■



This is a Western Hemlock Looper caterpillar.

Photo by Erika Eidson

THE FOREST DEFOLIATOR TRILOGIES: Western Hemlock Looper

By Randy Brooks
University of Idaho

My articles the last two months have focused on the Douglas Fir Tussock moth and Western Spruce Budworm and how they are defoliating trees in southern and central Idaho. Well as it turns out, there's a trilogy to this insect story!

Another native defoliating insect making its way through our Idaho forests is Western Hemlock Looper. Like Douglas Fir Tussock moth and Western Spruce Budworm, the tree species that WHL feeds on are found throughout the state so this critter can be found scattered throughout Idaho.

This insect happens to be defoliating conifers in northern and north central Idaho this

year and the resulting damage can appear to look like the damage caused by the other two defoliators.

Western Hemlock Looper defoliation started last year on the Nez Perce and Clearwater National Forests, but there were reports of adults this time of year from the St. Joe National Forest as well.

Defoliation was detected north of Elk City last year with the last outbreak occurring during 2010-2012 in the same general area with considerable mortality of Subalpine Fir.

Defoliation this year is worst on grand fir and subalpine fir and indications are that defoliation is widespread to the tune of several hundred thousand acres. Much of the defoliation is light to moderate, but there is some heavy defoliation of understory trees.



Identification

WHL produces one new generation per year. Classic “inch worm” looper larvae hatch from eggs in the late spring and begin feeding on newly opened buds in the upper crown.

Young larvae are marked with light gray and black bands and feeding by early instars during May, June, and early July is light, and not particularly noticeable.

As larvae grow larger, from the middle of July to October, they become mottled gray to dark brown with an intricate pattern of darker markings. By late summer, larvae are very mobile, crawling over tree trunks and shrubs, and dropping by silken threads from the trees to the ground.

They then move to bark crevices, moss, lichen, or under debris to pupate. Pupae are mottled greenish-brown and about $\frac{3}{4}$ inch long. Buff colored moths will emerge from pupae in roughly 10-14 days.

The moths have wings that are narrow at the base with a banded pattern, two bands on the forewing, one band on the rear wings with a wingspan of approximately 1.5 inches. They will mate, and lay eggs on foliage, where the eggs are concentrated in the upper portion of the crown of host trees.

Damage

WHL seem to have an insatiable appetite and feed on both new and old foliage and can be more evenly distributed throughout the crown. Western hemlock, Grand fir, Subalpine Fir, and Douglas Fir are the main species the larvae feed on, but they are known to nibble on cedar and other non-host species as well.

Mature larvae are quite mobile and produce an abundance of silk webbing which is very evident in defoliated stands. The larvae are wasteful feeders, chewing off needles at their bases, causing the stand to appear yellowish-red and then brown in color.

Defoliation begins in the upper crown, but as feeding progresses, more and more of the crown is affected, increasing the risk of mortality. By the middle of July defoliation of new and old foliage is evident throughout the crown.

In areas of WHL epidemics the silky webs can become so abundant that the forest can look and feel like a big cobweb. By fall, the ground can be littered with parts of needles,



Western Hemlock Looper defoliation damage.

Photo by Erika Eidson

insect frass, and by late fall thousands of dead moths can be found on the forest floor.

Management

WHL is native to Idaho forests. There is typically some endemic level of WHL activity every year, but it often goes unnoticed until the populations boom.

WHL can be managed through silvicultural methods. Well-spaced, even-aged healthy stands should be less susceptible and suffer fewer impacts. Promoting mixed species

stands and favoring non-host species will also lessen susceptibility.

Stand treatments such as thinning and fertilization can help maintain a healthy stand that is more resilient to WHL defoliation.

If more short-term, direct control is desired, then insecticides can be applied. The microbial insecticide *Bacillus thuringiensis* (B.t.) is available and is not hazardous to most beneficial insects, birds, small mammals, and aquatic systems.

Other contact chemical insecticides are

also available for looper management. These pesticides can also kill other non-target insects where they are applied.

Generally, these materials must be applied when the larvae are young (their second instar, which usually means mid-June in northern Idaho). Insecticides become less effective against larger larvae.

You may want to touch base with your local UI Extension office or state forestry office for the most specific local recommendations on timing.

Pesticides also present an additional challenge of getting the material to the area of the tree where the insects are. For a homeowner, that usually means hiring someone with the equipment and a pesticide applicator's license.

For forest infestations it means hiring an aerial spray service to apply the material with a plane or helicopter. Both options can be expensive, so the costs and benefits of spraying should be evaluated thoughtfully.

Lightly defoliated trees often bounce back no worse for the wear, save for some reduced growth. For landscape trees, supplemental watering and fertilization may help this. For forest trees, especially those stands that are hit hard by the insect, the best long-term solution is to favor species that are less attractive to the insect, such as pines and larch.

Top kill from WHL defoliation may result in a fork-topped tree as lateral branches compete to become the new top. If you are thinning in such a stand, these dead or forked trees should be removed in favor of trees with single live tops.

Conclusion

As I mentioned in the previous two articles on Douglas Fir Tussock moth and Western Spruce Budworm, before partial cutting and fire exclusion gave an edge to grand fir and Douglas-fir in Idaho, pines and larch would have dominated most of the sites where WHL causes the most damage.

One can make the case that defoliators are simply nature's way of taking out tree species that are poorly adapted to these sites.

And, not to sound like a broken record, but as is the case with so many forest insect or disease problems, the main issue is favoring the right species for the site.

Getting away from pure stands of grand



Photo by Erika Eidson

An aerial photo of Western Hemlock Looper damage.
TOP: Adult Western Hemlock Looper moths pooling up in a puddle. (Photo by USFS Forest Health Protection)

fir and Douglas-fir will reduce your forests' vulnerability to defoliators such as WHL, Western Spruce Budworm and Douglas Fir Tussock moth.

It will also reduce problems with root diseases and other insects and diseases which plague these tree species in Idaho.

For more information on defoliators, see: https://www.idl.idaho.gov/forestry/forest-health/20140609_fact-sheet-defoliator.pdf

(Special thanks to Tom Eckberg and Erika Eidson, Forest Health Specialists, Idaho Department of Lands.)

Word Search Answers

Horse breeds

A	M	E	R	I	C	A	N	Q	U	A	R	T	E	R	W	Y	R
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Taiwan trade team agrees to purchase 66 million bushels of U.S. wheat

By Sean Ellis

Idaho Farm Bureau Federation

BOISE – Representatives of the Taiwan Flour Mills Association on Sept. 24 signed a letter of intent with the Idaho Wheat Commission to purchase 66.1 million bushels of U.S. wheat in 2020 and 2021.

The deal is valued at about \$576 million.

A trade delegation from Taiwan was joined at the ceremonial signing event in the state Capitol building by Gov. Brad Little, four members of the Idaho Wheat Commission and other representatives of the state's grain industry.

A good portion of those wheat purchases from the TFMA will come from Idaho and Taiwanese trade delegation members said the state's farmers consistently grow a quality crop.

"The Taiwan flour millers choose Idaho wheat because of the high quality we produce and the identity preservation of the wheat available from our state," said IWC Chairman Ned Moon.

IWC Executive Director Blaine Jacobson said 5 percent of Idaho wheat, or about 5 million bushels, is sold annually to the TFMA and about 200 Idaho farms are in business because of Taiwan's annual purchases of wheat.

Taiwan has purchased Idaho wheat for 40 years.

"Thank you, Taiwan, for being such a long-time partner," said Little, a rancher and farmer from Emmett. "Taiwan is a loyal customer for our wheat farmers."

An agricultural trade delegation from Taiwan visits the U.S. every two years to sign the agreement in Washington, D.C. as well as several wheat-producing states.

Little said those events are much more than just ceremonial pledges.

"It's not just a ceremonial signing," he said. "Taiwan follows through on their purchases year after year after year."

Since 1998, Taiwan has purchased 21 million metric tons of U.S. wheat, equiv-

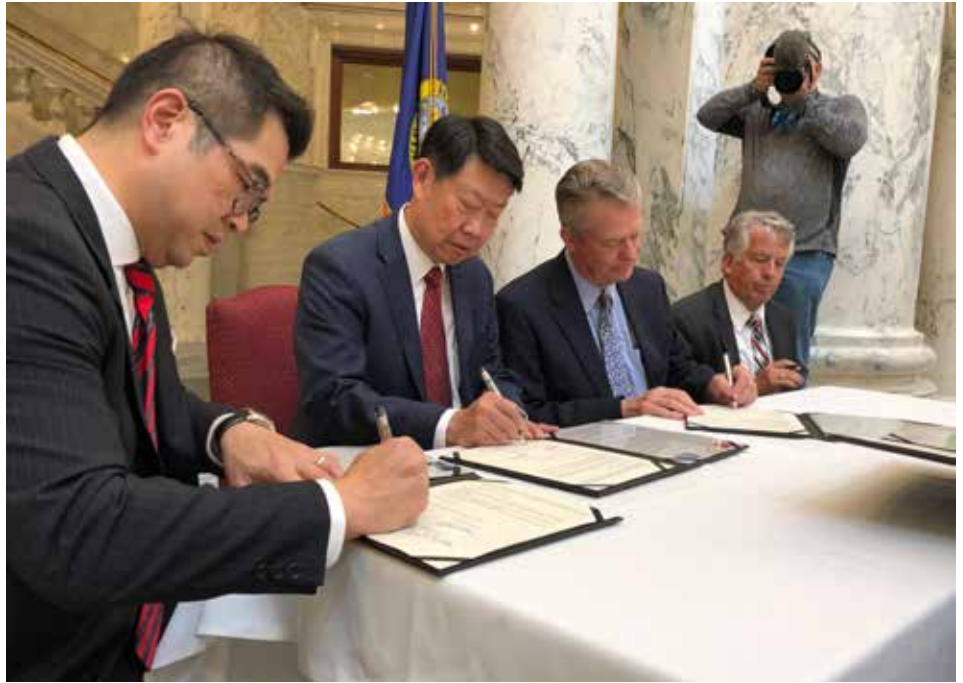


Photo by Sean Ellis

Idaho Wheat Commission Chairman Ned Moon, right, Gov. Brad Little, second from right, and members of a Taiwanese trade team sign a letter of intent Sept. 24 for Taiwan to purchase 66.1 million bushels of U.S. wheat in 2020 and 2021. Much of that wheat will come from Idaho.

alent to 772 million bushels and worth a total of \$5.8 billion.

Idaho farmers typically grow more than one million acres of wheat each year and that crop brings in about \$400 million in farm-gate receipts to Gem State producers.

"This quality and consistency is well-recognized by the Taiwan Flour Mills Association," Little said.

During the biennial signing event in 2017, TFMA also agreed to purchase 66 million bushels of U.S. wheat over the next two years, which was up 4 million bushels from what the group agreed to buy in 2015.

"I cannot overstate the importance of Taiwan to the U.S. grain industry," Moon said.

Taiwan imported about \$4.3 billion worth of U.S. farm products in 2018, according to the letter of intent. That makes Taiwan the No. 8 market for U.S. farm products and No. 5 export market for U.S. wheat.

Little will visit Taiwan in October on

his first official trade mission as governor and will be accompanied by a member of the wheat commission. His recent visit to Europe was a trade trip.

He said Taiwan is a strategic export priority for Idaho and pointed out Idaho has maintained a trade office in that country for 30 years.

"We are looking forward to your visit to Taiwan as governor," said Kuo-Shu Fan, director general of the Taipei Economic & Cultural Office in Seattle.

Tony Yi-Cheun Shu, executive director of the TFMA, said Taiwanese companies prefer purchasing wheat from the United States because U.S. growers "provide a very high quality of wheat for Taiwan."

He said the Taiwanese government would like to increase its trade with the United States and pointed out that similar letters of intent to purchase U.S. meat, corn and soybeans were also recently signed. ■



Photo by Bill Schaefer

Potatoes are harvested at Wada Farms for the fresh market. University of Idaho researchers Nora Olsen and Mike Thornton evaluated the harvest as part of an ongoing Idaho Potato Commission potato quality study that is designed to improve quality in Idaho fresh potato shipments.

Research addresses quality concerns in fresh potatoes

By John O'Connell

Intermountain Farm and Ranch

KETCHUM — Weather conditions at harvest largely drove the prevalence of defects and the types of quality problems that retailers encountered with Idaho's 2017 and 2018 fresh potato crops, new University of Idaho research suggests.

Concerned by increasing customer complaints about tuber defects, the Idaho Potato Commission funded an ongoing quality study starting in 2017, involving UI potato researchers Nora Olsen and Mike Thornton.

The researchers have collaborated with

Walmart, U.S. Foods, growers and shippers to determine the steps in the supply chain in which tubers are sustaining the most damage, and why.

After evaluating customer complaints, load rejections, weather data and results of tests they've conducted, they've reached a central conclusion: The two main conditions that cause problems in the handling of potatoes are really hot or really cold weather at harvest.

Thornton said customers rejected just under 250 loads of fresh Idaho potatoes from February to July of 2017, and there was a noticeable spike in rejections during May, when shippers switched from

supplying Russet Norkotahs to Russet Burbanks. About 260 loads were rejected during the same timeframe in 2018, though the rejections were spread more evenly from month to month.

In 2017, Thornton said, wet weather pushed back harvest, causing growers to dig in colder weather, and the major culprits causing quality problems were black spot and shatter bruise.

Shatter bruise is characterized by cracks and fissures within tubers, which can be more problematic when cold weather makes spuds rigid and fragile. Cold, fragile tubers also appear to be more susceptible to black spot — dark bruises within

tubers that usually appear by the stem end, often caused by rough handling.

In 2018, Thornton explained, there was a warm spell during harvest.

“Pressure bruise is what killed us,” Thornton said, referring to the 2018 crop.

When spuds are dug at above 65 degrees and moved immediately into storage, the airflow needed to cool them off can dehydrate the tubers, causing movement in the pile that can lead to pressure bruise, he said.

“They’re not able to resist the force in the pile ... so soft pressure above deforms them,” Thornton said. “It fits what the rejections were.”

The data also shows the majority of rejections since 2017 have occurred in the South, where it may be difficult for truck drivers to keep their loads cool enough to maintain good quality.

Knowing more about the causes of quality problems makes it possible to tailor research to address the appropriate concerns, Olsen explained.

“We’re trying to empower the industry to make changes a little bit quicker than they have in the past,” Olsen said.

Olsen and Thornton placed impact recording devices within various locations of fresh potato cartons and dropped them from different heights to evaluate how rough handling in sheds may also be contributing to quality concerns.

On a concrete floor, the bottom layer of potatoes sustained significant damage when dropped from a height of less than 6 inches.

They also evaluated shipping conditions of spuds being trucked from Idaho to other states, placing temperature and humidity sensors throughout six loads. Shipping temperatures were not desirable on a third of the loads they monitored.

Another test they conducted demonstrated that growers can see evidence of bruising within just a few hours of an impact. In their evaluation, Olsen said a low-pressure strike caused pink discoloration to surface on most tubers within three hours. After four to five hours, 80 percent of tubers showed signs of bruising.

“We can speed up the (tuber testing) process,” Olsen said, adding many growers wait a full day to cut open a few spuds



Photo by Bill Schaefer

Potatoes are harvested at Wada Farms for the fresh market. University of Idaho researcher Mike Thornton, right, is teaming up with U of I researcher Nora Olsen in an ongoing Idaho Potato Commission potato quality study that is designed to improve quality in Idaho fresh potato shipments.

to check for bruises. “Let’s look at the potatoes quicker so we can make some changes in the equipment and handling.”

Thornton said the optimal temperature window for harvesting spuds is between 45 degrees and 65 degrees.

IPC President and CEO Frank Muir said his organization has made stickers with handling tips — some of which are in Spanish — to distribute among sheds, seeking to

highlight the researchers’ messages.

“Mike and Nora have done some astounding work in this area in sharing it with our industry, and we’ve done great things in our industry on improving our quality,” Muir said. “U.S. Foods joined our efforts, and they are the second largest food distributor. When they want to work with us rather than turn away from us, it’s a real positive message.” ■



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