



**IFB** Idaho Farm Bureau.  
**Quarterly**  
Winter 2019 • Volume 19 Issue 1

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## A refreshing start to the new year



**H**appy New Year to you all! I love the optimism and hope the start of a year brings. It's a chance to press forward with renewed resolve. And who knows the importance of renewed optimism better than farmers and ranchers?

One new beginning in particular that agriculture is looking forward to this year is a new clean water rule – one that promises to be rooted in common sense.

Thanks to the resolve of the Trump Administration, the Environmental Protection Agency

and the Army Corps of Engineers, America's farmers and ranchers can expect a new clean water rule that both protects our nation's water and provides clear rules for everyone to follow.

This new rule is a long time in coming, from five years ago when we rallied our grassroots members to call on EPA to ditch the flawed, and unlawful, 2015 Waters of the U.S. rule. We have come a long way in those five years, and we have much to be thankful for with this new proposed rule.

See DUVALL, page 6

## The President's Desk

By Bryan Searle

President Idaho Farm Bureau Federation

## Farm income down but agriculture still strong in Idaho



**A** recent University of Idaho report forecasts that total net farm income in Idaho dropped by a whopping 27 percent in 2018. That comes on top of a similar 27 percent decrease in 2017.

In fact, it's the fifth straight year that Idaho net farm income has decreased.

In their annual "Financial Condition of Idaho Agriculture" report, UI ag economists Ben Eborn and Garth Taylor estimate that net farm income for Idaho farmers and ranchers in 2018 totaled \$902 million,

which would be 60 percent off the state's record for NFI – \$2.25 billion – which was set in 2011.

That's disheartening news but it won't come as a major surprise to the state's farmers and ranchers, who have struggled with depressed prices for their farm commodities for several years now.

"As is often the case, agriculture is coping with the effects of significant challenges, from commodity prices to transportation

See SEARLE, page 7

## Inside Farm Bureau

By Rick Keller

CEO Idaho Farm Bureau Federation

## Support for Idaho's constitutional officers and agriculture



**I**n early January, on a cold but sunny day, I joined ranks with thousands of Idahoans and watched the swearing in of all seven of Idaho's constitutional elected officers: Gov. Brad Little; Lt. Gov. Janice McGeachin, Secretary of State Lawrence Denney, State Controller Brandon Woolf, State Treasurer Julie A. Ellsworth, Attorney General Lawrence Wasden and Superintendent of Public Education Sherri Ybarra.

Three of the seven were newly elected: Little, McGeachin and Ellsworth. The remaining four are incumbents.

As stated in the benediction at the inauguration held on the steps of the state's Capitol, we are grateful for an orderly and peaceful transition of power from one regime to another.

Idaho's voters have spoken.

As the Honorable Chief Justice of the Idaho Supreme Court Roger S. Burdick issued the oath of office for each officer, each pledged to "support the Constitution of the United States, and the Constitution of the State of

See KELLER, page 6

# Quarterly magazine gets new look

Welcome to the new look of Idaho Farm Bureau's Quarterly magazine. In the following pages, you will notice a new, crisper look to our regular magazine, which is sent to each of Idaho Farm Bureau's 80,000 member families.

You will also notice the magazine is slightly shorter and slightly wider than the previous ones.

The new look and size are a result of IFB's decision to partner with Adams Publishing Group of Pocatello to print our magazine.

Despite the new look, the focus of the magazine will continue to be on content – educating and informing Farm Bureau members about issues important to Idahoans.

This winter edition of our Quarterly magazine is also the edition where we choose to run Idaho Farm Bureau's entire policy book.

These policies have been developed by Farm Bureau members at the grassroots level over the past 79 years and they guide the organization's efforts throughout the year.

We believe it's important for all of our members to be able to see where Idaho Farm Bureau stands on certain issues that are important to the organization's members.

Keep in mind that these policies have been developed by IFB members themselves and have been voted on by delegates from all of the organization's county Farm Bureaus, delegates that were chosen by Farm Bureau members in those individual counties.

**Sean Ellis**

*Idaho Farm Bureau publications editor*



Photo by Sean Ellis

Voting delegates from county Farm Bureau organizations across Idaho debate existing and proposed Idaho Farm Bureau policies during IFB's annual meeting in December. All of IFB's policies can be seen on pages 10-26.



**Idaho Farm Bureau.**

Volume 19, Issue 1

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Photo by Grayscale Marketing

**COVER: What the new farm bill's hemp provisions mean for Idaho. See story on page 28.**



Photo by Steve Ritter

Recently retired Custer County Farm Bureau President Rod Evans is shown at Idaho Farm Bureau Federation's 2018 summer county Farm Bureau presidents meeting. Evans has retired after serving as CCFB president for 44 years.

# Evans retires after 44 years as county Farm Bureau president

By Sean Ellis  
*Idaho Farm Bureau Federation*

CHALLIS — Big animal veterinarian Rod Evans recently retired after serving as president of Custer County Farm Bureau for 44 years.

Evans is the longest-serving county Farm Bureau president in Idaho history and is believed to be one of, if not the longest-serving, county Farm Bureau presidents in the nation.

“Rod is as true blue Farm Bureau as anybody could possibly be,” said former Idaho Farm Bureau Federation President Frank Priestley.

Evans stepped away from the position at the end of September after serving IFBF for more than four decades. He also retired as a veterinarian.

Current and former IFBF employees who served with Evans over the decades hailed him as a common-sense proponent of agriculture whose voice and opinion commanded respect within the organization.

“In all my time with Farm Bureau, I never experienced any one more dedicated to the organization than Rod,” said Dennis Brower, IFBF's recently retired director of organization, who worked closely with Evans while serving as Farm

Bureau's regional manager for that area. “He was very, very thorough.”

Priestley said it was an honor to work with Evans.

“He's just a down to earth, common sense guy and his life experience is invaluable,” Priestley said. “He was very well respected in our organization. There were a lot of discussions that were ended when Rod spoke.”

Evans' involvement as a Farm Bureau volunteer happened almost by accident.

Shortly after moving to Custer County from Colorado in 1973, he was constantly badgered by a friend to run for Custer County Farm Bureau pres-

ident. He finally decided to do that, thinking he had no chance to win.

But he did win and although he never thought about being re-elected, he was, over and over.

“I didn’t go into it with the idea of being president for that long but it turned out to be a pretty good fit,” said Evans, 70. “It worked out pretty well.”

The position required a lot of meetings and a lot of long hours, on top of the long hours he already put in as the region’s only big animal veterinarian for two decades.

“I didn’t necessarily enjoy going to the meetings or have a lot of time to go to them, but it was something that had to be done,” he said. “It’s been a lot of hard work and stressful at times and it’s time-consuming. But it’s also been enjoyable and I’d do it all over again in a minute.”

Evans’ advice to other Farm Bureau members who, like him before he became CCFB president, may know a little about the organization but aren’t really involved in it is to get involved and ensure their voice is heard on issues that could impact their way of life.

“If you’re not involved and on the agenda, you’re on the menu,” he said.

Evans was born in Kremmling, Colo., and was raised on a large ranch where he grew up dealing with many of the same type of federal land-management issues he would later have to deal with in Custer County, which is overwhelmingly state and federal land.

He moved to the Challis area in 1973 and took over as CCFB president in 1974. He was also the only veterinarian in the region for two decades.

IFBF Executive Vice President and CEO Rick Keller was IFBF’s regional manager for the Challis area when Evans took over as Custer County Farm Bureau president.

“I’ve known Rod for more than 40 years and he always impressed me with his ability to understand complex issues and to digest them into simple, understandable applications to everyday life,” he said.

That was particularly true when it came to the complex issues dealing with



Photo by Jake Putnam

**Recently retired Custer County Farm Bureau President Rod Evans helps conduct a range tour in 2014. Evans has retired after serving as CCFB president for 44 years.**

federal land management, Keller said.

Priestley said Evans has a lot of valuable institutional knowledge not only about Farm Bureau but also about land-management issues.

“It’s pretty hard to replace that type of long-term knowledge,” he said. “He really is one of a kind.”

Besides his institutional knowledge of the issues, Evans’ even temperament will also be missed, Keller said.

“He always maintained an even temperament,” he said. “He wasn’t erratic in any way and that installed confidence in other people.”

IFBF’s policy book has Evans and CCFB’s fingerprints all over it, particularly when it comes to wolves, land-management and endangered species issues. American Farm Bureau Federation’s policy book also has his fingerprints on it on those same issues, as well as wild horses.

Evans has spent countless time commenting on and dealing with these and other issues important to farmers and ranchers. While a lot of ground has been gained, he said, it’s also a little exasperating that those same issues keep popping up.

“It’s frustrating,” he said. “Even though you think you’re making some progress, you never seem to win and

the next year you come back with the same problem but just a different angle on that problem.”

“There’s been enough work done on some of these issues that you’d think you’d get them solved, but it seems like it’s the same issues all the time,” Evans said.

That’s why it’s so important to have an organization like Farm Bureau staying on top of these issues, he added.

For the average farmer or rancher, it’s almost impossible to do that, he said.

“Farm Bureau is kind of the watch dog,” he said. “I think it would be almost impossible to keep up with everything if you didn’t have an organization like Farm Bureau that represents agriculture at the state and national level.”

County Farm Bureau meetings are open to the public so if you have a problem or an issue you want to discuss, show up for a meeting and get involved in Farm Bureau, Evans said.

“If you’re interested at all in promoting agriculture or your own business, it’s the only way to do it I think,” he said. “They act as a watchdog and they know what’s coming and what the issues are. Because of the grassroots nature of Farm Bureau, this organization is everywhere. There’s not much that escapes them.” ■

*Continued from page 2*

Of course, we're not across the finish line just yet. Now is our time to ensure we have a clean water rule that gives each of us the clarity we need on our farms and ranches. Farm Bureau is calling on all you again to submit your comments to EPA and the Corps, but this time is far different than the last. This time EPA and the Corps want to hear from you too.

What a breath of fresh air it was to hear from EPA Acting Administrator Andrew Wheeler and U.S. Army, Civil Works Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary Ryan Fisher at Tennessee Farm Bureau's event in December on the new rule. We all heard loud and clear from the EPA and the Corps that they want to hear directly from farmers and ranchers during the comment period to be sure the definitions are clear and work for agriculture.

"If the definitions aren't clear tell us—and tell us how to fix the rule and make it better," Wheeler said as he asked farmers and ranchers in the audience and across the country for our feedback.

EPA and the Corps are also focused on tearing down barriers, partnering across agencies and empowering state and

local authorities.

They recognize the key role USDA also will play in implementing this rule and are working with Agriculture Secretary Sonny Perdue to be sure everyone is on the same page when it comes to interpreting and enforcing the rule.

But first and foremost, the rule must be clear enough for any farmer or rancher to look out on his or her land and know what is regulated and what is not.

At Farm Bureau, we will be reading the rule carefully with that guiding principle in mind. We believe this proposal is already a huge step forward in that direction, and we are confident that EPA and the Corps are committed to getting this rule right.

I encourage each of you to read the rule carefully, and then tell EPA what you like in the rule and what you don't. If something isn't clear or doesn't work for your farm or ranch, now is the time to speak up.

Let's send the EPA our suggestions and work together to provide solutions—just like Wheeler has invited us to do.

This new clean water rule is a great opportunity for a fresh start in how regulations are shaped. Let's resolve to do all we can to be sure we have the clear rules we need to protect our water and our farms. ■

# KELLER

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*Continued from page 2*

Idaho, and that [they] will faithfully discharge [their] duties ... according to the best of [their] ability."

Each oath was witnessed by family members who served as sponsors to the swearing in and thousands of others participating in the proceedings.

We take each of them at their word, expressing our support to them as they seek to govern at "the best" of their ability.

We know there will be times in which all will not agree. The Idaho Farm Bureau will do its best in educating and working with each officer in fulfilling their duties that best meets the needs of our members. We feel we have that responsibility to ensure a strong state government which addresses many of the concerns facing agriculture today.

As these officers begin their duties, Idaho farm income continues to fall.

Prior to the inauguration, University of Idaho Extension agricultural economists Ben Eborn and Garth Taylor reported to lawmakers that net farm income for Idaho farmers has dropped for five straight years and decreased an estimated 27 percent in 2018.

As Eborn stated: "Our economy is heavily dependent on agriculture. When agriculture is down, it can hurt the state economy."

We urge each of the constitutional officers to support and

sustain agriculture.

In Governor Little's inaugural address, he declared Idaho is progressing "from a historically agrarian society to a modern information-driven economy."

Several days later, during the governor's State of the State address, he reaffirmed, "agriculture remains the backbone of Idaho's rural economy" and identified agriculture's "significant challenges from commodity prices to transportation and trade."

He reminisced how for generations, progressive farmers and ranchers have met those challenges by increasing production and efficiency and emphasized how Idaho remains a heavily trade-dependent state.

"When markets are open, agriculture makes the most of those opportunities. When markets are disrupted, we feel it," Little said.

Governor Little has demonstrated his affinity for agriculture for many years. Raised on the family sheep ranch near Emmett, managing the family's Little Land and Livestock Co. for more than 30 years and at the same time providing years of public service, the governor understands agriculture.

That same affinity has been exhibited by Idaho's other constitutional officers as well. The Idaho Farm Bureau wishes each officer its best and looks forward to the years ahead.

We agree with Governor Little's closing words in his State of the State address: "God bless Idaho." ■

Continued from page 2

and trade,” Gov. Brad Little, a rancher, said Jan. 7 during his first State of the State address.

Despite the challenging times many farm producers face right now, the UI report includes a silver lining of sorts for Idaho’s overall economy.

As Taylor explained to lawmakers Jan. 3 while discussing highlights of the report, total farm-gate revenue, which is also known as farm cash receipts, were basically unchanged in 2018, at \$7.2 billion.

Net farm income, the producer’s paycheck, decreased last year because farm input costs rose 4 percent.

That means that farmers and ranchers spent roughly the same amount of money to grow or produce their commodities last year as they did in 2017.

That’s some positive news for the state’s economy, which depends on agriculture more than any other industry. According to a separate UI report, agriculture accounts for 16 percent of Idaho’s total gross domestic product, one in seven jobs and 20 percent of sales in the state.

The moral of the story here is that agriculture acts as a stabilizing force in the state’s overall economy and particularly in rural areas that are heavily dependent on the farming industry.

That’s because it costs farmers and ranchers basically the same amount of money to produce or grow their commodity, regardless of how much they make in a given year.

For example, whether a dairy producer is receiving \$14 or \$24 per hundred pounds of milk, that cow still has to be fed and it still has to be milked and cared for.

And whether a potato farmer gets \$4 or \$7 per hundred pounds of potatoes, they still have to buy a certain amount of fertilizer and other chemicals to produce those spuds and they still have to pay people to plant, irrigate and harvest them.

An example of how important farming is to Idaho’s economy can be found in another report prepared by Eborn last year that shows Idaho stands alone among the 11 Western states when it comes to farm cash receipts on a per capita basis.

Using USDA Economic Research Service data, Eborn found that Idaho farmers and ranchers produced \$4,280 in farm cash receipts per Idahoan in 2017.

No other state in the West came close to that per capita amount, including California, which leads the nation by a wide margin in total farm cash receipts. California’s per capita amount worked out to \$1,266.

Another piece of data dug up by Taylor and Eborn shows that total gross domestic product from farming in Idaho has grown much faster than the state’s overall GDP

over the past two decades.

Using U.S. Department of Commerce and Bureau of Economic Analysis data, they found that GDP from farming in Idaho grew 142 percent from 1997-2017. During that same period, total Idaho GDP grew by 81 percent.

Worth noting is that the growth in GDP in the agricultural sector does not include the state’s important food processing sector. It is strictly from farming or, as Taylor likes to put it, “Grandma and grandpa on a tractor.”

What this all means is although many Idaho farmers and ranchers are struggling right now, Gem State agriculture as a whole is still strong and helping support the state’s overall economy.

On a side note, you will notice that a full 14 pages of this Quarterly magazine is filled with Idaho Farm Bureau Federation’s policies. These policies were developed at the grassroots level, by farmers and ranchers, and voted on by delegates from each of IFBF’s county Farm Bureaus during the group’s annual meeting in December.

We feel it’s important to run these policies in our magazine each year so that all of Farm Bureau’s 80,000 families can see where IFBF stands on certain issues. ■

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University of Idaho photo

University of Idaho's proposed \$45 million Center for Agriculture, Food and the Environment has started to take form, as UI officials plan to soon purchase a \$5 million piece of property for a 2,000-cow dairy that will anchor CAFE.

# Proposed \$45 million livestock and ag center picks up steam

By Sean Ellis

*Idaho Farm Bureau Federation*

POCATELLO – After being talked about and envisioned for more than a decade, University of Idaho's proposed \$45 million Center for Agriculture, Food and the Environment will soon have a stake in the ground.

This spring, the university plans to purchase a 640-acre site in Rupert for a 2,000-cow dairy that will be the anchor for CAFE, which will conduct

a host of research designed to benefit the state's important dairy sector, as well as virtually every aspect of Idaho agriculture.

The \$5 million piece of property is located near Rupert and marks a turning point from university officials talking about the CAFE concept to actually being able to point to a physical site, said Michael Parrella, dean of UI's College of Agricultural and Life Sciences.

"The words have, in a sense, been shallow until now," he said. "Now that

we will have an actual stake in the ground, we expect the support for CAFE to speed up significantly."

The purchase will be made possible thanks to financial help from the Idaho Dairymen's Association.

The project has been talked about for so long that at one point, the state's dairy industry thought the proposal might fade away, said IDA Executive Director Rick Naerebout. But Parrella and UI's commitment to the center have changed that thinking and the dairy industry





University of Idaho photo

**Michael Parrella, dean of University of Idaho's College of Agricultural and Life Sciences.**

now stands solidly behind the project, he said.

“There is a lot more optimism for the project than there has been in the past,” Naerebout said. “We are making some good progress. Dean Parrella has done a great job of re-energizing the effort and getting some support behind it.”

Parrella said having the dairy industry solidly behind the project is a big win.

“The dairy industry is obviously into it big time and I don’t think there’s any bigger indication of that than the industry helping us purchase the property,” he said.

Parrella believes CAFE will be one of if not the premier livestock research center in the world. It will definitely be the largest dairy research center in the United States, with 2,000 cows, about five times more than the next largest one.

The much larger number of cows “will give us the opportunity to do research that is more applicable to the average size dairy in Idaho,” he said.

Parrella said the center will conduct much more than just dairy industry research.

CAFE will also conduct a significant amount of research on water use and

efficiency, soil health and fertility, production management, forage cropping and agronomy, animal genetic improvement, labor management, precision agriculture, commodity risk management and food science and manufacturing.

“It will be a major research and education center for agriculture,” Parrella said. “This is work that benefits all of Idaho agriculture and I think the impact will be national and global in terms of what this facility will do.”

Idaho legislators have approved \$10 million toward the center and have made an additional \$5 million for CAFE contingent on the project making more progress.

The university will fund a major portion of the project and fundraising from industry partners will play an important role as well.

The project will include a food processing pilot plant that will be located on the College of Southern Idaho campus in Twin Falls.

It also includes an outreach and education center to be located on a 500-acre parcel of land at the crossroads where Interstate 84 and Highway

93 meet near Twin Falls.

That high-visibility area – about 40,000 vehicles pass by there every day – will enable the university to educate people about agriculture’s importance to Idaho, Parrella said.

“We’ll build something that we can be very proud of, that reflects the size and importance of agriculture in the state,” he said of the education and outreach center. “It will also celebrate Idaho agriculture and teach people where their food comes from.”

Parrella said the plan is for CAFE researchers to start milking the center’s first cow in 2024 but environmental research will begin much sooner than that because there’s no shortage of manure in the Magic Valley, which is the heart of Idaho’s dairy industry.

Idaho ranks third in milk and cheese production nationally and the state’s 472 dairy operations support 39,000 Idaho jobs directly and indirectly.

According to a UI report, agriculture is the most important part of Idaho’s economy and directly and indirectly responsible for one in seven jobs in the state and 16 percent of Idaho’s total gross domestic product. ■



**Idaho Farm Bureau®**

# IFBF Policy for 2019

The following policy statements were developed over the past 79 years by Idaho Farm Bureau volunteer members. IFB members meet every year to discuss, amend, delete and create the policy statements that guide the organization. The policy development process takes place at the county and district level throughout the year. Then the entire organization meets in early December to update the policy book. The policy comes from our grassroots members and is then used to guide Idaho Farm Bureau's lobbying, public relations and membership efforts throughout the year.

## BASIC PRINCIPLES

### **Purpose of Farm Bureau**

Farm Bureau is a free, independent, non-governmental, voluntary organization governed by and representing farm and ranch families united for the purpose of analyzing their problems and formulating action to achieve educational improvement, economic opportunity, environmental awareness and social advancement, and thereby, to promote the national well-being.

Farm Bureau is local, statewide, national, and international in its scope and influence, and is non-partisan, non-sectarian, and non-secretive in character.

### **Farm Bureau Beliefs and Philosophy**

America's unparalleled progress is based on freedom and dignity of the individual, sustained by basic moral and religious concepts. Freedom to the individual versus concentration of power, which would destroy freedom, is the central issue in all societies.

We believe the definition of marriage is a union between one man and one woman.

We believe in the sanctity of innocent human life from conception until natural death. We must protect the right to life to preserve the rights to liberty and property.

We oppose abortion. In the event the mother's life is in danger, we support all measures aimed directly at saving the life of the mother.

We oppose euthanasia (intentionally ending a life) and physician-assisted suicide.

We believe that since the beginning of time, man's ability to provide food, fiber, and fuel for himself and his dependents has determined his independence, freedom and security.

We believe that a strong and viable agricultural industry is one of the most important cornerstones in the foundation of our national security, and the importance of that role in society must never be taken for granted. Economic progress,

cultural advancement, ethical and religious principles flourish best when men are free, responsible individuals. The exercise of free will, rather than force, is consistent with the maintenance of liberty. Individual freedom and opportunity must not be sacrificed in a quest for guaranteed "security."

We believe that America's system of private ownership of property and the means of production has been, and is, one of the major foundation stones of our republic. This element of our economic system and the personal rights attendant to private property, including grazing and water rights, must be maintained and protected.

Ownership of property and property rights are among the human rights essential to the preservation of individual freedom. The right to own property must be preserved at all costs.

We will take every opportunity to publicize, defend and promote our position, and we will stand firm on basic constitutional rights.

We believe in government by law, impartially administered, and without special privilege.

We support agricultural programs and organizations that give equal opportunity for developing skills, knowledge and leadership ability.

We believe in the representative form of government; a republic as provided in our Constitution; in limitations upon government power; in maintenance of equal opportunity; in the right of each individual to worship as he chooses; in separation of church and state as set forth in the First Amendment to the Constitution; and in freedom of speech, press, and peaceful assembly.

The U.S. Supreme Court imposed one man one vote rule should be overturned and return the United States to the republican form of government that was envisioned by the framers of the Constitution. Individuals have a moral responsibility to help preserve freedom for future generations by participat-

ing in public affairs and by helping to elect candidates who share their fundamental beliefs and principles.

We oppose the use of public funds for financing political campaigns. People have the right and the responsibility to speak for themselves individually or through organizations of their choice without coercion or government intervention.

We believe in the right of every man to choose his own occupation; to be rewarded according to his contribution to society and to save, invest, spend, or convey his earnings to his heirs.

These rights are accompanied by the responsibility that each man has to meet the financial obligations he has incurred.

We support a society free of drug abuse.

We support English as the official language of Idaho and the United States.

We support English as the language that students should learn and use in public schools.

We support that public schools start the day with reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

### **The Constitution**

Stable and honest government with prescribed and limited powers is essential to freedom and progress. The Constitution of the United States was well designed to secure individual liberty by a division of federal authority among the Legislative, Executive and Judicial branches. The Tenth Amendment assures that liberties are further secured for the states and the people through the retention of those powers not specifically delegated to the federal government. The constitutional prerogatives of each branch of government should be preserved from encroachment.

We support the Constitution as the supreme law of the land. Changes should be made only through constitutional amendments, not by federal policy or regulation. One of the greatest dangers threatening our republic and system of private,

competitive enterprise is the socialization of America through the centralization of power and authority in the federal government. The centralization of power and responsibility in the federal government violates constitutional purposes. It has usurped state sovereignty and individual freedom and should be reversed.

In defense of our Constitution, and of the sovereignty of the U.S.A., we oppose the centralization of power worldwide into one world government.

### **State's Rights and Sovereignty**

We support the protection and defense of states' rights and state sovereignty over all powers not otherwise enumerated and granted to the federal government as specified in the 10th amendment to the constitution. The federal government must respect state laws and state agencies. All lands within the boundaries of Idaho, excluding those lands as allowed by Article 1, Section 8, Clause 17 of the U.S. Constitution and ceded to the federal government by the Idaho Legislature, shall be subject solely to the laws and jurisdiction of the state.

### **Religious Life**

Our Nation was founded on spiritual faith and belief in God. Whereas the Constitution of the United States was founded on moral and religious principles, moral, ethical and traditional family values should get equal support and consideration in the public schools as do the atheistic and humanistic views.

We support the right to have religious beliefs and symbols of those beliefs presented in our communities.

- We vigorously support retention of:
  - "So Help Me God" in official oaths;
  - The phrase "In God We Trust" on our coin;
  - The fourth verse of the "Star Spangled Banner;" and
  - The phrase "Under God" in the Pledge of Allegiance.

### **Capitalism - Private Competitive Enterprise**

We believe in the American capitalistic, private, competitive enterprise system in which property is privately owned, privately managed, operated for profit, individual satisfaction and responsible stewardship.

We believe in a competitive business environment in which supply and demand are the primary determinants of market prices, the use of productive resources, and the distribution of output.

We support the continuing freedom of the people of Idaho to manage, develop, harvest

and market the useful products of our natural resources.

We believe in man's right to search and research to select the best ways of maintaining quality production of food and fiber.

We believe every individual in Idaho should have the right to a job without being forced to join or pay dues to any organization.

Government operation of commercial business in competition with private enterprise should be terminated.

We also believe that no element of society has more concern for, understanding of, or a greater stake in, the proper husbandry of poultry, livestock, fur-bearers, game animals and aquaculture than the producer.

### **Economy in Government**

We consider the proliferation of government with its ever-increasing cost to the taxpayer a major problem.

State expenditures and growth of personnel on the public payroll should not be allowed to expand faster than the population and should be compatible with the percentage of economic growth of the state.

We believe that Article 8, Section 1, "Limitation of Public Indebtedness" of the state Constitution is the main reason for the healthy financial condition of Idaho's government. We will oppose any attempt to amend this section of the Constitution.

Tax exemptions granted by the state Legislature that reduce county income should at the same time require appropriation of sufficient funds to replace county revenue losses caused by such exemptions.

We support economy at all levels of government.

### **Education**

We believe that agricultural education is critical in creating and maintaining a strong and viable agricultural industry.

We believe education starts with the parent or guardian and is extended to the schools as a cooperative partnership in which parents and guardians have the right to review any and all methods and materials used in the educational processes of school systems.

We believe parents have the right to choose how best to direct the upbringing and education of their children.

We believe local school boards must be elected by the people to maintain control of public school systems and must have authority to establish policy for dress standards, personal conduct standards, testing standards, fiscal controls and curriculum.

We believe all school systems must be accountable to provide opportunities for all students to obtain proficiency in the basics

of reading, writing and mathematics. Parents and guardians must be kept informed by the school system of the educational progress of their children.

We believe parents and guardians have an inherent right and obligation to discipline their own children.

### **Political Parties**

Strong, responsive political parties are essential to the United States system of elective government.

We recommend that Farm Bureau members support the political party of their choice.

We believe that government should in no way be involved directly in the political process but should lay down certain rules to assure fair and proper elections.

We strongly favor retaining the county central political committees composed of county precinct committee people and their existing functions within the party structure.

We are opposed to shifting the functions of county committees to a district committee.

## **COMMODITIES**

### **• Agrichemicals/Pesticides**

- We support:
  - Increased research and labeling for minor-use pesticide registrations; and
  - The continued use of approved pesticides and/or related products until conclusive scientific evidence proves there is an unacceptable risk.
- We oppose:
  - Establishment of zones of agricultural land in which any kind of legal application or storage of agricultural chemicals is curtailed without sound, scientifically validated evidence to warrant curtailment; and
  - Fumigant buffer zone limitations proposed by the EPA without research giving substantial evidence that current practices are negatively affecting bystanders.
- We recommend that compliance with federally approved label instructions should absolve farmers or commercial applicators from liability claims of environmental pollution.

### **• Commodity Diseases**

- We support:
  - The quarantine of all sources of the potato wart virus;
  - Active research and the dissemination of information to all interested parties related to rhizomania and urge that any imposed restrictions be

based on scientific data;

- Any phytosanitary action taken by the Idaho Department of Agriculture to protect the Idaho potato industry from the threat of the “Pratylenchus Neglectus” nematode;
- The rewrite of the Idaho Plant Pest Act to include language to protect growers from being subject to unnecessary search and seizure without probable cause, and advanced warning to enter a premises; and
- A federal and state PCN (Pale Cyst Nematode) program that is based on good science, stakeholder participation, and minimal impact to grower operations.
- We urge the Idaho State Department of Agriculture to do all within its power to prohibit the importation of Anthracnose virus into Idaho.

#### • **Commodity Commissions**

- We support commodity commissions having:
  - Self-governing status with no political influence;
  - Boards solely elected by the growers/producers;
  - Uniform provisions to run referendums;
  - Commissioner districts representing even areas of production;
  - Legal entities a right to cast votes in elections; and
  - Nominations held for a month-long period followed by a month-long voting period so that all growers can be represented and participate.

#### • **Commodity Sales**

We support expansion of Idaho agricultural markets, domestic and foreign. We also support trade missions abroad to better inform our producers and the hosting of foreign delegations to our state in efforts to increase our market share.

We support changes to crop insurance that truly reflect a safety net.

We oppose double discounts by grain dealers.

We support licensing and bonding of all commodity brokers by the State of Idaho.

We support amending the Idaho Pure Seed Law to fully disclose the contents of all seed lots by requiring the tag or label to list each plant species therein by name and rate of occurrence.

#### • **Environmental Studies**

We recommend that any individual or group doing environmental studies be held accountable for claims or assertions

of damage by agricultural practices to the environment. Claims or assertions should be treated with skepticism until they have been subjected to critical peer review and tested by practical application.

#### • **Fair Trade**

We support strict adherence to bilateral and multilateral trade agreements to which the United States is a party to prevent unfair practices by competing nations and to assure unrestricted access to domestic and world markets. All trade agreements should be continuously monitored and enforced to ensure they result in fair trade.

#### • **Field Testing Biotechnology Products**

We support effective field testing of new biotechnology products to promote commercial use of products that will benefit agriculture and the general public.

We oppose any law or regulation requiring registration of agriculture producers who use or sell biotech-based products or commodities.

We oppose any law or regulation requiring registration or labeling of agricultural products containing GMOs (Genetically Modified Organisms).

We oppose attempts to restrict or prohibit planting of biotechnology crops on either a statewide or county by county basis.

We support scientifically accurate consumer education about the safety and benefits of genetically engineered crops.

#### • **Food Safety/Government Accountability**

We strongly believe a government agency making public health decisions that result in product recalls, product seizures or destruction of perishable goods must be held accountable when such decisions prove false. Such agencies must be required to compensate or indemnify individuals and companies for the monetary losses that occur because of poor or false regulatory decisions.

We support laws and regulations that exempt farmers and ranchers from liability from food contamination when best practices or food safety programs have been followed and no gross negligence has been shown.

#### • **Industrial Grade Hemp**

We support legalizing the production of industrial grade hemp with 0.3% THC (Tetrahydrocannabinol), or less in Idaho, and to authorize the University of Idaho and the Idaho Department of Agriculture to conduct research and pilot programs to determine suitable varieties to meet market demand.

#### • **Lien Law**

We oppose any attempt to alter the system of centralized filing or first-in-time, first-in-right system of lien priorities, either in revised UCC Article 9, or any other legislation.

Delivered feed shall not be encumbered by a blanket lien from a financial institution until the grower/supplier is paid in full.

### LIVESTOCK

#### • **Animal Care**

- We support:
  - The rights of owners and producers to raise their animals in accordance with commonly accepted animal husbandry practices;
  - The role of a licensed veterinarian in the care of animals and support current licensing standards for veterinarians;
  - The Idaho Veterinary Practice Act and oppose any efforts to weaken it or the licensing standards; and
  - Punishments for those with non-service animals who attempt to portray them as service animals.
- We oppose:
  - Any legislation, regulatory action or funding, whether private or public, that interferes with commonly accepted animal husbandry practices;
  - Legislation that would give animal rights organizations the right to establish standards for the raising, marketing, handling, feeding, housing or transportation of livestock and production animals and any legislation that would pay bounties to complainants;
  - Any livestock and production animal care legislation that would impose a stricter penalty than the 2016 law;
  - The creation of an Idaho livestock care standards board;
  - Requiring a licensed veterinarian for docking, dehorning, castration and any routine livestock healthcare management practices; and
  - Comfort animals having the same rights and privileges as service animals covered by the Americans with Disabilities Act.

#### • **Animal ID**

We support procedures and or equipment for an animal ID program that makes it possible to trace an animal back to its original location.

We support the right of the owner to choose among the acceptable methods of identification and to leave their animals

unidentified prior to movement from the premises of origin.

We support having the Idaho State Department of Agriculture determine acceptable methods of identification, including hot or cold brands, for the state.

We support eliminating the mandatory brand inspection for equine in Idaho.

We support an option for having a brand inspection for the lifetime of ownership for the equine.

We support raising the fee for the lifetime inspection.

- **Bovine Tuberculosis**

We support an ISDA surveillance testing program for Bovine Tuberculosis and its continued funding.

- **Brucellosis**

We oppose all efforts to eliminate the mandatory vaccination law and require its complete enforcement.

We insist that the National Park Service eradicate brucellosis in Yellowstone and Grand Teton Parks.

We support regulations requiring the appropriate state and federal agencies to control and eradicate this disease in wildlife.

We oppose separating the state into zones for definition of brucellosis-free status.

We oppose the establishment of any herds of free roaming buffalo outside of Yellowstone National Park.

- **CAFO Regulations**

We support efforts by all livestock associations to create MOUs with the appropriate state and federal agencies. Matters pertaining to CAFO regulation other than siting should be under the jurisdiction of the state.

- **Data Confidentiality**

We support the confidentiality of data collected on farms and feedlots. Only final reports or conclusions should be made a matter of public record. No data collected from individual operations should be made public.

- **Domestic Cervidae**

We support the right of domestic cervidae owners to breed, raise, harvest, and market all members of the cervidae family indigenous to Idaho that can be legally acquired.

- **Equine**

We oppose any attempt to eliminate the right of the equine owner or BLM to the minimal stress slaughter of their equine for consumption or any other purpose.

We support construction of new slaughter-

ing facilities and/or use of existing processing facilities in Idaho to slaughter equines without duress.

We support the right of individuals and nongovernmental organizations to save horses from slaughter as long as they take possession of the horses and are responsible for their care and feeding.

We support the continued classification of equines as marketable livestock and oppose any efforts to classify them as pets or companion animals.

When an equine is in the custody of a government agency and an adoption has not been able to take place within 6 months, that equine should be harvested or euthanized with minimal stress and without delay.

We support funding for USDA food service inspectors in facilities that harvest horses.

- **Foot and Mouth/BSE Disease**

We support stringent controls to protect Idaho's livestock industry from foot and mouth disease and BSE (bovine spongiform encephalopathy).

We oppose importation of live cattle over 30 months of age until sound science proves this does not threaten to spread BSE to the United States.

We support allowing entities to voluntarily test all slaughtered animals for BSE in order to ship products to countries that require individual tests.

- **Law Enforcement Training**

We support law enforcement officers being trained in proper livestock herding techniques and how to properly euthanize livestock as part of the Idaho Peace Officers Standardized Training.

- **Livestock Brands**

We support the concept that livestock may be left unbranded at the discretion of the owner except for those livestock grazing on federal/state managed lands.

- **Manure Management**

We believe that manure and manure/compost are nutrient-rich residue resources.

- We support:
  - Research on manure management including such areas as odor reduction and waste and nutrient management; and
  - Programs that educate livestock operators on techniques regarding properly managed organic nutrient systems, especially if implemented with consistent Best Management Practices (BMPs) developed by extension, university and the livestock industry.

- We oppose:

- Manure being classified as industrial, solid, or hazardous waste or as raw sewage.

- **State Inspectors of Small Meat Processing Plants**

We support state certified meat inspectors.

- **State Veterinarian**

We believe the Animal Health Division of the Idaho Department of Agriculture should be administered by a licensed veterinarian.

## WATER

- **Aquifer Recharge**

We support the beneficial use of managed basin-wide aquifer recharge with the state being involved with both financial support and implementation.

- **Bureau of Reclamation Reservoirs**

Release of water in power head space in Bureau of Reclamation reservoirs shall be controlled solely by state water law.

- **Cloud Seeding**

We support the application of cloud seeding and we encourage continued investment in the application and research of cloud seeding.

We encourage the Idaho Legislature and the Idaho Department of Water Resources to study and allocate funding for cloud seeding efforts that are proving beneficial to increasing precipitation.

- **Comprehensive State Water Plan**

We urge the Governor to appoint Water Resource Board members who will be protective of the waters of the State of Idaho.

We oppose all minimum stream flows unless sufficient storage is built to supply priority needs first.

We support requiring legislative approval before establishing minimum stream flow, instream flow, reconnect permits, river basin plans and state water plans.

We support amending the Idaho Constitution, Article XV Water Rights Section 7, State Water Resource Agency to read, "That any change shall become effective only by approval of the legislature."

We support a mandatory requirement for legislative approval of agreements made by state agencies with federal agencies when dealing with commitments on water.

We support the Swan Falls Agreement as originally written in October of 1984.

- **Dams**

We support legislation that would focus the attention of the Northwest Power

Planning Council's authority on planning, to provide for present and future power needs of northwest power states and away from other secondary issues.

We support the construction, improvement and increased size of storage facilities that provide multiple beneficial uses of Idaho's water, and encourage municipalities, federal agencies and tribal agencies to advocate and fund additional storage to help meet their increasing demands for water, thus avoiding the need to take irrigation water from agriculture.

We support the continued existence and current usage of all dams on the Columbia and Snake Rivers. We oppose any efforts to destroy or decrease production of those dams.

We support construction of the Galloway Dam on the Weiser River.

- **Effluent Trading**

We support the concept of effluent trading.

- **Flood Control**

We recommend that steps, including additional storage facilities, increased recharge and land transfers from federal to state ownership, be taken to control future flooding within the state of Idaho.

We support Idaho water law that denies flood control releases as being considered a beneficial use.

We support fill of existing reservoirs following flood control releases to ensure that current water users' reservoir space is filled and protected from new appropriations.

- **Moratorium**

We support the current Idaho Department of Water Resources moratoriums on critical groundwater development.

- **Outstanding Resource Waters**

We support the Basin Advisory Groups (BAGs) and Watershed Advisory Groups (WAGs) process, recognizing that Outstanding Resource Waters (ORWs) are part of this process.

We oppose nominations of ORWs by parties other than BAGs and WAGs.

- **State Purchase of Water Rights for Mitigation**

We support having the State of Idaho purchase water rights for mitigation purposes to be held by the State Water Board, so water trade may benefit recharge and pump conversions.

- **Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs)**

We support mandating Idaho's Department of Environmental Quality to conduct an Economic Impact Analysis of an area's

businesses (including the agri-business and agricultural operations of that area) before initiating a TMDL process for that geographic area. The analysis shall be provided to the Watershed Advisory Group before consideration is given to develop and implement a TMDL. A copy of the analysis shall also be provided to the germane committees of the Idaho Legislature.

- **Transfer of Water Rights**

We oppose the transfer of water rights to the Bureau of Reclamation (BOR).

We oppose the taking of water for fish flushing. Water held by the Idaho Water Resources Board will be held and used for purposes intended and in accordance with state law.

We believe all water in Idaho should be used beneficially. In the event the BOR or IDWR desires use of water they would have to negotiate on a yearly basis for rental-pool water in accordance with state water law.

We oppose out-of-basin transfers of irrigation water from lands enrolled in the federal cropland set-aside program for use on lands that have not historically been used for agricultural development.

We support re-evaluation of the need for flow augmentation on the grounds that the science does not support any biological benefit.

- **Waste Management**

We oppose mandatory facility construction without scientific proof of environmental pollution on an individual basis.

- **Water Development on New Non-Ag Development**

We support legislation that would require developers to supply water and water-delivery systems using existing water rights or gray water to new developments.

- **Water Quality**

- We support:

- The continued management of water quality, both underground and surface, by utilizing "Best Management Practices" (BMPs) as contained in USDA's "Natural Resource Conservation Services Field Office Technical Guide" and Idaho's "Forest Practices Act." Changes in these BMPs should be based only on scientifically monitored data rather than "best professional judgment;"
- The development of BMPs for recreational uses; and
- The efforts of canal and irrigation districts to halt unwanted drainage into their water systems.

- We oppose:

- The DEQ having the authority to arbitrarily impose penalties on landowners without first identifying the problem and giving the landowner an opportunity to correct the problem. If there is a difference of opinion concerning the extent of the problem, a reasonable and cost-effective appeal process of the DEQ decision should be available to the landowner; and
- Levying fees associated with State NPDES programs implementation, operation and permit issuance on agriculture and aquaculture producers.

- **Water Quality Standards**

Water quality standards must be site specific and realistically achievable for each water body. These standards must at least partially support designated beneficial uses.

- **Water Rights**

- We support:

- State ownership and control of Idaho water held in trust for the residents of the State of Idaho, and will oppose any policy, program or regulation, including Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) relicensing, which would infringe on this right;
- Defining local public interest, under water right law, to give priority to beneficial uses and agricultural viability, with local vested interest and use, a priority;
- Sanctions upon any party making frivolous claims against water right applications. Frivolous claims are not reasonably grounded in fact or law causing unnecessary delay, increased cost, or harassment;
- Permittees on federal land being recognized and acknowledged as the owners of stock water rights in their allotments as their livestock provide beneficial use under state law and the water rights are an appurtenance of the private base property;
- Requiring that minimum stream flows, not jeopardize water rights and are being financed by the benefit recipients;
- The continued wise development of all Idaho's rivers and their tributaries as working rivers;
- First in time, first in right, and state control of water issues within appropriate Idaho agencies without federal regulatory or legislative intervention;
- The privatization of Idaho irrigation canal systems;
- The protection of canal and drain

- ditch easements from arbitrarily being taken over by cities, counties, state, federal or private developers or private landowners and developed into green belts or bike paths;
- The concept of conjunctive-use management when scientific evidence is available to support such management; and
- Efforts by local groundwater districts to provide supplemental or water bank water to senior surface water users to prevent curtailment of junior water rights. Irrigation districts shall have no net loss of irrigated acres due to growth and development.
- We oppose:
  - The Idaho Department of Water Resources accepting any further applications for water rights on surface stream water of the state that has been over-decreed and adjudicated. Adequate water for domestic and agricultural purposes should have priority over other uses when the waters of any natural stream is insufficient, as per Article 15, Section 3 of the Idaho Constitution;
  - Changing the historical beneficial use of water rights when that change will have a negative impact on other water right holders;
  - The federal government changing the historic priorities and uses of water storage reservoirs;
  - Any diminishment of storage fill rights due to flood control or other discharge prior to season use including efforts by any entity that would count flood control releases against the storage rights of water right holders;
  - Any federal agencies' use of priority dates, in regard to water rights, that are not in accordance with Idaho Water Law;
  - The adoption of source water protection plans/ordinances by local government that create land use policies prohibiting generally accepted farming and animal agriculture practices/activities;
  - Indian tribes requiring/requesting water right encroachment permits on state waters;
  - Agreements between water groups that neglect the first in time, first in right and treat senior, junior, trust and expansion rights near-equal; and
  - The 5-year averages that were used to determine the quantity of water that is allowed to be pumped by a user in the future.

- **Water Spreading**

We support voluntary conservation of water use by updating irrigation systems. Increases in irrigated acres (water spread acres) due to redesigning or remodeling irrigation systems or development of areas within a recorded water right, should not be excluded from irrigation. Conservation should not adversely affect the full use of an irrigation water right.

We support legislation and rulemaking that will protect the full use of an irrigation water right.

- **Water Use - International Water Agreements**

We support the renewal of the Columbia River Treaty with Canada in such a manner as to maintain its original focus upon flood control and power generation.

## LAND USE

- **Government Land Transactions**

- We support:
  - No net loss of private property;
  - Enactment of legislation to require prior legislative approval for any state land acquisition on a parcel-by-parcel basis;
  - Prohibiting the sale of state land to the federal government or agencies of the federal government, except for the purpose of building federal facilities or structures;
  - When land is to be sold, the current grazing permit holder must have the first right of refusal. If there is no permit holder, the adjacent landowner should be given the first right of refusal based on appraised value. When federal land is sold, traded, or exchanged, all holders of grazing preference must be fairly compensated;
  - Requiring any entity which acquires property from the federal government, to compensate grazing preference holders on the former federally administered lands for the loss of their property rights if that entity does not continue to maintain and protect those rights;
  - The enactment of legislation to ensure that none of the valid existing private rights are lost in any land exchange between Idaho and the federal government or in the transfer of federal lands to Idaho;
  - Amending the Idaho Constitution to mandate that any federal land conveyed to the state in any manner from the date of the passage will be managed from multiple use and

sustained yield; that all valid existing rights will be honored; and allow for the sale of the isolated, landlocked, and uneconomical parcels with the first right of refusal going to the adjoining landowner(s) at fair appraised value; and

- No net loss of tax base with all land exchanges and sales. Tax obligations must stay with the property.
- We oppose:
  - Any land exchanges involving publicly owned land unless there is strong local support.

- **Government-Managed Lands**

- We support:
  - Multiple-use management of federal and state lands with protection of the traditional rights of use;
  - We support a study of the Payment In Lieu of Taxes formula to determine if it is meeting its purpose and is equitable in its distribution of funds;
  - The equal-footing doctrine and insist on the passage of legislation to establish a deadline for complete transfer of public land back to state jurisdiction and management;
  - The Idaho Legislature joining with other states in the West, in an interstate compact, with respect to the transfer of public lands;
  - The timely salvage of trees in burn areas within our state;
  - Legislation that would promote harvest of trees and forage on federal and state land to help prevent and control wildfire;
  - The use of land-use management plans by county governments to encourage state and federal agencies to coordinate and protect the land within their tax base;
  - The legislature and the governor asserting their authority and taking all necessary measures to protect the citizens and counties of the state of Idaho from federal agency overreach; and
  - The release of federal, state and local government held lands for development or private use.

- **Grazing**

We believe grazing to be an effective tool in maintaining sustainable rangeland, forests, improving watersheds, wildlife habitat, reduction of wildfire potential, and supporting ranchers and rural community economies.

- We support:
  - The protection of grazing on public

- lands as a viable economic solution for managing agencies of rangeland by reducing forage minimizing costs for fighting catastrophic wildfires;
- “Best Management Practices” by all State and Federal agencies, land grant colleges and research facilities on how grazing affects habitat for all wildlife including sage grouse leks;
  - “Rangeland Management Plans” that use current science-based information developed by the Idaho Department of Lands, BLM, Forest Service, and NRCS including the development of a certification process recognized by these agencies which would allow grazing permit holders to submit voluntary forage monitoring data to be used in the creation and development of said plans;
  - Range management plans should be developed in careful and considered consultation, cooperation, and coordination with local government, permittees, lessees and landowners involved;
  - The Idaho Rangeland Resource Commission, the Experimental Stewardship Program, and the Coordinated Resource Management Program encouraging producer control and supporting fees;
  - Our local NRCS “Grazing Land Conservation Initiative” (GLCI) and the “Conservation Reserve Program” (CRP) and its programs of intermittent grazing which pay producers to set aside marginal ground to enhance soil health;
  - Grazing fee formulas for AUM’s currently used by Idaho Department of Lands, BLM, Forest Service, and (PRIA) which are based upon forage monitoring by agencies and permittees under the “Federal Land Policy and Management Act” of 1976 (FLPMA);
  - The current grazing permit holder to have first right of refusal when land is sold and when there is no permit holder, the adjacent landowner should be given the first right of refusal based on appraised value;
  - All holders of grazing preference be fairly compensated when federal land is sold, traded, or exchanged and any entity acquiring property from the federal government to compensate grazing preference holders;
  - Requiring any entity which acquires property from the federal government to compensate grazing preference holders for loss of their property rights

- if that entity does not continue to maintain and protect those rights;
- Funding from both federal and state governments for the operation and research of the U.S. Sheep Experiment Station in Dubois;
  - A grazing preference right being transferred from one base property to another base property, if the transfer or shall own or control the base property from which the grazing preference right is being transferred and file with the authorized officer a properly completed transfer application for approval to the respective agency;
  - Selling of a permit by a holder to another interested party that will continue using the permit for its original intended purpose;
  - The new “Outcome Based Grazing Authorizations” of 2017, which is designed to offer a more coordinated approach to resolve disputes between the BLM and its partners within the livestock grazing community when issuing trading authorizations; and
  - All stakeholders being a part of the vetting process when curtailment, termination, or fee increases of any existing grazing permits or allotments are proposed.
- **We oppose:**
    - The reduction or curtailment of any grazing activity for the creation or recognition of wildlife corridors;
    - The U.S. Forest Service ruling that will prevent transferring grazing permits for 25 head or less;
    - The termination of grazing permits for administrative errors or omissions of the land managing agency;
    - Mandatory forage monitoring by livestock permittees on federal lands as proposed by the Federal Land Management Policy Act;
    - The termination or curtailment of permittees because of livestock proximity to bighorn sheep, bison, and sage grouse; and
    - The purchase or retirement of grazing permits or allotments by any State or Federal agency, group, or individual whose sole purpose is to not allow any further grazing.
  - **Idaho Forest Practices Act**

We support the Idaho Forest Practices Act except where it infringes on private property rights.

We oppose The Forest Practices Act Streamside Retention Rule (Shade Rule) unless accompanied by fair market appraised

value compensation to landowners for loss of property rights.

- **Landfills on BLM Lands**

We encourage the development of new, as well as the continued use of, county landfills on BLM lands.

- **Local, State or National Land Designation**

We oppose any infringement upon private property rights through any designation of land by any government entity, including highway scenic byways/corridors, National Heritage Areas, National Monuments and National Parks. We oppose any change to federal or state land designation when there is the potential to harm agriculture. We oppose Craters of the Moon becoming a national park.

- **Mineral Rights**

We support legislation that would transfer government-retained mineral rights to current landowners (at no expense to the landowners), where there has been no meaningful mineral activity for 10 years.

We support requiring that property deeds state the name and address of the person or entity who owns the mineral rights for each property. If mineral rights are sold or transferred, the deed should be updated. The surface owner should be notified and offered first right of refusal.

- **Mining**

We support the continuation of mineral extraction in Idaho as long as the appropriate mine reclamation and environmental protections are in place and followed.

- **Notification of Property Damage**

We support notification to landowners when fences or property sustain damage due to accidents.

- **Open Range**

We oppose any changes to Idaho open range and fence laws.

- **Pest Control**

We support enforcement of current laws to give counties authority to spray and control insect infestations on private land, with the cost of the spraying to be assessed to the present owner of the land.

We support safe and effective county and state pest control programs when landowner property rights are respected, and commodity production is not adversely affected by the program(s).

We support legislation that requires local, state and federal governments to manage



lands to prevent spread of noxious weeds and pests from their lands to adjoining lands, crops and animals.

- **Protecting Farm Land**

There should be no governmental taking of private property rights by restriction of use without just and due compensation.

We support the federal and state “takings” law in support of the U.S. Constitution, Article V.

We oppose any infringement of private property rights caused by regulation of rivers and dams for endangered species.

We oppose infringement on private property rights caused by highway districts and transportation departments.

- **Regulation of Agricultural Practices**

- We support:

- Long-standing sound agricultural practices such as field burning, including grass seed, straw, residue burning, timber slash burning and animal-waste disposal, cultivation and harvest practices;
- Farmer participation in voluntary airshed quality programs; and
- The farmer’s right to farm by being able to carry on sound farming and forestry practices and to be free from environmental regulations that are not proportionately beneficial to the implementation cost.

- We oppose:

- Any legislation or regulations that would segregate any agricultural industry, agricultural crop, cropping practice or geographical area and would impose a higher air quality, water quality or environmental standard than is required of any other person, entity, industry or geographical area within the state;
- Regulations on agricultural practices that are not validated by sound peer reviewed scientific process and supported by scientific fact;
- The Idaho State Department of Agriculture having the authority to impose sanctions on livestock operators without first identifying specific problems and giving the operators an opportunity to correct said problems; and
- Mandatory registration or licensing of farms and ranches.

- **Right to Farm**

We support the right-to-farm law, and the concept behind it, and encourage legislative changes to strengthen the law so it can be enforced at the local governmental levels

through conditional use permits or other permitting processes.

We support local, state, and federal agriculture exemptions from dust rules.

- **Riparian Management**

Proper multiple-use management of riparian areas is essential.

We believe these highly productive areas can be properly harvested with modern forest or livestock Best Management Practices (BMPs) and still improve riparian habitat for all uses.

We believe these areas should be properly used but not abused. However, management of the entire allotment should not be governed by forage utilization of riparian areas.

We support the concept that all existing roads along streams be given grandfather rights approval.

- **State and County Noxious Weed Control**

- We support:

- Strong enforcement of Idaho’s noxious weed law by the state and counties, together with appropriate use of special management-zone provisions;
- Idaho Transportation Department weed control policies at both state and district levels be required to be in compliance with the Idaho Noxious Weed Law each year by controlling all infestations of noxious weeds in a timely and effective manner and by controlling noxious weeds on the full width of all rights of way;
- Enforcement of timely and effective noxious weed control by all railroads on their rights of ways within the state; and
- Adding dog rose (*Rosa canina*) and sweet briar (*Rosa eglanteria*) to the Idaho noxious weed list.

- **Timber Management**

We support all efforts by the Department of Lands to optimize the timber yields and stumpage prices as mandated by the Idaho Constitution.

We oppose actions by the Land Board or Department of Lands that would inhibit or further restrict these processes, including, but not limited to, habitat conservation plans and conservation easements.

- **Timber Trespass**

We support legislation that would award delivered log values to landowners with no deduction for logging for incidental timber trespass. Additional penalties would be established for intentional trespass.

- **Wilderness and Restrictive Zones**

- We support:

- The traditional balanced multiple-use practices on all federal/state lands and that access to existing wilderness be free and accessible for everyone; and
  - Adding adequate fire breaks in existing wilderness areas.
- We oppose:
  - All dedication of land in Idaho for wilderness and roadless areas and support the release of lands currently held in Wilderness Study Areas (WSA) back to multiple-use management. All lands designated as non-suitable for wilderness must be immediately released from WSA status;
  - Designation of lands in Idaho as biosphere reserves, corridors or buffer zones, using the Lands Legacy Initiative, the Antiquities Act or National Monument Declarations by the executive branch of the government;
  - Any expansion of the boundaries of the Sawtooth National Recreation Area (SNRA);
  - Any reinterpretation of the mandates of the SNRA which would impose further use restrictions; and
  - The reduction or curtailment of any grazing or farming activity for the creation or recognition of wildlife corridors.

- **Wildfire Control**

- We support:

- Fire-control policy to put out any fire upon arrival or as soon as safely possible. Local entities (such as counties, fire districts, and forest or rangeland protective associations) and private landowners and individuals being allowed to act as first responders. When the protection of the health, safety, and property of the citizens are in jeopardy, the local protective associations being allowed to act beyond the first response and initial attack phase of a fire. Local landowners must be allowed to protect private property including livestock on federal and state lands;
- Changing state and federal wildfire policy to require that state and federal fire managers and incident commanders coordinate with county and local fire departments and landowners;
- A provision that state and federal agencies will allow forest or rangeland protective associations in neighboring states, that meet the requirements of their home state, to

- enter into mutual aid agreements with forest and rangeland protective associations across state lines;
- An increase in management activities, such as thinning and grazing, to achieve federal agency goals of reducing the potential for catastrophic wildfires;
- A provision that state and federal agencies maintain a fire break strategically located to protect private property and to control large wild fires; and
- An aggressive initial attack and suppression on all forest and rangeland wildfires on public land and firefighting suppression activities in addition to fire management, in order to protect our water basins and watersheds.
- We oppose:
  - Landowners being held accountable for fire suppression costs except in cases of gross negligence; and
  - Efforts by the Idaho Department of Lands to include small forestry and/or hazard management operations to be defined as "Forestry Operations."

## FISH AND WILDLIFE

### • **Animal Damage Control**

We support animal damage control programs to control and manage predators, rodents and destructive wildlife.

### • **Animal Threat and Public Safety**

It shall be the responsibility of U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services and any state agencies, that manage predatory or proven problem animals, to notify all residences within a 5-mile radius using a 9-1-1 reverse calling system of potential conflict in their area.

### • **Endangered Species Act**

We believe that modern society cannot continue to operate on the premise that all species must be preserved at any cost.

We believe basic requirements of human life have priority over protection of other species, including threatened or endangered (T/E) species. A thorough consideration of all potential adverse impacts to human economic and social welfare should be an integral part of any consideration to list and T/E species.

- We support:
  - A revision of the ESA to include a more thorough consideration of agriculture, mining, logging and tree farming in such a manner that these activities will be sustained and made part of any recovery plan. Recovery of T/E species should not receive higher

- priority than human uses or rights;
- Anadromous hatchery fish and wild fish being treated equally under the ESA. Hatchery fish should be counted toward recovery of the species;
- Eliminating the marking of hatchery fish.
- The right of landowners to protect themselves, their families, livestock and properties from all predators including grizzly bears and wolves without legal retaliation;
- Congress providing depredation funding for losses or damage resulting from endangered species and to mandate responsibility to deal with such losses; and
- Livestock grazing as an effective tool to reduce wildfires and enhance plant and wildlife habitat.
- We oppose:
  - Any effort to create a State Endangered Species Act (ESA);
  - Road closures and restrictions imposed on land and water in the name of critical habitat;
  - Implementation of the endangered species pesticide labeling program, other than in critical habitat;
  - The listing of the Giant Palouse Earthworm (*Driloleirus americanus*) and the Greater Sage Grouse (*Centrocercus urophasianus*) and Slick Spot Peppergrass (*Lepidium papilliferum*) as an endangered species;
  - Listing any species before its critical habitat is identified within its scientifically established historical range. Habitat site specific assessments and recovery plans must include comprehensive appreciation and inclusion of the protection of private property rights; and
  - Any critical-habitat designation until it has been established beyond scientific doubt that the species in question is actually present and that endangered or threatened status is actually warranted. The data to satisfy the scientific criteria should meet the guidelines of the Data Quality Act under federal statutes sections 3504(d)(1) and 3516 of title 44, United States Code. The agency, organization or individual requesting the critical-habitat designation must bear the cost of proving presence of the species and this must be done through the use of the best available peer reviewed science.
  - If lethal action is taken against any threatened or endangered species for the preservation of public safety, all investigations should be conducted

by the local officials of the county involved. All applicable state and government agencies are to be notified so as to provide assistance when called upon.

### • **Fish and Game Department**

- We support:
  - The department using good-neighbor management practices on the land they now own, including fences, pests, noxious weeds, and providing sportsmen with guidance and marked boundaries;
  - The Fish and Game Department controlling the concentration of wildlife numbers on all lands and being prohibited from entering into agreements to limit access to any area, without approval of the local governing authority;
  - Retaining the December 2016 composition and selection method of the Idaho Fish and Game Commission;
  - Implementing a requirement for non-resident mentored youth hunts where both the non-resident mentor and the mentored youth must purchase matching species tags. Non-resident tags should cost more than resident tags;
  - A Habitat Improvement Program and request Idaho Fish and Game Commission to reflect strong emphasis on multiple use;
  - Reducing the depredation deductible. Compensation by IDFG for crop loss due to depredation shall be for actual loss minus the one-time deductible and should be expediently paid with no pro-rating;
  - Oversight of the depredation account by the Idaho Department of Agriculture with technical support provided by Idaho Fish and Game;
  - Fish and Game being responsible and pay for damages caused by management decisions;
  - Idaho Fish and Game issuing emergency depredation permits to ag producers and landowners to harvest animals that are causing verifiable damage to crops, livestock and property. The issuance of these depredation permits by IDFG and other actions by IDFG to relieve depredation shall be free of conditions that landowners must allow hunting on their land. Landowners should be allowed to determine who hunts and they should be allowed to receive compensation for allowing hunts on their private property;

- Creating depredation areas for landowners who are annually affected by depredating animals and support mechanisms for quicker response in those areas;
- The Landowner Appreciation Program (LAP) being made available to anyone owning 320 acres or more and recipients of these tags should be free to do what they wish with the tags; and
- Investigating transactions between the Idaho Fish and Wildlife Foundation and the Idaho Department of Fish and Game to determine if there is a conflict of interest.
- We oppose:
  - The acquisition of additional land by the Fish and Game Department;
  - Any increase in funding for the Idaho Department of Fish and Game from either the general fund or license fees without showing a specific need or use for the funds;
  - The erection of either permanent or temporary hunting or viewing blinds within 100 feet of a developed livestock watering site on public lands;
  - Idaho Fish and Game abdicating responsibility for year after year losses due to depredation impacts regardless of other reimbursements; and
  - Idaho Fish and Game utilizing animal depredation claims to count against actual production history (APH).

#### • **Fish and Game—Prior Notification**

The Idaho Department of Fish and Game must have permission from the landowner before entering private property.

#### • **Fish and Game—Private Reservoir Companies**

Fish and Game Department shall pay private reservoir companies for the use of that reservoir for fish habitat. The Department should also pay upkeep assessments on reservoirs in which they own water.

#### • **Fish and Game/U.S. Fish & Wildlife Responsibility**

We support reform of the Idaho Department of Fish and Game to create local management of the wildlife of Idaho. This program should be site specific to control damage caused from over populated species of both game and non-game animals.

We oppose the relocation of wild game and non-game species without proper notice being given to residents and property owners in the area where they are released. Local county officials must receive official notice at least 30 days prior to any relocation or release, into the wild, of any species

raised in captivity. We oppose relocation or release into the wild of wolves or grizzlies that have been raised in captivity.

The Idaho Fish and Game Department should not engage in activities that encourage only non-consumptive uses of fish and wildlife species in Idaho.

The state or federal wildlife personnel shall be required to file an environmental and economic impact statement before they can release non-native insects or plants in Idaho or make regulations that affect the counties and/or the state.

We support the Idaho State Department of Agriculture's ban on the release of deleterious exotic animals into the State of Idaho.

All state and federal agency personnel must go through the elected county sheriff for all law enforcement.

#### • **Fish Species Population Management**

We support alternative scientific applications to modify fish species population without affecting contractual agreements or causing detrimental effects on flood control, irrigators, recreation and economies.

#### • **Grizzly Bear**

We support the delisting of the grizzly bear from the endangered species status.

We support a hunting season on the grizzly.

The costs associated with grizzlies, including triple damages for depredation costs, should be borne by the federal government, and its agencies such as U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services.

Compensation should be paid to state and local agencies when any assistance in the management, control, or defense of the public is needed from such agencies. Compensation to state and local agencies should be paid regardless of whether a request has been made by a federal agency for assistance until such time as the current grizzly bear policy can be changed to allow less conflict with humans and livestock namely the delisting of the grizzly bear and transfer of management to individual states' authority.

We support requiring the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services to coordinate all grizzly bear related activities with the Idaho Fish and Game and local county officials.

We oppose reintroduction of grizzly bear into any area of the state of Idaho.

#### • **Introduction of Salmon**

We oppose the introduction of salmon above the Brownlee Dam.

#### • **Invasive Species**

We support efforts to remove Asian clams from the waters of Idaho.

We support the listing of quagga mussels as an invasive species.

We support adequate state funding for inspections of all water craft and other vessels to prevent the spread and infestation of quagga/zebra mussels in Idaho waters.

#### • **Sage Grouse**

We support predator control as a method to increase sage grouse populations. We encourage the use of bounties to control all non-protected sage grouse predators.

We support grazing on public lands as a primary method of increasing sage grouse populations by controlling the amount of vegetation that fuels wild fires.

We support private sector rearing and releasing of sage grouse.

#### • **Salmon Recovery**

• We support the following salmon-recovery alternatives:

- Physically modifying the dams rather than tearing them down or lowering the water levels;
- Improving barging such as net barge transportation;
- Privatizing salmon fisheries for stronger fish;
- Controlling predators of salmon;
- Utilizing new hydroelectric turbine technologies to achieve the goals of increased power production and reduced hazards to fish; and
- Regulating harvest of off-shore and instream fish.

#### • **Snake River Basin Snails**

We support the delisting of snail species in the Snake River Basin and the grouping of snail species based on taxonomic/biological similarities.

We oppose the future listing of new snail species.

#### • **Wolves**

- We support hunting and trapping of wolves in all hunting units including:
  - Allowing an earlier start time for open foothold trapping in all units open to wolf trapping;
  - Longer check time on all lethal sets;
  - Allowing outfitters to sell wolf trapping trips;
  - Making it legal to shoot wolves over baits;
  - Eliminating regulations requiring diverters on snares;
  - Allowing year-round hunting and trapping statewide with emphasis in high depredation areas; and/or
  - Allowing an increase in wolf tags per person.

We support enforcement of Idaho Code that requires the Idaho Fish and Game to coordinate with local government.

We support a mandate from the legislature to the Idaho Fish and Game directing Wildlife Services to take control actions for wolves during winter months, when the use of aircraft can be more successful.

Wolf Depredation Control Board (WDCB) funds should be spent on contracting for collaring, for control actions, university-level myopathy research, and maintaining availability of a flight-worthy helicopter.

We support existence of the WDCB, or similar entity, and continued funding to provide services at the 2018 level or greater.

The costs associated with wolves, including triple damages for depredation costs, should be borne by the federal government, and its agencies such as U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services.

We support adding wolves to the IDF&G depredation list so that depredation on livestock can be paid by the IDF&G Big Game Depredation and Prevention Fund.

We request that all wolf carcasses be presented for testing for communicable diseases, especially the tapeworm *Echinococcus granulosus* which causes Hydatid Disease in livestock, elk, deer and humans.

## EASEMENTS

### • **Conservation Easements and Scenic Easements**

We support continuation of conservation easement agreements and scenic easements or agreements only if the real property involved remains on the tax rolls according to use.

We oppose the Yellowstone to Yukon Conservation Initiative (Y2Y).

## ENERGY

### • **Affordable Energy**

- We support:
  - Transparency in how energy monopolies plan to incur expenses and make investments that are passed on to ratepayers;
  - Thorough, fair and publicly involved process for evaluating rate requests and setting rates; and
  - Increased focus on removing barriers to widely available and affordable sources of energy.

### • **Alternative Energy**

We support the development of alternative energy.

We oppose a broad moratorium on alternative energy projects.

We support county control in the siting of these projects.

We support sales tax incentives to assist in the development of alternative energy projects of less than one megawatt constructed on or by existing agriculture operations.

We support that alternative energy should not receive subsidies beyond the bulk market rate. Any such contracts shall be allowed to expire.

### • **Bonneville Power Administration Credit**

We support some type of BPA credit that allows all citizens of Idaho to benefit from the BPA's use of Idaho water for power generation.

### • **Electrical Energy**

- **Hydroelectric Dams:**

As future demands for electrical energy increase, we support the continued careful use of water as one of our renewable natural resources through existing and the construction of new hydro projects.

We encourage the adoptions of hydro projects to generate power for sale.

We support the relicensing of dams, including the Hells Canyon Complex, using a least cost mitigation plan reflecting the desire for the customers to have a reliable power source at reasonable rates.

- **Renewables:**

We encourage utilities operating in Idaho to develop economically feasible renewable energy portfolios.

We support the construction of economically feasible power generation facilities in Idaho, including those that use plant and/or animal residue or logging slash.

We support an annual true-up for net metering rather than a monthly true-up.

- **Regulations:**

We encourage state agencies to remove barriers that prevent utilities from increasing Idaho's power generation capacity.

We oppose any deregulation, reorganization, merger or consolidation of power generation or transmission which could result in loss of water rights, less service or increased rates.

We support current laws that require coal fired plants be held to strict standards in the construction, operation and retirement of the facility.

We oppose the sale of any public utility company operating in the state of Idaho to an entity either partially or wholly owned by a foreign government.

- **Transmission:**

We support upgrades in transmission and distribution. Routing of utility corridors should be placed on public land first and

then to the areas of least impact to private property owners.

We support the initiation of on and off ramps in transmission lines within the State of Idaho.

### • **Farm Produced Fuel**

We support grants, cost share programs and bio-fuel production tax credits for farm-scale bio-fuel projects.

### • **Fossil Fuels**

We support the mining, and drilling of fossil fuels.

We support the legislature ensuring that rules for oil and natural gas production safeguard the water aquifers for all citizens and protect property owners' rights to use their property.

If a local government entity bans the development of mineral rights in its jurisdiction, it should be considered a property rights "taking" and compensation should be provided to the property owner.

### • **Nuclear Energy**

We support the generation of electricity from nuclear reactors in meeting our future energy needs and urge the development of permanent disposal sites for radioactive waste material where it will not endanger the aquifer in Idaho.

We support research and development of further usage of radioactive waste materials and safer ways of storage.

We support development of the fast burn sector of nuclear technology which massively reduces or eliminates the need for nuclear waste disposal.

We support the utilization of the Idaho National Laboratory to provide the lead role in advancing the continued development of this technology.

### • **Power Demand Control Program**

We support demand control programs as long as current water rights and power usage contracts are protected. These programs must remain on a voluntary basis.

### • **Renewable Fuels**

We support the promotion and use of alternative fuels made from agricultural products, as long as they are driven by open markets and not economically supported by mandates and government subsidies.

We encourage all state and local governments to assist in developing renewable fuel projects in Idaho.

We support the availability of low-cost fuels, including off-road bio-fuels, for the operation of farms and ranches.

### • **Utility Companies**

Utility companies that damage public roads should be responsible for restoring roadways to their original state for at least a period of two years.

## LABOR

### • **Legal Aid**

We oppose state funding of Idaho Legal Aid Services.

We oppose the uninvited presence of Legal Aid personnel soliciting business on private property.

### • **Minimum Wage**

We oppose any state minimum wage that is higher than the federal minimum wage.

### • **New Hire Reporting**

We support changes in the Idaho New Hire Reporting Law to extend the reporting date to 60 days.

We support not having to report seasonal temporary workers that work less than 45 days in a year.

### • **Unemployment Insurance**

Eligibility requirements should be made realistic to reflect agriculture's seasonal employment practices.

### • **Workers Compensation**

Workers compensation for agricultural employers should provide:

- Cost control measures and fair base rates;
- Mediation for agricultural concerns;
- Protection from third party lawsuits; and
- Employer protection from worker caused injuries (i.e. drug & alcohol).
- We support changes in the existing Workers' Compensation Law that would take into consideration the employee's responsibility when an accident occurs.
- We support having the settlement reduced by the percentage that was determined that the worker was responsible.

## TAX

### • **Agricultural Property Tax Shifts**

We are opposed to shifting property tax to agricultural real estate.

### • **Assessed Value of Ag Production Land**

We believe all land being used for commercial agricultural production should be appraised for tax purposes according to its current use, eliminating any consideration of its speculative value, using realistic pro-

ductivity figures, realistic cost deduction, including government mandated control of noxious weeds, taking into account the USDA's annual report on farm real estate values in Idaho and that only the landlord's net share of production be used in computing value for tax purposes, as prescribed by Idaho State Tax Commission rules and regulations.

We support assessed values being capped at a 5% increase in any given year.

We support the retention of five-acre minimum productivity option and the Bare Land & Yield Option for forest lands.

We support legislation that limits the Idaho Tax Commission from compelling a reassessment of a category of property after March 1 of each year.

We support legislation that allows county commissioners to appeal an assessment change by the Idaho State Tax Commission for a category of property.

### • **Budget Caps**

We oppose the loosening, removal or alteration in any way or the granting of an exemption from limitations and restraints placed by present Idaho law on units of local government, community colleges, school districts, etc., in increasing local property taxes.

We oppose the creation of additional tax entities that could be exempt from such limitations and restraints.

### • **Fuel Tax**

We oppose repealing the refund of tax paid on fuel used off-road.

We oppose taxing dyed fuel.

### • **Impact Fees**

We support local impact fees on new or expanding developments to pay for the services required to support growth.

We support simplification of current impact fee rules and procedures.

### • **Investment Tax Credit**

We support retention of the current three percent investment tax credit provisions, or an increase in the credit.

### • **Local Option Taxation**

We support local option taxation when used specifically for projects that would have been paid for with property tax dollars.

### • **Maximum Levy Rates**

We oppose raising the maximum statutory levy rates for any taxing authority.

### • **Personal Tax Privacy Rights**

We oppose the county tax assessor's office

requiring personal tax information to establish land use.

### • **Property Tax**

We oppose budget increases and foregone balances that current Idaho State Law allows for local governments.

We support limiting yearly property assessment increases to a maximum of the state inflation rate.

We support legislation that would allow county tax assessments and collection on property that has been purchased by non-profit groups and placed in tax exempt status, such as a tax code that covers environmental tax-exempt classification.

We support exempting all equipment used in the production of agricultural commodities from personal property tax.

### • **Property Tax-Funding Local Government and Schools**

We support gradually reducing the property tax burden to fund public schools and local government.

We are opposed to judges being allowed to levy taxes.

We support legislation mandating that plant facilities levy monies can be used only for capital expenditures related to school operation and maintenance.

We oppose school districts carrying over these funds to finance the construction of new buildings or the acquisition of additional property.

We support removing the school budget stabilization levy that was authorized in the 2006 Special Legislative Session, unless it is supported by a local vote.

We support the creation of standardized mandatory full disclosure of the school district's revenues and expenditures that are related to extracurricular activities; separated into curriculum and athletics, and budgeted in standard categories of salaries, transportation, supplies and capital expenditures.

We oppose indefinite or permanent supplemental school levies on taxpayers, regardless of the number of consecutive levies passed.

### • **Sales Tax**

We oppose removing the sales tax exemption on production items.

We support legislation that would exempt nonprofit organizational fund-raising from paying sales tax on those receipts.

### • **Services Tax**

We oppose all tax on services.

### • **Special Taxing Districts**

We support a requirement that all new

taxing districts must be approved by a 66-2/3% majority vote of the registered voters within a district.

We support legislation allowing special taxing districts to be funded by a household fee. All taxing districts that charge fees should be under the same three percent cap that applies to counties and municipalities.

We support giving library districts the option to be funded by a household fee rather than through an ad valorem tax. If the library district chooses the household fee option, any bonds they pass must also be paid through household fees.

We support a 10-year sunset on all special taxing districts, after which they would require re-authorization by the voters to continue.

- **State Budget**

We support zero-based budgeting.

We support a constitutional amendment, limiting state spending to a calculation determined by population growth and economic growth of the state.

We oppose balancing budget shortfalls by any tax increase.

We oppose any state funding of Planned Parenthood.

- **Super Majority**

We support retaining the 66-2/3% majority vote as required in the Idaho State Constitution for bond levies.

We oppose circumventing the required two-thirds majority by creative financing options.

- **Tax Compensation for Federal and State Managed Lands**

We recommend that a fee in lieu of taxes be assessed on all lands removed from tax rolls by state or federal agency management.

We favor an annual fee equivalent to local private property tax on land.

- **Tax Liens**

We oppose the recording of federal tax liens (IRS) by the county recorder without due process of law.

- **Tax Refund Extension**

We support income tax assessments and income tax refunds having the same statute of limitations.

- **Taxing Districts Sharing Administrators**

We encourage similar taxing districts to share administrators and secretaries on a county-wide or multi-district basis to help ease the tax burden of administration.

- **Urban Renewal Districts**

We support the repeal of urban renewal laws.

## LOCAL AFFAIRS

- **Annexation**

We are opposed to areas adjacent to a city being annexed into the city unless a two-thirds majority of those owning property in the area proposed for annexation vote in favor of the annexation.

- **County Commissioners**

We encourage county commissioners to develop a Natural Resource Plan per NEPA guidelines that clearly states the objectives and policies of the county in regard to management of the natural resources located on public lands in their county.

We encourage county commissioners to invoke the "coordination mandate" of Congress set forth in federal statutes with the public land management agencies plans and actions that may negatively impact the county's economy, culture and heritage.

We support the formation of a formal ANRAC (Agriculture & Natural Resources Advisory Committee) or NRAC (Natural Resources Advisory Committee) within each county.

- **Distribution of Federal Fines**

We support legislation that would require public notification of the distribution of fines collected by the governmental agencies in that county.

We support legislation that would require federal agencies to return a portion of federal fines collected in the county where the infraction occurred.

- **Elections**

Idaho residents who own real property in a taxing district should be allowed to vote on any tax proposal in that district.

We support restricting local school bond and levy elections to primary and general election dates.

We support a mandatory pre-registration requirement to be eligible to vote in all local bond elections.

We support requiring photo identification, proof of residency and proof of U.S. citizenship for new voter registration.

Pay raises for elected officials shall not take effect until the official stands again for election.

We support changing the number of members of the Idaho redistricting commission to 7 with the majority on the commission reflecting the current partisan makeup of the legislature.

- **Emergency Response Fees**

We oppose the imposition of a "crash tax" to cover the cost of cleaning up spills at the site of an accident.

We favor reducing regulatory burdens which prohibit low-cost clean-up solutions.

- **Indigent Care Funding**

We support the use of the interest from the tobacco settlement monies to reduce the indigent care deductible now being paid for by the property owners. The deductible should continue to decrease incrementally as the settlement monies increase, not to drop below \$1,000. The reduced deductible for tobacco-related illnesses should be expanded to include a reduced deductible for all health-related situations.

- **Public Hearings**

Public hearings that affect a given area of the state must be held in the area that is affected, at a reasonable time and date for those impacted.

- **Zoning**

County commissioners should control all zoning in the county. Zoning should be site specific within the county; we oppose the use of blanket zoning ordinances, including sustainable development and smart-growth initiatives.

We recognize and encourage the use of planning tools allowed under state law to encourage planned and orderly growth in or near agricultural areas.

## EDUCATION

- **Adolescent Nutrition**

We support school districts offering dairy products, healthy nutritional snacks and fruit juices in vending machines on school premises.

- **Ag in the Classroom**

We support "Ag in the Classroom" in school curriculum to increase student literacy of agriculture.

We support an increase in funding for Ag in the classroom.

- **Career Technical Education**

We support enhanced funding for Idaho's Career & Technical Education, Agricultural Science and Technology courses and programs.

- **Contracts for Teachers**

We recommend that the tenure system for school teachers be eliminated and replaced with contracts based on evaluation and performance.

We support the concept of incentive pay that will improve teacher excellence.

School teachers should have the option of being able to negotiate their own contract with the school district as a private contractor.

#### • **Education Funding**

We support that funding be made available from the state endowment fund's reserve account to be used to maintain/replace existing buildings and facilities in school districts throughout the state.

Endowment funds designated for public schools should be used for school funding only.

#### • **Education Standards and Assessments**

- We support using:
  - Professionally established standards and assessments that can be modified to reflect locally recognized educational values, goals and philosophy; and
  - Standards to ensure the progression of a student that reflect a comprehension of the subject.

#### • **Knowledge of Constitution**

We support requiring students graduating from Idaho schools to have a thorough understanding of the Constitution and the form of government that it gives us in accordance with the original intent of the founders.

#### • **Local Control of Education**

We encourage the State Board of Education and the Idaho Legislature to refuse federal funds aimed at promoting control of educational programs in public schools by the federal government.

We support the repeal of the federal education program, Common Core and SBAC testing, in the State of Idaho.

We oppose the gathering of personal information of students that is not related to their academic education without parental consent.

#### • **Mandatory Agriculture Education Class**

We support state legislation requiring all high school students to take Ag-Ed in order to graduate, utilizing current STEM classes already available.

#### • **No Increase in School Time**

We oppose increasing required school hours beyond 990 hours per year.

#### • **Parental Choice in Education**

We support the voucher system for education.

We support the continuing freedom of Idaho parents to choose private school, parochial school, home school, public charter school or public school as prescribed in the Idaho Constitution and in Idaho Code.

We support optional kindergarten.

We oppose public funding of pre-kindergarten.

We support legislation amending the Blaine Amendment, Section 5, Article IX of the Constitution of the state of Idaho to provide for an educational system of grants or monetary assistance in which the money follows the child.

#### • **Veterinary Students**

We support an increase from eleven (11) to fifteen (15) seats per year for Idaho residents in the Washington-Idaho Cooperative Veterinary Medical Education Program.

## STATE AFFAIRS

#### • **Agricultural Research and Extension**

- We support:
  - The University of Idaho Agricultural Research and Extension Service and urge the Legislature to adequately fund this vital program;
  - Adequate funding to the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences to allow research to develop new improved varieties of seed that are classed as public varieties;
  - Expanded research and education in all crop areas relative to Idaho. This must also include new and improved plant and animal varieties along with effective insect, pest, disease and weed controls;
  - An informational exchange and cooperative effort within the tri-state area in agchemical registration and research as well as plant/animal variety improvement research. Every effort should be made by state and county officials and the University of Idaho to retain an agricultural extension agent in each county as an extension service of our land grant university. Strong pressure must be exerted to revitalize and improve the agricultural information and education programs;
  - The hiring of new extension educators in the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences with primary training and experience in commercial agriculture and forestry; and
  - Full funding, from both federal and state governments, for operations and research at the current U.S. Sheep Experiment Station, including

continuous research on the effects of grazing and sage grouse habitat, and the relationship between wildfire and grazing.

- We request the legislature examine the role of the University of Idaho as the land grant college and take steps to ensure the university honors its commitment as our agricultural research facility. The university should be on the same budgeting system as the State of Idaho.
- We recommend that extension activities assist farm programs on a first-priority basis, including the integrated Farm Management Program.
- We also believe that county agents should be first and foremost county agricultural agents.

#### • **ATV Safety**

We oppose the creation of a mandatory class or special license for the ability to ride an ATV on private or public land.

We oppose efforts to require the transporting of firefighting equipment that would present a hazard to the safe and effective operation of ATV and other OHV recreational equipment.

#### • **Ballot Initiative**

We support requiring all ballot initiatives to collect signatures from 6% of registered voters in each of the 35 legislative districts.

#### • **Bicycle Safety**

We support bicyclists using public roadways be subject to the same laws that motorists must obey.

#### • **Cell Phone Use**

We oppose any legislation that would ban cell phone use in vehicles for voice communication.

#### • **Commercial Auction Company Bonding**

We support legislation that would require licensing and bonding of commercial auction companies.

#### • **Constitutional Defense Fund**

We support adding another leadership position to the existing four-member council when voting on the distribution of Constitutional Defense Funds.

#### • **County Fairs**

We support the review and revision of all county fair related state statutes to better reflect current year-round fairground operations under the administration of local appointed fair boards even above the 200,000-county population limit.

- **Cross Deputization of Law Enforcement Officers**

We believe that cross deputization of county sheriffs and any tribal law enforcement officers should be voluntary.

- **Definition of Agricultural Buildings**

- We support changes to Idaho Code to define agricultural buildings as follows:
  - They are buildings where agricultural products are stored, housed or grown;
  - They are buildings where agricultural equipment, including licensed vehicles that are used in the production of agriculture can be fixed, repaired or stored;
  - They are buildings that are used for the normal servicing of an agricultural business; and
  - They can be used by employees as a place of employment as well as a place to have meals and take bathroom breaks as required by GAP (Good Agricultural Practices).

- **Executive Branch MOU/MOA**

We oppose actions by the governor entering into Memorandums of Understanding or Memorandums of Agreement without legislative oversight and approval.

We support granting the legislature the ability to override a governor's veto after the session is adjourned.

- **Falsifying Reports**

Knowingly filing a false report and/or complaint to any agency shall be considered a misdemeanor and the perpetrator should be required to pay damages and/or expenses to the individual that was falsely accused as well as the investigating agency.

- **Hazardous Waste**

We believe that each state should, to the extent possible, take the responsibility for treatment and disposal of hazardous waste generated in its state and that these waste products be disposed of in the most feasible manner that will not endanger life or resources.

We believe that hazardous material and hazardous waste should be kept separate in the law.

We support a statewide hazardous materials clean-up day.

- **Health Insurance**

- We support:
  - Private optional health insurance;
  - Legislation that permits, promotes, and/or assists:
- In individual health savings accounts with tax free withdrawals for all health insurance premiums;

- In free market solutions to health care costs and access;
- In the establishment of defined contribution programs as opposed to defined benefit programs;
- In free clinics funded by local community/faith-based organizations; and
- In development of Direct Primary Care in Idaho supporting the offering of wraparound health insurance policies.
- We support health insurance as a risk management tool by reducing and/or eliminating the number of mandated services.
- We oppose:
  - The Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act and fines for individuals and employers who refuse to carry health insurance; and
  - Any legislation to require employers to carry health insurance on their employees whether they are seasonal or full-time.

- **Judicial Confirmation**

We support the repeal of the "Judicial Confirmation," Title 7, Chapter 13, Idaho Code, for ordinary and necessary expenses.

- **Legislative Testimony**

We support accepting testimony at legislative hearings via remote audio/visual technology to be managed by the sponsorship of a legislator.

- **Liability and Tort Claims**

We support current Idaho Statutes dealing with liability and tort claims and will resist any effort to weaken or erode them.

- **Medicaid**

- We oppose Medicaid expansion.
- If Medicaid expansion is deemed constitutional, we would encourage significant side boards such as:
  - Inclusion of language enabling the state to repeal the expansion if federal matching dollars are significantly reduced or if the federal government changes the percentage of the poverty level as tied to social security;
  - Copay requirements for medical visits;
  - Work requirements for able adults;
  - Partial premium payments being paid by participants based on a sliding scale;
  - Language that encourages participants to access correct portals for healthcare; and
  - Options for \$500 Medical Savings Accounts to be used for primary healthcare and Medicaid only to be used for catastrophic coverage.

- **One Senator Per County**

We support an amendment to change the Idaho Constitution to allow one senator per county.

- **PERSI**

We support changing the formula for retirement benefits to reflect total contribution in a fiscally responsible way that protects the taxpayers of Idaho and is fair to public employees who have contributed to the fund.

- **Private Property Rights/Eminent Domain**

- We support:
  - Defining private property to include, but not be limited to, all land, crops, timber, water rights, mineral rights, all other appurtenances and any other consideration associated with land ownership;
  - An Idaho Constitutional Amendment defining public use as found in the eminent domain doctrine to prohibit the condemnation of private property for economic development or any use by private parties. If private property is taken, compensation must be prompt, just and adequate; and
  - Compensating landowners in the cases of partial taking of real property, when government-imposed regulations cause a loss in value of private property. Landowners or tenants shall not be held liable for any damages incurred as a result of the condemnation. Entities condemning property shall assume liability for any damages incurred by landowners.
- We oppose:
  - Landowners having lands adjacent to federal and or state lands should not be forced through coercion or fear of imprisonment to allow new easements across their land for public access to federal and state lands. The taking of property or easements should be permitted only when there is eminent domain; and
  - The use of eminent domain for recreational purposes, for private economic development or to expand the land holding of wildlife agencies.

- **Proof of Citizenship**

We support the identification of U.S. citizenship on Idaho driver's licenses.

- **Proprietary Information**

We oppose laws requiring insurance companies or other private business entities to provide proprietary information to state or federal agencies.



- **PUC Rates**

We oppose any action by the PUC to move in the direction of inverted block rates or in any major rate design revision that would be detrimental to agriculture.

- **Public Employees Bargaining**

We believe that public employees, when negotiating contracts, should be separate entities in themselves, and by statute not allowed to delegate or reassign their negotiating rights to professional negotiating forces.

- **Re-Establish Congressional Lawmaking Responsibility**

We support the state legislature in its efforts to encourage Congress to reclaim its constitutional responsibility of making law.

- **Refugees in the United States**

We oppose sheltering refugees who do not agree to uphold American constitutional government and values.

We oppose any refugee program that adds increased stress to local services. We support any county that chooses to refuse or remove refugee programs in their county.

- **Regulation Reform**

- We support:
  - Complete review of existing regulations to determine their effectiveness and appropriateness prior to assigning more restrictive regulations; and
  - Peer review of the existing regulations to determine their potential to mitigate the problems they address.

- **Regulatory Fines**

The remedy for any violation of federal and state agency rules should be to fix the problem rather than to pay fines unless the violation rises to the level of a felony.

- **Rights-of-Way**

- We Support:
  - Access to or through federal lands using RS2477;
  - Allowing county commissioners the ability to determine the validity of an RS2477 claim, the right to move an RS2477 when it occurs on private land and the ability to temporarily close an RS2477 for resource reasons. To prevent the misuse of RS2477 claims, we recognize the superiority of a property's title over RS2477 claims; and
  - Enactment of legislation to require that adjacent landowners be given priority to purchase at fair market value lands that have been vacated by railways, power companies, roadways, etc.
- We oppose:
  - Committing easement rights-of-way

obtained by public or private sectors to any new or additional purpose, either during their original usage or after abandonment, without consent of the owner of the land underlying the easement. Upon abandonment of railway or utility rights-of-way or leases, all property and rights associated with such rights-of-way or leases should revert to the current owner of the original tract; and

- The use of RS2477 as a tool for the taking of private property without just compensation as prescribed in the Constitution.
- Any party who controls or obtains title to a right-of-way must be responsible for maintaining fences, drainage systems, all field and road crossings, controlling noxious weeds and any other agreement that might have been in existence on any such acquired rights-of-way before the corridor changed management.

- **Right to Bear Arms**

We oppose any abridgment of the Second Amendment to the U.S. Constitution which protects the right to keep and bear arms.

We support current law that allows law-abiding citizens the right to bear arms and be free from legal jeopardy when protecting themselves, their families and their property.

We oppose the retaining of personal records collected by the FBI as a result of firearms purchase background checks. The dangerous weapons code should be updated to reflect these rights in the home, the place of business or in motor vehicles.

We declare all firearms and ammunition made and retained in-state are beyond the authority of the federal government.

We support expanding reciprocity with other states for concealed carry permits.

- **Road Closures**

We believe when any government entity closes a road, use on these roads for commodity production should be exempted from the closure.

We oppose the closure of any existing roads.

- **Road Infrastructure on State Endowment Lands**

We support the Idaho Department of Lands hiring or contracting a transportation planner to organize road infrastructure on endowment lands.

- **State Agencies**

- We support:
  - The Soil Conservation Commission or

successor entity advising and aiding local Soil Conservation Districts by providing technical support and a mechanism to receive financial support at no less than fiscal year 2010 levels;

- Representation by an agricultural producer on the Board of Regents for Idaho's land grant university and on the Idaho Fish and Game Commission;
- Legislation to require that government rules and regulations, wherever applicable, be based upon supportive disciplinary peer reviewed scientific data and that wherever policies, rules or regulations do not meet this standard the responsible individual and/or individuals can be held liable;
- When a state law enforcement agency makes an arrest, there should be a means provided to reimburse the county for all costs associated in maintaining the prisoner; and
- The legislature reviewing agency rules. In order to approve a new rule, both the House and Senate must agree. A rule shall be rejected if either the House or Senate does not approve.
- We oppose:
  - Combining, splitting or changing government agencies without the approval of users of the services; and
  - Regulating any phase of farm and ranch business by any state agency that does not have an agricultural representative as a member of its policy making board or committee.

- **State Building Code**

We support amending the State Building Code to prevent infringement on private property rights through excessive permit requirements.

- **State Hatch Act**

We favor restoring the State Hatch Act, 67-5311 Limitation of Political Activity, to its original form and content.

- **State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO)**

We oppose the expansion of the authority of the SHPO and oppose any state funding.

- **State Legal Reform**

- We Support:
  - Reform of the state's civil justice system, which would cure or substantially solve many of the problems farmers face with hostile, harassing legal services lawsuits. Any person or organization that sues to prevent live-

- stock operation siting, or the use of agriculture or resource management practices, should be required to post a bond in a reasonable amount, which will be forfeited to the defendant to help defray their costs in the event that the suit is unsuccessful;
- Legislation by the Idaho Legislature that would require any entity bringing such lawsuits to post substantial bonds based on the potential harm of the lawsuit. Individuals who file complaints against an agricultural operation and request an investigation must pay a fee to cover administration costs. Complete names, addresses and phone numbers are required on each complaint;
- Legislation to elect district judges when appointments are made within one year of the next election;
- Entities from outside the jurisdiction of taxing districts that file lawsuits against public entities should be required to pay all legal expenses;
- Legislation to amend Idaho state statutes to ensure that justice and equity prevail in the awarding of attorney fees;
- Idaho courts using only the United States and Idaho Laws in the court system;
- As a matter of equity, we support that when a private party must act in the place of the Attorney General to enforce and protect the Idaho Constitution and statutes, the Idaho Legislature must reimburse the party for all reasonable attorney fees and costs if the courts fail to do so; and
- Requiring judges to inform jurors of the legality of jury nullification.

#### • States' Rights and Sovereignty

We support a law stating that Idaho and all political subdivisions of the state are prohibited from using any personnel or financial resources to enforce, administer or cooperate with an executive order issued by the President of the United States that has not been affirmed by a vote of the Congress of the United States and signed into law as prescribed by the Constitution of the United States.

#### • Transportation

- We support:
  - Continuation of independent road districts without oversight by county commissioners;
  - The Idaho Transportation Department

utilizing revenue sources efficiently to maintain and construct Idaho roads;

- The Idaho Transportation Department increasing their cost saving efforts;
- The sales tax collected from vehicles (vehicles, batteries, tires and other general parts) going to road maintenance;
- Increases in gross weights with axle weights non-changing;
- The continued use of long combination vehicles (LCVs);
- The Idaho Transportation Department policy of issuing oversize load permits for Idaho public roads;
- The continued improvement of Idaho's agricultural roadways;
- Accountability of highway transportation department's engineers for the cost over-runs and/or miscalculations for wrongful designs of highway projects;
- Increasing permit fees on loads exceeding 200,000 GVW to be comparable with fees in surrounding states;
- The review of current Idaho Transportation Department policies regarding economics of maintenance versus new construction of roadways;
- Expenses for environmental studies and the expenses required to meet the mandated environmental standards being calculated and tabulated on an environmental budget and not included in the Highway Construction and Maintenance budget;
- Construction and/or improvement of a North-South Highway to the Canadian border;
- Port districts in Idaho that help move agricultural commodities;
- Access of agricultural implements of husbandry and vehicles to any and all local, county and state roads/highways in Idaho, and oppose the imposition of any minimum speed requirements; and
- Alternative solutions to wildlife overpasses.
- We oppose:
  - A tax or fee increase on fuel;
  - A tax or fee increase on vehicles;
  - The removal of the Port of Entry system from the Department of Transportation; and
  - Idaho Transportation Department (ITD) wildlife overpass construction unless wildlife overpasses are the most effective solution.

#### • Trespass

- We support:
  - Programs to educate the public about private property rights and about trespass laws. Landowners retain the right to refuse access within the current law;
  - IDFG shall make a concerted effort to educate hunters about private property rights and the location of private property in their hunting regulations and maps. It is the hunters' responsibility to know where they can hunt, and not the landowners' responsibility to mark or post their property;
  - Making it unlawful to enter any facility, legally or illegally, to use or attempt to use a camera, video recorder, or any other video or audio recording device without permission from the owner or authorized agent;
  - A law placing the burden of trespass on the trespasser instead of the landowner;
  - The implementation of a trespassing policy that would make it necessary for a person or entity accessing private property, for the purpose of gathering data of any type, to first get permission to enter the property in written format from the property owner; and
  - Mandatory education regarding current trespass laws and private property rights in the Hunter education program.

#### • Tribal Jurisdiction on Reservations

We support the requirement that tribes and the affected municipalities and counties collaborate and coordinate to ensure that the best interests of the tribe and the surrounding communities are served if a tribe submits a retrocession resolution to the governor.

We oppose any act by the State of Idaho to return to the federal government any jurisdiction acquired over Indian tribes under Federal Public Law 280.

#### • Unfunded Mandates

All new laws passed by the legislature that put financial burdens on the counties or cities should be funded by the state.

#### • Welfare Reform

Believing that all people should productively engage in providing for their own sustainability, we support elimination of welfare in Idaho replacing it with work programs.

# Word Search

## Hemp Products

A	P	S	U	N	G	L	A	S	S	E	S
L	T	R	E	P	A	P	L	D	M	W	N
B	J	N	O	C	L	O	T	H	I	N	G
P	E	R	I	T	B	J	K	C	W	L	R
R	W	D	K	H	E	U	P	M	B	G	D
L	E	3	D	P	R	I	N	T	I	N	G
M	L	T	W	I	K	C	N	F	O	H	W
L	R	Y	P	N	N	E	B	C	P	D	S
K	Y	A	R	P	F	G	H	K	L	I	M
T	O	R	H	R	K	D	Y	W	A	N	U
S	K	I	G	O	G	G	L	E	S	P	K
P	T	S	L	P	N	B	C	H	T	M	O
M	F	I	B	E	R	K	O	P	I	R	D
S	H	E	M	C	R	E	T	E	C	L	P
B	R	K	M	C	S	Y	T	N	S	M	D


Juice  
Milk  
Protein  
Medical  
Bedding

Fiber  
Oil  
Jewelry  
Clothing  
Shoes

Rope  
Soap  
Hemcrete  
3-D Printing  
Bio-plastics

Sunglasses  
Ski Goggles  
Paper  
Okum

**Answers on page 37**



# New farm bill allows for production of hemp

By Sean Ellis

*Idaho Farm Bureau Federation*

POCATELLO — Hemp products have always been made and sold in the United States, but the hemp used to make those products has been grown in other countries. The new farm bill now allows U.S. farmers to produce the hemp used to make those products.

Hemp is used in more than 20,000 products, including building materials, cordage, fiber, food, floor coverings, fuel, plant, animal feed, paper, particle board, plastics, seed meal, cosmetics, seed and yarn.

Provisions in the new farm bill signed into law by President Donald Trump in December classify hemp as a regular agricultural crop, which means U.S. growers can now legally grow and sell it.

They can also buy federally subsidized crop insurance for hemp and apply for research grants.

But while the farm bill legalizes the production of hemp at the federal level, it does not pre-empt state law on hemp.

All of the new federal provisions regarding hemp do not change Idaho's definition of it. As of right now, hemp production and possession are illegal in Idaho.

The farm bill removed hemp from the federally controlled substances list but Idaho has not yet done that.

Hemp plants are the same species as

# *Made in America*



Grayscale Marketing photo

A hemp plant is shown in this submitted photo. The new farm bill allows U.S. farmers to produce commercial hemp but the legislation's hemp provisions do not pre-empt state law. A proposed bill in the Idaho Legislature would change Idaho code to match the new federal codes on hemp production.

National Hemp Association photo

**PREVIOUS & FOLLOWING PAGE:** Hemp plants are shown in these submitted photos. The new farm bill allows U.S. farmers to produce commercial hemp but the legislation's hemp provisions do not pre-empt state law. A proposed bill in the Idaho Legislature would change Idaho code to match the new federal codes on hemp production.

marijuana but hemp contains less than 0.3 percent of THC, the psychoactive compound that gets a user of marijuana high. It is virtually impossible to get high from hemp.

Under Idaho's controlled substances act, however, hemp is considered the same thing as marijuana because Idaho code doesn't include a THC threshold.

"Since hemp does contain a small amount of THC, it is not currently legal in Idaho," says Idaho State Police spokesman Tim Marsano.

"The new farm bill includes a lot of different provisions for hemp and

it now gets treated like a normal ag commodity, under the federal framework," says Idaho State Department of Agriculture Chief of Operations Chanel Tewalt. "All of that, though, is on the federal side and it does not change Idaho's definitions of hemp in code."

At this point, anyone in Idaho who grows hemp would be growing a drug, according to Idaho law.

But a bill crafted by Rep. Caroline Nilsson Troy, R-Genesee, would change that, if passed. The bill was expected to be introduced early in the 2019 legislative session, which began

Jan. 7.

Troy, the vice chairwoman of the House Agricultural Affairs Committee, says there is a lot of interest among some farmers in growing the crop.

"Those who are interested are enthusiastically interested in growing hemp," she says.

Troy's bill would change Idaho code to reflect the new federal definition of hemp and direct the Idaho State Department of Agriculture to promulgate rules on hemp production in Idaho.

"We've followed the federal definition for hemp," she says. "I'm trying

*‘Any time we diversify our crop mix, it helps us in a free market system. If prices drop for one crop, we can move to another one.’*

— Idaho County Commissioner Mark Frei

to make it not too complicated.”

Troy has started a petition in support of the legislation at [www.change.org](http://www.change.org) and it can be found under the heading, Idaho – Say “NO” to drugs – say “YES” to Hemp!

“Hemp has the potential to be an alternate crop in Idaho’s thriving agricultural economy,” the petition states. “A growing hemp industry also has the potential to create jobs in production, processing and research...”

Troy’s petition points out that hemp “was cultivated by the founders of our nation and is used in products such as building materials, cordage, fiber, food, floor coverings, fuel, plant, animal feed, paper, particle board, plastics, seed meal, cosmetics, seed and yarn.”

It also notes that “it is virtually impossible to get ‘high’ by smoking or

eating hemp ... cannabis sativa plant used for the production of hemp is separate and distinct from the forms of cannabis used to produce marijuana.”

About \$800 million worth of hemp products are sold in the U.S. each year but the hemp to make them comes from other nations, primarily Canada.

The hemp provisions in the new farm bill now open the door for U.S. farmers to grow it themselves.

“I am very interested in growing it,” says Idaho County Commissioner Mark Frei, a farmer who grows wheat, canola, lentils, garbanzo beans and barley. “There is a ton of interest in hemp and it’s a no-brainer that we should be able to grow it.”

Frei says hemp would fit nicely into crop rotations in his region.

“Any time we diversify our crop

mix, it helps us in a free market system,” he says. “If prices drop for one crop, we can move to another one.”

The 2014 farm bill allowed for people to grow hemp but only for research purposes or as part of pilot projects, under the supervision of state agriculture departments or land-grant universities. Idaho chose not to allow for hemp production under the provisions of the 2014 farm bill.

Troy’s bill would allow Idaho farmers to commercially cultivate, grow and market hemp, under the regulation of the ISDA. She said there is a lot of support for doing that but she also anticipates some opposition from people who oppose hemp because it is the same species as marijuana.

Misunderstanding of the difference between hemp and marijuana “could be a problem,” she says. ■



# Farm Bureau partners with telemedicine service

By Sean Ellis

*Idaho Farm Bureau Federation*

Idaho Farm Bureau's newest member benefit provides an easy and inexpensive way for people to receive a doctor's care from afar without making a visit to their office.

This service allows any of IFB's 80,000 member families to be seen by a physician any time, any place, using telemedicine, which allows health care professionals to diagnose and treat patients from a distance using telecommunications technology.

When necessary, the physician can also electronically order a prescription for the patient.

IFB partnered in November with MDLIVE, the nation's largest provider of telemedicine services. The service costs Idaho Farm Bureau members \$4.95 per month, which covers the member, their spouse and all children under the age of 26.

That monthly fee allows for unlimited calls and there is no other cost or fee associated with the service.

"We have seen a need for rural Idahoans to have the opportunity to receive a doctor's consultation without large fees or a large amount of travel," said Joel Benson, who manages IFB's member benefits program.

He said a lot of farm and ranch families pay out of pocket for their medical expenses and the MDLIVE member benefit could help those people save a significant amount of money in some cases.

"We realize a phone call may not be able to accomplish everything, but we think it will fill a niche and be appreciated by our members," Benson said.

The service is available to all Farm Bureau members, both rural and urban and both farmers and non-farmers.

It could be particularly useful for



Stock photo

**Telemedicine services allow members to see a physician any time and any place.**

rural residents because many of them live far from a health care provider, said SarahAnn Whitbeck, MDLIVE's agency and sales training director.

"We recognize many of your members are busy on the farm and not necessarily nearby a health care provider," she said. "This provides them the opportunity to consult a doctor when needed, wherever they may be and whenever they have time to peel themselves away from work."

There is a lack of health care access in many rural areas across the nation, Whitbeck said.

"It can be extremely challenging for many people in rural areas to get to health care providers," she said. "We feel our telemedicine service can help these people get back to their normal lives and get back to restoring their health a lot faster."

Whitbeck said most people have a telemedicine service available through their traditional health care plan but it requires them to pay a fee each time they call in.

"But the model we have partnered with on the Idaho Farm Bureau plan allows for unlimited calls and then just that small \$4.95 charge per month

instead," she said.

The health care professionals who visit with patients are all board-certified physicians with an average of 15 years' experience, according to MDLIVE.

Whitbeck said MDLIVE's research shows that 70 percent of typical office visits to a doctor can be handled through a virtual visit.

"In that type of situation, it makes sense for us to utilize our health care dollars and our time more efficiently," she said.

Idaho is the only state that requires physicians who are visiting with patients from afar to visually see the patient so members who wish to use this service within the state must have a smart phone or a computer with a camera.

The average wait time for a person who uses the service is under 10 minutes and a typical visit takes 6-8 minutes, Whitbeck said.

The ultimate goal, she said, is to provide people with a more convenient and inexpensive way to get the medical treatment they need, when they need it.

For more information about the service, Whitbeck can be contacted by phone at (801) 910-3241 or by email at [whitbeck@mdlive.com](mailto:whitbeck@mdlive.com). ■



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Idaho Department of Lands photo  
Western pine beetles create loopy maze-like galleries and larvae mature in the bark.



# Western pine beetle destroys Idaho ponderosas

By Chris Schnepf  
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Drive around northern Idaho low-elevation forests right now and you will likely see a few ponderosa pines here and there fading from pale green to straw-colored to red. Most of the larger pine you see turning color are being killed by a bark beetle called the western pine beetle.

Historically, western pine beetle was most commonly thought of as a pest of old ponderosa pine and control recommendations focused primarily on identifying high-risk individual ponderosas and removing them. That is still practiced, but recently western pine beetle has been as much or more of a problem with 30-100 year old, "second-growth" ponderosa pine.

Three different bark beetles commonly kill Idaho ponderosa pine.

The pine engraver beetle (*Ips pini*, often referred to by its genus name *Ips*) usually kills smaller ponderosa and lodgepole pine and tops of larger trees.

The mountain pine beetle (*Dendroctonus ponderosae*) has the distinction of attacking all Idaho pines. It is infamous for killing whole hillsides of lodgepole pines but will occasionally take ponderosas as well.

In Idaho, western pine beetle (*Dendroctonus*

brevicomis) is focused exclusively on killing ponderosa pine. It may kill individuals or groups of trees. In northern Idaho, western pine beetles typically have two generations annually, but they are capable of having three generations annually in stands with longer growing seasons.

Western pine beetle is a medium-sized bark beetle (smaller than the turpentine beetle, but larger than Ips). It comes out in late spring looking for trees to attack, typically in the middle of the tree. If those attacks are successful, more western pine beetles will attack higher and lower in the tree, attracted by pheromones emitted by the first attackers that signal the feeding opportunity.

The insects feed in a loopy, maze-like pattern in the tree's phloem (between the bark and the wood) creating a unique gallery that distinguishes this bark beetle's feeding activity from other bark beetles.

This feeding kills the tree by girdling it — cutting off food to the tree's roots. The tree's death is hastened by blue stain, a fungus brought in by the beetles — they have specialized structures to carry it — that clogs the tree's sapwood (the part of the tree that brings water from the tree's roots to its crown), making it even easier for other beetles to feed on it.

Healthy pines try to expel western pine beetles, often leaving small, thumbnail sized globs of pitch where beetles attack (you can see a spectacular video of this at: <https://www.pbs.org/video/its-a-goopy-mess-when-pines-and-beetles-duke-it-out-q4ifcw/>).

But in Idaho, this is not seen as consistently with western pine beetle as it is with mountain pine beetle. Moisture-stressed ponderosas often do not have enough resources to pitch out western pine beetles.

Western pine beetle larval development is unique. Adult beetles lay eggs along their gallery, but the larvae spend most of their development in the tree's bark before emerging to attack other pines.

Other bark beetle larvae spend much more time feeding in the phloem just as their parents did. As larvae mine outward into the bark, they are targeted by woodpeckers that flake off the outer layers of western pine beetle infested trees to make a meal of the grubs. Winter is a good time to find attacked trees because the bark flakes will be on top of the snow.

Woodpeckers' removal of the outer bark also exposes the inner bark layers, resulting in bright orange trunks that stand out in the woods. A tree can still have green needles after the wood peckers have created this kind of tree, but such trees will not make it through the year.

Additionally, many insect species (e.g., checkered beetles) prey on western pine beetles. While all these predators have some effect on bark beetle populations, they are almost never abundant enough to eliminate bark beetle issues.



Idaho Department of Lands photo  
**Woodpeckers often flake off the outer bark to get at western pine beetle larvae**

As with other bark beetles, the primary strategy to reduce tree mortality from western pine beetles is to manage forests to be naturally resilient to them, particularly during drought periods, when trees are more vulnerable to attack. Resilience can be increased by reducing the number of trees competing for the same moisture through thinning.

For smaller (10 inches in diameter) ponderosa pines, that means creating 16 feet of space between tree stems. For larger trees, spacing should be increased proportionally, up to 40 feet for trees with trunks 24 inches in diameter.

If you have trees that were killed by western pine beetles and want to capture the value of the wood, get them to the mill as soon as possible. Blue stain does not weaken the structural integrity of the wood, but it reduces

the value significantly, as most consumers do not want to pay for wood streaked with gray or blue.

You may have seen blue stained log furniture or paneling for sale at a high price, but it is not because manufacturers are paying a premium for blue stained logs.

When removing trees that are being attacked by western pine beetle or have been killed within the last 6 months, use an axe to shave off the outer bark to check in the bark for grubs and remove or burn if infested. Unlike other bark beetle species, removing the bark does not kill western pine beetles.

Western pine beetles are a natural part of Idaho forests. They are always present at endemic levels in most ponderosa pine forests. The key to keeping them from killing more trees than you want them to is keeping

stand density low enough to minimize tree moisture stress.

Occasionally, people will consider growing Douglas-fir on sites hit by western pine beetle. That is not really a viable option unless you see lots of grand fir or cedar in the understory.

Ponderosa pine is the most drought tolerant species available on the sites it tends to grow on – many times other species will have even more problems. The issue with western pine beetle is not really species composition as much as it is stand density.

[Thanks to Tom Eckberg, Idaho Department of Lands, for review and comment.]

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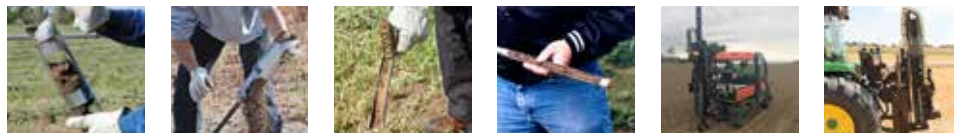
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