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October 2016 • Volume 20, Issue 7



Water Court Releases
Treasure Valley Decision



Household Food
Security Improves



Fall Market
Basket Survey



Free Trade Means More Business for U.S. Ag



By Zippy Duvall
AFBF President

Fall harvest is just around the corner, and many farmers are expecting record yields this year. But the blessing of a good harvest can also be a burden if you don't have enough customers for your crops. With the lowest commodity prices on corn and soybeans in more than a decade, farmers need access to

Beyond the Fencerows



more markets if they're going to keep their farms and our rural economies afloat.

Free trade has changed the business of American agriculture for the better. U.S. farmers and ranchers have a well-earned reputation of growing the best agricultural products in the world. That's not just home-grown patriotism speaking: Our agricultural export numbers speak for themselves. For example,

in 2013, 40 percent of U.S. meat sales by value came from customers outside our borders. And nearly half of the value of fruit and tree nuts grown in the U.S. comes from international sales. Without those markets, many American farmers and ranchers wouldn't have been able to keep their land in business and in their families. But those are just a couple slices of the pie that is

See DUVALL, page 10

Be an Advocate for Agriculture



By Bryan Searle
President Idaho Farm Bureau Federation

Ten years ago, one of the most common sentiments among farmers was consumers don't care about where their food comes from and

how it's produced.

In the last few years that has changed. Many consumers are making an effort to learn more about the food they buy and eat. Food knowledge and food politics have become a priority in many households. But that surge in interest was met with a deliberate and organized effort to misinform and examples of it are all around us.

In 2013, the Idaho Farm Bureau introduced a new program to help offset the load of misinformation

about food that prevails throughout social and mainstream media today. It's called Moving Agriculture to the Classroom (MAC) and it provides students in Idaho schools with the opportunity to learn about food production and offers some hands-on experiences that we hope translate into conversations around the family dinner table.

For instance students learn about wheat production when MAC visits their school. Then they are given

See SEARLE, page 16

Bigger Ain't Always Better



By Rick Keller
CEO Idaho Farm Bureau Federation

Agriculture is witnessing many mega-mergers that could change the dynamics of the industry. The announced mergers this year include: China National Chemical Corp's

(ChemChina) takeover of Syngenta; Dow-DuPont merger; Agrium/Potash Corp. combination and Bayer's takeover of Monsanto. The combined assets of these seven companies are \$223 billion (ChemChina's financials are elusive.)

Mergers come and go, but what is concerning with this series of consolidations is they are all occurring at relatively the same time, not allowing sufficient time to analyze and digest the potential ramifications.

The companies' various public relations gurus are crisscrossing the globe touting the advantages of the mergers, promising stronger companies that will be more consumer oriented, and becoming agriculture's greatest friends. Farm Bureau has had several, repeated, assurances from the companies involved as to their intent to maintain as strong an innovation arm as they can. Farm Bureau has no reason to doubt this, but we are also reminded of the old line immortalized by President

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A battle over allocation of stored water in the Boise River Basin is expected to continue but a recent ruling cleared up part of the complicated issue. *Farm Bureau file photo*

Treasure Valley Farmers claim partial water right victory, consider options

By Jake Putnam

Boise — It’s a legal fight over surplus water and how water allocation is decided.

Judge Eric Wildman, presiding judge for the Snake River Basin Adjudication Court, recently issued decisions in the case that addressed the right to fill the Boise River Basin Reservoirs and water use following flood control releases.

Treasure Valley water users claimed victory on part of the complicated decision.

“Judge Wildman’s decision vindicates our contention that the IDWR Director’s decision last fall was out of line in the efforts to change long-standing water right principles governing the Boise River system,” said Roger Batt, director of the Treasure Valley Water Users Association.

Wildman recognized that there’s been a historic filling of the Boise River Basin reservoirs following flood control releases and a beneficial use of the water by farmers.

During the years that the Treasure Valley has too much water, the water used to refill the reservoirs after the release is the water in question. It’s a situation that doesn’t happen often and because of drought years, there’s rarely a year that the Boise basin has more runoff water than it can store in the reservoirs.

Widman took a close look at historic flood releases on the basin and wrote that, “... All three of the subject dams were completed well before 1971. The record establishes that flood control years and the resulting flood control releases occurred many times

See WATER ALLOCATION page 7

Cover: Farmers dig spuds in a field near Grace. Growers from throughout southern Idaho are reporting good yields and a smooth size profile in this year’s crop.

Photo by Steve Ritter





A federal court recently ruled in favor of U.S. farmers and ranchers, determining that private information was released wrongly to environmental groups. Photo by Steve Ritter

EPA Violated Personal Privacy

By Jake Putnam

Washington — The Environment Protection Agency broke the law when it released farmers and ranchers private information to environmental groups according to the U.S. Eighth Circuit Court of Appeals.

“EPA’s release of sensitive, private and personal mate-

rials on more than 100,000 farmers and ranchers was an outrageous abuse of its power and trust,” said National Pork Producers Council President John Weber, a producer from Iowa. “We’re pleased with the Court of Appeals decision to reinstate our lawsuit and prevent the EPA from doing this again.”

The September 12th ruling

addressed the EPA’s 2013 decision to release tens of thousands of spreadsheets containing personal information of cattle ranchers and chicken farmers in 29 states to anyone filing out a Freedom of Information Act form.

In their ruling, the Eighth District wrote that the ranchers “have established a

concrete and particularized injury, in fact traceable to the EPA’s action and redressable by judicial relief.”

The case now known as American Farm Bureau Federation and National Pork Producers Council vs. EPA also relates to similar personal information from farmers and ranchers from other states yet to be

released. The information included the names of farmers, ranchers and sometimes other family members, home addresses along with GPS coordinates, telephone numbers and emails. EPA claimed that it was required to disclose the information under the Freedom of Information Act.

“This was an unwarranted invasion of personal privacy by a federal agency in violation of law,” said AFBF General Counsel Ellen Steen. “The court’s decision is a vindication of the right of farm families to control their own personal information. Farmers and ranchers have a strong privacy interest in their personal information, even when they live and work on the farm.”

Agriculture groups were notified by the EPA that they had collected information from states on CAFOs. The information was requested by extremist groups, including Earth Justice, the Pew Charitable Trust and the Natural Resources Defense Council through a Freedom of Information Act request and the information was released.

The information released by EPA covers livestock operations including many family farmers who feed less than 1,000 head and are not subject to regulation under the Clean Water Act.

Many farm families live on the farm and the court says that the EPA’s disclosures in this case could bring unwanted harassment of farmers and ranchers by the FOIA requestors and others.

According to Ellen Steen.

“This case assures us that individuals still have a privacy interest in their personal information. The fact that government agencies may have that information and even store it on the Internet does not eliminate the individual’s privacy interest,” said Steen.

According to the court, “EPA’s release of the complete set of data on a silver platter, so to speak, basically hands to the requesters a comprehensive database of their own, whatever their motives might be.”

“When we reviewed the information submitted by the states and released by EPA, we were alarmed at the detail of the information provided on hard-working family farmers and ranchers, family operations including my own,” said NCBA Past President J.D. Alexander, a cattle feeder from Nebraska.

Alexander is outraged the EPA would act above the law and release sensitive security information to activist groups.

“It’s beyond comprehension that with threats to my family from harassment atop biosecurity concerns, that EPA would gather this information only to release it to these groups. This information details my family’s home address and geographic coordinates. The only thing it doesn’t do is chauffeur these extremists to my house,” he said.

The court agreed saying the EPA blatantly abused its power, and wrote a stinging

decision.

“We conclude the district court erred in dismissing this case for lack of standing. We further determine that the EPA abused its discretion in deciding that the information at issue was not exempt from mandatory disclosure under Exemption 6 of FOIA.”

Exemption 6 includes the release of information including “personnel and medical files and similar files the disclosure of which would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy.” The Eighth Circuit said those farmers and ranchers have sufficient evidence the information released caused injury.

EPA now has to ‘recall’ all of the personal information it

unlawfully released, but unfortunately that information has now been in the hands of the FOIA requestors for three years, and many feel that the damage is done,” Steen said. “AFBF will continue to work to ensure that personal information about farmers and ranchers is not disclosed by EPA.”

This case is far from over. The EPA withheld information from seven other states pending the outcome of this case. The circuit court sent those cases back to the lower court to decide whether to make the injunction permanent.

EPA spokesman Ernesta Jones declined to comment on this case, instead referring further questions to the U.S. Justice Department.

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

U.S. Household Food Security Increases

By John Thompson

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

According to a recent ERS report, 87.3 percent of American households were food secure through the entire year in 2015, meaning they had access to enough food every day for “an active, healthy life.” The remaining 12.7 percent were food insecure at least some time during the year, including five percent

with very low food security. A food-insecure household is defined as one or more household members’ food intake was disrupted at times during the year because the household lacked money and other resources for food.

The report states that a typical food-secure household spends 27 percent more of its income on food than the typical food-insecure household. Nearly 60 percent of food-insecure households reported participating in one or more of the three largest federal food and nutrition assistance programs during the month prior to the survey. Those programs are funded through the Farm Bill and include the Supplemental Nutrition As-

sistance Program (SNAP), formerly food stamps, National School Lunch Program and the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC).

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

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

In Idaho, the number of households using SNAP benefits grew from 6.2 percent in 2007 to 13.8 percent in 2012 and then dropped about one percentage point in 2013. In individual numbers, there were about 188,000 Idaho residents receiving SNAP in 2010 and the number grew to about 237,000 in February of 2012 and then receded to

230,000 by April of 2013.

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

positive results. Other states passing similar legislation include Utah, Texas, Arizona, Kansas, Mississippi and Tennessee.

According to the ERS report, the relationship between food insecure households and the use of federal food and nutrition programs is complex. About 59 percent of food-insecure households used one or more of the three available federal programs. SNAP provided assistance for 44.6 percent of the food-

insecure households while children in 30.2 percent of those households received free or reduced-price school lunches and women or children in 9.7 percent of the food insecure households received WIC vouchers. To read the complete study on food security in the U.S. in 2015 go to the following web address: <http://www.ers.usda.gov/media/2137663/err215.pdf>

WATER ALLOCATION

Continued from page 3

more runoff water than it can store in the reservoirs.

Wildman took a close look at historic flood releases on the basin and wrote that, "...All three of the subject dams were completed well before 1971. The record establishes that flood control years and the resulting flood control releases occurred many times before 1971, and that in all of those years, water identified by the Director as unaccounted for storage was diverted, stored and ultimately used by the irrigators for irrigation."

Treasure Valley farmers applaud this part of the decision contending all along that they should have their total allowance throughout the irrigation year.

"They've had decades of historical reservoir fill and diversion practice and water users must have more than a vague allowance to store and use the water; they must have a protectable water right," said Batt.

Wildman, in his decision took his affirmation a step further, writing:

"Under the constitutional method, the diversion and use of such water is all that is necessary to complete the appropriation and obtain a vested water right...if unaccounted for storage water has been historically and continuously diverted, stored and used by the irrigators for irrigation back before 1971, as the Director expressly recognizes, then the United States and irrigators have acquired a vested constitutional water right," wrote Wildman.

But water law is tricky and Wildman's decision was far from a clear-cut victory for Treasure Valley farmers. The judge upheld a decision by Idaho Water Resources Director Gary Spackman on how to allocate water in the Boise River reservoirs.

"It is without a doubt the director is the appropriate individual to determine how water is to be

distributed under the reservoir water rights," Wildman wrote. "After all, it is he who is statutorily vested with a clear duty to distribute water."

Water users strongly disagree with Wildman on this point because flood control releases happen late in the winter before water is available to farmers. In fact, water right holders don't normally get a chance to put water to beneficial use until late spring. Irrigators lost this part of the decision when the judge ruled that water released for flood control purposes should be charged against the current storage water rights of water right holders.

"We were surprised and are disappointed in this part of the decision that basically says water released down river that is not put to any beneficial use, and is released for operational flood control purposes, now counts against us as water that has been beneficially used," said Clinton Pline, chairman of the Nampa & Meridian Irriga-

tion District Board. "It's our understanding that flood control is not considered a beneficial use under Idaho water law and should not be counted as satisfying the existing storage water rights. We respectfully disagree with the judge on this part of the decision."

Roger Batt told the Capitol Press that their group doesn't understand how water can be counted against them if they were never able to use it.

Overall, Batt says Irrigators view this case as a 60/40 victory. "The fact that Judge Wildman decided that there is a pre-1971 water right to the water that fills the reservoirs after flood control releases is a good decision for us," said Batt.

The fight is far from over, both sides are considering an appeal to the Idaho Supreme Court but neither the Idaho Department of Water Resources nor the Treasure Valley Water Users Association have yet filed appeals.



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

Pulse Shippers Adapt to Loss of Container on Barge Option

By John Thompson

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

Acreage and production of dry peas, lentils and garbanzo beans (classified as pulse crops by USDA) in the Palouse Region remained consistent in 2016 as shipments switched from containers on barges moving down river from Lew-

iston to Portland, to containers on trucks moving through the Port of Seattle.

Dean Brocke, president of Brocke and Sons, a wholesaler of peas, lentils and garbanzo beans in Kendrick, said they explored every available shipping option and arrived at containers on trucks as the best choice.

In spring and early summer of 2015 global shipping companies Hapag-Lloyd of Germany and Hanjin from South Korea, pulled out of the Port of Port-

land after a long-term work slowdown by union longshoremen. The Portland workers were moving less than half of the number of containers per day as longshoreman at other West Coast ports because of disagreements with the port operator, ICTSI Oregon.

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

requires more management.”

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

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

The Port of Lewiston, at 465 miles inland, is the furthest inland sea port on the West Coast but is obviously dependent on the business and dock productivity at the Port of Portland. Problems between labor and management at Portland coupled with questions about its distance inland (100 miles) and difficulties with newer, bigger ships ability to navigate the Columbia River raise serious concerns about the Port's future viability.

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

Regarding the ongoing Port of Portland labor dispute, The Oregonian newspaper recently reported that longshore workers were paid \$1.2 million in salaries during 2015 as the cargo container traffic ground to a halt. Previously there was an average of 500 jobs per week at the Port of Portland's Terminal

6 where containers are handled. Now they hire for just 30 eight-hour shifts per month. "That means the longshore workers are doing one percent of the work they were doing before," according to the newspaper.

However, because of a Pay Guarantee Plan negotiated into their contract, union longshoremen are required to show up for work but they get paid whether there is work to do or not. Elvis Ganda, manager of the port operator, ICTSI Oregon, said the contract terms don't provide much incentive for workers to actually go to work. Union advocates say the plan gives members financial certainty in a business that can ebb and flow over time.

Under the new contract negotiated in 2014, union longshoremen with a Class A designation, the highest class, receive \$35.68 per hour for 40 hours per week or \$1,427 per week

regardless of available shifts. Class B workers receive \$999 per week regardless of available shifts. However, many longshore workers earn six-figure salaries if the port is busy. Wages under the Pay Guarantee plan pencil out to about \$70,000 per year.

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

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

DUVALL

Continued from page 2

U.S. agricultural exports.

Some may ask, "If the world loves our products so much, why do we need trade agreements to sell more?" I'd suggest they are simply asking the wrong question. Rather we should ask, "If customers around the world value our agricultural products so much, why is it often so hard for them to get access to them?" The answer: high tariffs and non-scientific trade barriers. We need a level playing field for our farmers and ranchers to enter new markets overseas, and that's just what good trade agreements do. Free trade agreements lower tariffs and

other restrictions that make our products more expensive and less competitive abroad. Customers in Japan may recognize the high quality of U.S. beef, but it's a tough sell to convince them to swallow the costs of 38.5 percent tariffs on an American steak over an Australian steak that only pays 30.5 percent for chilled and 27.5 percent for frozen. TPP would give us equal footing.

Where we have established free trade agreements, U.S. agriculture has soared. One of the best examples is our free trade agreement with our nearest neighbors, Canada and Mexico. Since NAFTA was passed

over 20 years ago, U.S. agricultural exports to those markets have more than quadrupled. This is not the exception either. Forty-three percent of our agricultural exports go to the 20 countries we have trade agreements with. Free trade agreements make it easier for customers around the world to buy our products at a fair price, which means billions of dollars in net income for America's hard-working farm and ranch families.

Free trade makes good business sense for agriculture, and that's why American Farm Bureau is committed to seeing agreements like the Trans-Pa-

cific Partnership passed. Without TPP, we're leaving \$4.4 billion in expected income on the table. Those are sales that can mean thousands of new jobs for rural Americans, sales that can make the difference for a farmer on the verge of selling their farm in today's down farm economy.

America's farmers and ranchers are ready and able to feed, fuel and clothe more people around the globe. We need #TPPNow, so we can share what's #FarmedInAmerica with the 95 percent of the world's consumers who live outside our borders.

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Egg, Dairy and Chicken Prices Down, Beef Too

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

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

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

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

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

larly in California and Arizona.

Price checks of alternative milk and egg choices not included in the over-

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

The year-to-year direction of the marketbasket survey tracks with the federal government's Consumer Price Index report for food at home. As retail grocery



AFBF AMERICAN FARM BUREAU FEDERATION

September 2016

Fall Harvest

MARKETBASKET SURVEY

TOTAL: \$49.70

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

Down 7% compared to 6 months ago.

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

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

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

Using the "food at home and away from home" percentage across-the-board, the farmer's share of this \$49.70 marketbasket would

be approximately \$8.45.

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

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

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

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

These Items Showed Moderate Retail Price Increases Compared To A Year Ago:

Bagged Salad, Up 16 Percent To \$2.85 Per Pound
Apples, Up 10 Percent To \$1.59 Per Pound
Potatoes, Up 3 Percent To \$2.73 For A 5-Pound Bag



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County Happenings



Left – Payette County Farm Bureau President Galen Lee, left, presents a scholarship check to Barbara Farnsworth.

Above - Cassia County Farm Bureau President Brian Darrington, left, presents a scholarship check to Chad Searle during the county's annual picnic on August 26th.

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VOTE NOVEMBER 8TH!

KELLER

Continued from page 2

Ronald Reagan quoting a Russian proverb, “Trust, but verify.”

Bob Young, Chief Economist for American Farm Bureau Federation (AFBF) testified at late September’s Senate Judiciary Committee’s hearing on agriculture consolidation. He said: “Everyone’s knee-jerk reaction is to think that increased concentration will lead to higher prices for these inputs. Knees tend to jerk reflexively, but sometimes they jerk with reason. AFBF is suggesting that the review of these mergers consider not only the market concentration/structure that will result from the individual company actions, but examine the structure of the entire industry in a post-merger environment.”

Dr. Diana Moss, President of the American Antitrust Institute, reported that the proposed mergers are likely to adversely affect competition in three ways. “First they will eliminate head-to-head competition. Second, consolidation will eliminate competition in agricultural biotechnology innova-

tion markets and reduce opportunities for procompetitive research and development. Third, the combinations would create substantial vertical integration between traits, seeds and chemicals.”

The slump in commodity prices and market forces may be a main driver behind the spate of mergers. We know that major-company mergers have a profound impact on the tools available to farmers and ranchers. Sometimes this is to their detriment. Bigger ain’t always better.

Farm Bureau will continue urging caution of these mergers.

The Idaho Farm Bureau and its affiliates are Idaho companies. We are domiciled in this state of ours. Our directors, employees, and members are Idaho residents. We go to the same coffee shops, shop at the same main street businesses, attend the same churches, and our children and grandchildren attend the same schools as our neighbor residents of Idaho. The Farm Bureau has had repeated invitations to merge with out-of-state entities, but our management and board re-

main firm; Idaho is home.

Idaho Farm Bureau members are loyal to Farm Bureau because Farm Bureau is loyal to its members. The Idaho Farm Bureau has consistently high membership retention averaging 94 %. We believe every Idaho farmer should belong to Farm Bureau and that the Idaho Farm Bureau needs every farmer. We are all in this struggle to survive and succeed together. Idaho’s farmers and Farm Bureau are hardworking, dedicated and resilient. We are made up of old and young, men and women, representing large and small farms. We provide produce, timber and livestock to a global market with the best products in the world. We love the land and take pride in its results. We care and are wise stewards of our crops and animals. We provide a safe, abundant, affordable food. We love our families, our communities, and our nation.

Bigger is not always better. Farm Bureau continues to work for Idaho’s farmers, ranchers, rural businesses, and residents. Farm Bureau is here for you.

SEARLE

Continued from page 2

some wheat and a hand grinder and are taught how to make pancake batter and cook pancakes. They also learn about watersheds, water storage and how water is critical to our lives and our state’s economy. Each of the three MAC trailers stationed throughout the state contains a life-sized milk cow replica and students are given the chance to learn how to milk a cow. There are several other lessons contained inside IFBF’s MAC trailers. Over the last four years, MAC Trailers have visited schools and county fairs on an average of 152 days per year with an estimated 20,000 students per year participating.

Hundreds of Farm Bureau volunteers from around the state have taken advantage of this opportunity to be advocates for agriculture by helping to create the MAC lessons and participating in the schools teaching the students. In addition, those

volunteers have continued to suggest ways to grow the program. We encourage our volunteer members to find new ways to interact with the public and help educate others about the food they eat, the farms it comes from, and the people who work hard to produce it.

One topic our volunteers commonly bring up is biotechnology, and the acronym GMO – genetically modified organisms. In our view, biotechnology is the future of agriculture. It’s a way in which plant scientists speed up the same plant breeding technology that’s been in use now for several hundred years, wherein plants are selected for resistance, vigor and other traits.

But because biotechnology is relatively new and eating food is one of the most intimate things we do, people are concerned about it. People are right to be cautious and to ask questions. But when the opponents use misinformation and blatant lies

to scare consumers about food production, we draw a line.

A study released last May by the National Academies of Science shows that biotech crops are safe for humans and animals to eat and have not caused increases in cancer, obesity, stomach illnesses, kidney disease, autism or allergies. The 388-page report conducted by a committee of more than 50 scientists, researchers and agriculture experts reviewed more than 900 studies and data covering the 20 years since genetically modified crops were introduced, according to the Associated Press.

It was an exhaustive study and it turned up zero adverse effects caused by growing or eating genetically modified crops. We have good data on our side. But we need to take advantage of every opportunity to advocate our position and defend agriculture.

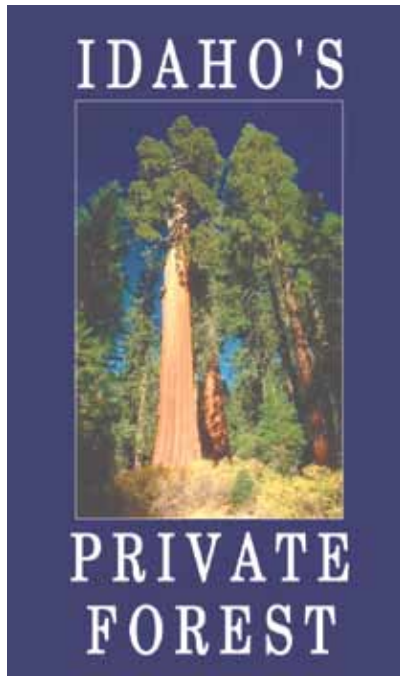
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WANTED: BIG TREES



The new state champion red alder (*Alnus rubra*), shown with nominators Aaron and Amanda Black, is located on the Idaho Panhandle Forests in Bonner County.

Photo courtesy of the Idaho Big Tree Program

By Yvonne Barkley

There are many impressive things on this big blue ball we call home, but few surpass the magnificence of a soaring, magnificent big tree. Called the superstars of their species, champion big trees have been recognized by American Forests *National Big Tree Program* since 1940. With more than 700 species in the *National Big Tree Register*, these champions are found in the fields, forests, rangelands, and urban parks and yards

of America. Big tree hunters are people of all ages and walks of life who share a

love of one of nature's finest accomplishments – a truly splendid big tree.



When nominating a big tree, measurements must be verified by a qualified forester.

Photo courtesy of the Idaho Big Tree Program

Idaho has participated in the *National Big Tree Program* since the mid-1960s, with a shared mission of locating, measuring, and recognizing the largest individual tree of each species. We have had many notable National champion trees in the past. One, a western redcedar, was a massive 18 feet across its diameter and some 177 feet tall when it was measured back in 1979. This tree, located outside of Elk River, ID, received so many visitors that a boardwalk was built around it to protect its root system. Another well-known past state champion was a western white pine outside of Harvard, ID. Scientists estimated that this tree was likely standing there when Lewis and Clark made their way through Idaho on their journey to the west coast. If only



The previous national champion Rocky Mountain lodgepole pine (*Pinus contorta* var. *latifolia*), was located in Valley County and was 298 points. It was reported dead in 2015.

Photo courtesy of the Idaho Big Tree Program

these venerable trees could talk – oh the stories they could tell.

You will see when looking at the *Idaho Registry of Champion Trees* (www.uidaho.edu/extension/forestry/big-trees) that there are many species without national champions; there are also many species in Idaho that are larger than current national champs, but were measured too long ago to submit for national status. Some of our reigning state champs were measured over 40 years ago and may or may not be alive. Nominators of these trees are encouraged to visit these champions and resubmit updated information and photographs.

To date, Idaho has 3 National Champion trees and at least 4 more that are currently being submitted for national recognition:

whitebark pine (*Pinus albicaulis*)

English oak (*Quercus robur*)

smooth sumac (*Rhus glabra*)

The *Idaho* and *National Big Tree Programs* define a tree as a woody plant that have one erect perennial stem or trunk at least 9½ inches in circumference at 4½ feet above the ground (DBH), that has a definitively formed crown of foliage and is at least 13 feet tall.

Big trees can be native or cultivated species and varieties. Hybrids and minor varieties are excluded from the National listing but are accepted by the Idaho program. Cultivars are not accepted by either program. The currently accepted scientific and common names we use are from the *USDA Plants Database* (PLANTS) <http://plants.usda.gov/java/> and the *Integrated Taxonomic Information System* (ITIS) <http://www.itis.gov/>.

The nomination process begins at the state level. To get started, complete an *Idaho Big Tree Nomination* form, found on the UI Extension Forestry Idaho Big Tree program page by clicking on the *Nominate a Tree* section. Measurements need to be verified in the field by a qualified forester. GPS coordinates and photographs are required by both the state

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

The Idaho FFA Foundation is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization established in 1980. To learn more, visit:

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Focus on Agriculture

Ag Calls for a Balanced Approach on Immigration Reform

By Robert Giblin

Just about everyone running for a major federal or state office is talking about immigration reform, and it will likely be a top item on 2017 political agendas. Responsible immigration reform will need to balance homeland security and food security. Otherwise, consumers may be faced with a choice of imported workers or expensive, imported food.

Immigration reform means different things to different people. Reform proposals span from building border walls, closing borders, mass roundups and de-

portation of illegal immigrants and selective bans on immigration and travel for certain groups, to general amnesties, quick pathways to citizenship and completely removing any restrictions on U.S. immigration.

Despite the high-level rhetoric about what Congress and the next administration may do, little is being said about what those changes actually may mean. Unintended consequences could endanger U.S. food security, increase food prices dramatically and, potentially, cause ruinous economic damage not only to farmers and ranchers, but to all

involved in agriculture and food production, processing, distribution and retailing.

U.S. agriculture is experiencing a labor crisis, and immigrants meet much of the labor demand for dairy farms, swine and poultry production, orchards, fruit and vegetable farms, and nurseries. All these businesses involve hard work that isn't attractive to most Americans.

The unauthorized immigrant population rose from an estimated 3.5 million in 1990, to a peak of 12.2 million in 2007.

See FOCUS ON AGRICULTURE page 31

Vote YES

ON HJR5

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- ✓ Encourages better communication and cooperation within our branches of state government.

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“Shall Article III, of the Constitution of the State of Idaho be amended by the addition of a new Section 29, to provide that the Legislature may review any administrative rule to ensure it is consistent with the legislative intent of the statute that the rule was written to interpret, prescribe, implement or enforce; to provide that, after review, the Legislature may approve or reject, in whole or in part, any rule as provided by law; and to provide that legislative approval or rejection of a rule is not subject to gubernatorial veto under Section 10, Article IV, of the Constitution of the State of Idaho?”

This proposed amendment **does NOT grant**
the Legislature any new powers!

- Voting **YES on HJR5** ensures that the Legislature's current authority to review and approve or reject agency rules is not taken away in the future by an activist court, as has happened in some other states.
- Voting **YES on HJR5** ensures that your elected representatives have the final say on whether a rule is approved or not, rather than an unelected bureaucrat
- Voting **YES on HJR5** ensures that rules, which are enforced just like laws and which you are required to obey or face the threat of fines or jail time, are consistent with laws enacted by the legislature, as elected by the voters
- Voting **YES on HJR5** ensures that Idaho agencies do not have the ability to become like the federal EPA, IRS, BLM or Forest Service – enacting and enforcing rules with no oversight or accountability to Congress
- Voting **YES on HJR5** protects Idaho families and businesses from excessive regulation

The Idaho Farm Bureau urges you to
vote **YES on HJR5** on November 8!!

Don't Delay Your Marketing Education

By Clark Johnston

Between the end of August and press time the wheat futures had gained 13 cents per bushel. Historically the markets do trend higher at this time of the year through the end of October. This doesn't necessarily mean that we are going to see a large move in the market but just a move higher (even ever so slight).

Keep a close eye on which ever technical indicator you have chosen to follow. Whenever the indicator reaches those levels of resistance you might want to take a serious look at contracting some wheat.

Some of you have taken out a loan on your wheat in order to receive some money for cash flow purposes. This is okay after all you need to do what you need to do. However, you still need to watch the markets closely. I have experienced in years past where producers have taken out their loan and then forgot to continue to watch the market as it moved higher and then back lower before the loan was due.

Now, last month we talked about looking forward into next year. Not much has changed in the market and the opportunity to look at the 2017 crop is still good. The wheat futures are trading close to 30 cents per bushel lower than we were the first of August but, let's look at the carry between the December 2016 and December 2017 futures contracts. The first of August the carry between the two contracts was 76 cents and it was still trading at 75 cents at press time.

The December contract is currently trading at 4.80 per bushel. With the futures at this level would you have the opportunity to contract wheat at 4.50 or higher? Wheth-

er you could or not remains to be seen but, the chances of contracting your wheat at 4.50 would be a great deal better with the futures at 4.80 than 4.05. (4.05 is the current level of the futures market)

Looking at marketing from a different direction just might be a little confusing at first but, not really if we keep it simple. Have you changed your production practices over the past ten years? Equipment has changed, you are planting different varieties, tillage practices have changed as well as fertilizer applications and how you irrigate. I think it would be safe to say that things are always changing.

Are we still marketing the same as we did ten years ago? If so, it just might be time to look at marketing a little differently. Last spring I had a producer explain to me that he liked producing so much that his marketing plan was to simply make enough money to let him produce the next year. Well, this might work for him but let's look at it a little different. I know that most of you like producing commodities more than marketing them but let's turn this around and see if it works for you. Commodity production is important but marketing is where we receive our payday.

If you are going to change your thoughts on marketing the first obstacle we need to hurdle is that futures are not a dirty word and neither is basis. The second hurdle is that grain is a cash crop and not just a rotation for other crops. Grain is profitable (some years more than others) but you will need to market differently than you did ten years ago.

Using futures in your marketing plan need not be frightening and the more you use



Clark Johnston

them the less foreign they will become. Talk to your lender about working with you in your new marketing program that includes hedging your production with futures and trading the basis. Remember I am not talking about speculating but hedging. Hedging is trading futures in the same commodities that you are producing.

I have visited with lenders that have indicated that they will be happy to work with their producers if they have a marketing plan that they can present to them at the time of their initial meeting. You may need to adjust the original plan but, it is important to get started now. The current price levels may last for another year or two. (We can hope not but it may happen)

It is time to think outside of the box and do things a little differently than we have in the past. Look at the cash bids and analyze them to see how the elevators or mills came to that bid. It just might amaze you how simple futures and basis really is when you take the time to learn.

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



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Presidential contenders weigh in on clean water, clean air, endangered species

Sept. 21, 2016 - Every four years, the American Farm Bureau Federation asks the Democratic and Republican presidential nominees to address the issues that concern farmers and ranchers the most. We asked Democratic nominee Hillary Clinton and Republican nominee Donald Trump the same questions.

Both candidates explained their positions on biotechnology, trade, immigration reform, regulatory reform, food safety and more. That the candidates took the time in the throes of this very competitive election season to go into such detail in their responses says as much about the importance of these issues and the farmers and ranch-

ers who care about them as it does about Clinton's and Trump's political platforms.

While AFBF cannot endorse or support a political candidate, we are providing each candidate's position to inform our members and others.

Clean Air Act

Greenhouse gas regulations that would raise farmers' cost of production or impose a carbon tax would put American farmers and other businesses at a competitive disadvantage to farmers and businesses in other countries that would face fewer regulations while continuing to pollute the planet. How would you ensure that clean air and climate regulations are within the scope of federal agencies' statutory authority and do not hamper American productivity and competitiveness?

TRUMP RESPONSE:

"I strongly oppose the extreme, climate alarmism agenda of the Obama-Clinton years. Too often, the Obama-Clinton team imposed billions of dollars in environmental costs on American citizens without achieving real environmental benefits. In fact, the Obama EPA cut funding to the States for water infrastructure and programs that help rural communities while increasing spending on EPA bureaucrats, lawyers, and UN climate programs. As President, I will rescind the Climate Action Plan (including the Clean Power Plan) and other excessive regulations issued under the Clean Air Act that impose unjustified costs on American workers and farmers. My administration will work cooperatively with the States to achieve shared, common-sense environmental goals. Affordable energy is critical to the success of American farmers. According to a recent report in the Wall Street Journal, the Obama-Clinton climate agenda will cost the U.S. over \$5 trillion. We cannot afford to allow the Obama-Clinton policies of high energy costs and overreaching regulations to continue any longer."

CLINTON RESPONSE:

"Hillary Clinton rejects the false choice between strengthening our economy and protecting our environment and climate. This is particularly true in light of the historic Paris Climate Agreement reached last December, in which all countries committed to take national action to cut their carbon pollution. As President, Hillary will go beyond the agreement made in Paris, cutting our emissions by 30 percent below 2005 levels by 2025.

As President, Hillary will work to make the United States the clean energy superpower of the 21st century, and build off the range of pollution and efficiency standards and clean energy tax incentives that have made the United States a global leader in the battle against climate change while protecting kids' health, saving American households and businesses billions of dollars in energy costs, and creating thousands of good paying jobs.

Over the past seven years, the amount of wind power in the US has grown threefold and the amount of solar power has grown 30-fold. Renewable energy is now the fastest growing source of job creation in the country. America's farm communities have played a critical role in this progress with 99% of utility-scale wind production occurring in rural areas, attracting more than \$100 billion in private investment. Meanwhile, electricity prices have fallen by 10% for American families and businesses in real terms.

Landmark vehicle standards under the Clean Air Act are reducing US oil consumption by 1.8 billion barrels and saving the average driver \$130 to \$180 a year. The Renewable Fuel Standard is cutting US oil dependence and carbon pollution even more.

As President, Clinton will work to build on this progress, including by launching a \$60 billion Clean Energy Challenge to forge new federal partnerships with states, cities, and rural communities across the country that are ready to take the lead on clean energy and energy efficiency, giving them the flexibility, tools and resources they need to succeed. This includes expanding the Rural Utilities Service and other successful USDA energy programs and ensuring the federal government is a partner, not an obstacle, in getting low-cost wind and other renewable energy from rural communities to the rest of the country, and helping electric coops capture the clean energy and energy efficiency opportunities of the 21st century."

Clean Water Act

The Environmental Protection Agency has clear direction from both Congress and the Supreme Court on the limitations of its authority under the Clean Water Act, and yet the agency continues to push the limits or ignore them completely. What would you do as president to ensure that the EPA acts within the bounds of the Clean Water Act?

TRUMP RESPONSE:

"First, I will appoint a pro-farmer Administrator of EPA. Next, I will eliminate the unconstitutional "Waters of the US" rule, and will direct the Army Corps of Engineers and EPA to no longer use this unlawful rule and related guidance documents in making jurisdictional determinations. This rule is so extreme that it gives federal agencies control over creeks, small streams, and even puddles or mostly dry areas on private property. I will also ensure that these agencies respect the valid exclusions under environmental statutes for agricultural practices. To be clear, my Administration will work to ensure clean water for all Americans while also restoring the proper limits of federal jurisdiction under the Clean Water Act. Unlike the Obama-Clinton team, my Administration will work cooperatively with the States-most of which have been completely ignored by EPA under the Obama Administration-to achieve shared, common-sense environmental goals."

CLINTON RESPONSE:

"The Clean Water Act is one of our most successful environmental regulations, helping fulfill the basic right of all Americans to accessing clean water. Not too long ago our rivers were literally on fire, and polluters were free to dump toxic chemicals at will. The Clean Water Act not only stemmed these environmental disasters but helped to reverse course and restore healthy swimmable and fishable waters for all Americans to enjoy. As president, Hillary will continue this legacy. She will work to ensure waters are safe and protected, will maintain the longstanding exemptions for common farming practices, and will continue pushing for clarity within the law."

Endangered Species Act

Privately owned land provides habitat for the majority of our nation's endangered and threatened species. As a result, landowners often face harsh regulatory restrictions on their ability to use the land or, worse, lawsuits or enforcement actions. Meanwhile, few species have actually been recovered under the law. It's time to think about incentive-based programs that create a positive role for landowners in species recovery. The law is overdue for review and revamping. As president, how would you fix the broken Endangered Species Act, and what role would you assign America's landowners?

TRUMP RESPONSE:


"America is blessed with abundant natural resources and beautiful wildlife. Our nation has a proud tradition of conservation and stewardship. This is more true for farmers than anyone else. Farmers care more for the environment than the radical environmentalists. Regrettably, the Endangered Species Act (ESA) has a poor track record of actually helping to recover animals at risk of extinction. In truth, the ESA has become a tool to block economic development, deny property rights to American landowners, and enrich activist groups and lawyers. Instead of saving endangered species, the Obama-Clinton bureaucrats are endangering American workers with disastrous choices made at the whim of extreme activist groups."

As President, I will direct the Interior Department and Commerce Department to conduct a top-down review of all Obama Administration settlements, rules, and executive actions under the Endangered Species Act and other similar laws, and we will change or rescind any of those actions that are unlawful, bad for American farmers and workers, or not in the national interest. I will also work closely with Congress to improve and modernize the Endangered Species Act-a law that is now more than 30 years old-so that it is more transparent, uses the best science, incentivizes species conservation, protects private property rights, and no longer imposes needless and unwarranted costs on American landowners."

CLINTON RESPONSE:

"Hillary knows that America's ranchers and farmers are proud stewards of their lands, and that America's wildlife depend on the health of working lands to survive and thrive. That is why she will increase both the availability and accessibility of funding to incentivize voluntary private conservation. For example, Hillary will work to fully fund the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) and will instruct her Secretary of Agriculture to establish a "one-stop shop" to help farmers and ranchers identify programs that can provide financial support for their conservation practices, including securing additional access for sportsmen, including hunters."

Hillary also believes that we should be doing more to slow and reverse the decline of at-risk wildlife species before they reach the brink of extinction and need the protection of the Endangered Species Act. To this end, Hillary will propose nearly doubling the State and Tribal Wildlife Grants program to \$100 million per year. This type of support for the voluntary conservation of at-risk wildlife can help reduce the need for species to receive the protections of the Endangered Species Act (ESA). For wildlife that are listed as threatened or endangered, Hillary will direct federal agencies to take full advantage of the flexible tools available under the ESA that respect and accommodate landowner interests, including safe harbor agreements, habitat conservation agreements, and other forms of voluntary conservation measures."



Farm Bureau members, do you pay out-of-pocket for dental work?

Do you live in or near Arco, Boise, Caldwell, Eagle, Coeur D'Alene, Idaho Falls, Kuna, Malad, Meridian, Middleton, Mountain Home, Nampa, Pocatello, Rexburg, Rigby, or Star?

Go to www.idahofbstore.com to learn more about contracted dental rates.

dbp DENTAL BENEFIT PROGRAM

THIS IS NOT INSURANCE.

There is no cost or monthly premium for Farm Bureau members to participate. These dentists have contractually agreed to specific pricing on many dental procedures. See website for full information.

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- ☞ Important: The confirmation email you receive of your order will not reflect the 20% discount. The discount will be applied to your order at the time of billing.



Rainy Day Foods®

UI FORESTRY

Continued from page 19

and national programs.

The completed nomination packet is sent to the *Idaho Big Tree Program* Director, who verifies the information and tallies the points. If the nominee has enough points to challenge the current national champion, records are submitted to the national program by the Idaho Director.

Champion trees status is awarded using a point system: one point is recorded for each foot of height; one point for each inch of circumference; and one-quarter point for each foot of average crown width. To calculate a tree's total point value, we use the following equation: trunk circumference (inches) + height (feet) + ¼ average crown spread (feet) = total points.

The registered champion tree is the one

in the state and/or nation with the most points. When two trees have scores that fall within five points of each other, they are listed as Co-Champions. Champions listed in the *National Big Tree Registry* must be re-measured every 10 years to maintain their champion status. The *Idaho Big Tree Program* keeps track of state champion trees using the same system. Idaho champions retain their status until another state nomination topples the reigning champ or the reigning champ dies.

The *National Big Tree Registry* is updated yearly and new champion trees are announced at the end of each summer – search the latest *National Big Tree Registry* at www.americanforests.org/big-trees/bigtrees-search/. The nominator(s) and owner(s) of champion trees are

recognized by the State and/or National program with a certificate and are listed in the Registry(s).

Fall is a great time to be outside camping with your family, hunting, or just enjoying a walk with your dog. And while you're outside enjoying the striking foliage and crisp temperatures, keep your eyes open for those big trees that are out there just waiting to be discovered, because now is a great time to bag yourself a trophy tree.

Yvonne Barkley is an associate extension forester for the University of Idaho. She can be reached at yvonnec@uidaho.edu

FOCUS ON AGRICULTURE

Continued from page 22

Since then, it has leveled off at about 11.3 million. Of the 1.5 to 2 million agricultural workers hired annually, some 50 to 70 percent are foreign workers who lack proper immigration status.

Farmers have the ability to hire foreign workers under a government temporary worker program called H-2A. H-2A was created in the 1990s to help agricultural employers bring temporary workers into the U.S. to do seasonal work. H-2A employers are required to offer arbitrarily heightened wage rates, and both transportation and housing. H-2A visa holders live and work in the U.S. but are not considered immigrants, and the program is not a pathway to citizenship.

But H-2A regulatory changes and program administration have made the program far too slow to respond to agriculture's needs. The application process is complex, and farmers often have to

hire lawyers to navigate it successfully. On average, administrative delays result in workers arriving 22 days after they are needed. As farmers waited for work visas to be approved and workers to arrive, crops rotted in fields or on the vines. Fruits, vegetables and berries were among the most affected because of their narrow harvest windows. Delays may be costing hundreds of millions of dollars annually for farms that hire H-2A workers.

The H-2A application process needs to be streamlined and modernized. Applications must be approved more rapidly. The program also must be more market-based and available for not only seasonal labor needs, but year-round.

A redesigned visa program must also be combined with some enforcement and an opportunity for skilled laborers currently working in agriculture to have a

pathway to legal status, which is not the same as an "enforcement only" policy or blanket legalization. Either of those options could result in price increases that would put food out of economic reach for 7 million U.S. households and shift more production outside the United States. The loss of farms and farm jobs would have ripple effects thought the U.S. economy.

Immigration reform has been discussed for nearly two decades, but with little action. Changes must balance agriculture's need for a dependable, reliable labor supply with enhanced border security. Long-term implications on food availability and prices, as well as food self-sufficiency and security, also must be considered.

Robert Giblin writes, speaks and consults about agricultural and food industry issues, policies and trends.

Farm Bureau Seeks Movement on Trade Agreement

WASHINGTON, D.C., – The American Farm Bureau Federation, the Coalition of Services Industries, the Information Technology Industry Council and the National Association of Manufacturers recently called on the president and congressional leadership to work together to approve the Trans-Pacific Partnership trade agreement by year-end.

In a letter sent this morning, presidents of the four groups laid out the important benefits expected to accrue from the deal – an accord that will give American farms, ranches and companies access to nearly 500 million consumers in the Asia-Pacific region.

“As the most productive industries in the world, our enterprises need access to new

consumers and markets to sustain, let alone grow, production and good-paying jobs,” the groups wrote. “Yet, U.S. industries face increasing competition as our global competitors are benefitting from trade deals that exclude and disadvantage the United States. ...The status quo is not acceptable for industries that need new markets to sustain and grow our workforces in the United States.”

Web Page Focuses on Beef Education Tools

WASHINGTON, D.C., - The American Farm Bureau Foundation for Agriculture has launched an [updated beef resources](#) web page dedicated to sharing nationally focused beef education tools with teachers, volunteers, farmers and ranchers.

The [site](#) features a new video highlighting the Foundation’s 2016 On the Farm STEM event and its impact on district- and university-level STEM coordinators.

“We are excited to debut this online educational resource featuring professional de-

velopment events for science, technology, engineering and mathematics teachers, educators and coordinators who are looking for real-world applications of STEM concepts,” said Julie Tesch, executive director of the Foundation.

Educators who are interested in professional development events in 2017 can find information on the application process online.

The Beef Checkoff Program funded development of the On the Farm events and

supporting resources. [The Beef Checkoff Program](#) was established as part of the 1985 farm bill. The checkoff assesses \$1 per head on the sale of live domestic and imported cattle, in addition to a comparable assessment on imported beef and beef products. In states with qualified beef councils, states retain up to 50 cents of the dollar and forward the other 50 cents per head to the Cattlemen’s Beef Promotion and Research Board, which administers the national checkoff program, subject to USDA approval.

Court Asked to Review Clean Water Rule Venue

WASHINGTON, D.C., -- Organizations seeking to vacate the Environmental Protection Agency’s and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers’ expansive “waters of the U.S.” rule are asking the U.S. Supreme Court to review whether the 6th Circuit Court is the appropriate court to hear challenges to the rule. The 6th Circuit earlier dismissed arguments that legal challenges to the rule should be brought first in federal district court and not courts of appeal.

“This petition to the Supreme Court is not related to the merits of our case and we are

confident that eventually the 6th Circuit and the Supreme Court will agree that the rule is unlawful,” said Ellen Steen, General Counsel of the American Farm Bureau Federation. “The petition was filed because the jurisdiction question is one that repeatedly arises in challenges to Clean Water Act actions. The time is ripe for the Supreme Court to resolve confusion among lower courts as to where jurisdiction lies, so that the American Farm Bureau Federation and others can stop wasting time and resources arguing with the federal govern-

ment over where to file these important legal challenges.”

Federal courts of appeals are divided on how to interpret a provision of the Clean Water Act mandating that certain types of legal challenges be filed directly to courts of appeals. When pressed to decide this question, the 3-judge panel of the 6th Circuit issued three separate opinions with only a single judge concluding that jurisdiction was lawfully in that court, making this question ripe for clarification by the Supreme Court.

Congress Urged to Break Barriers with Cuba

WASHINGTON, D.C., - American agriculture is poised for substantial growth in the Cuban market but financing restrictions are placing U.S. farmers and ranchers at a serious disadvantage in this nearby market, the American Farm Bureau Federation wrote in official comments to the House Agriculture Committee.

The committee held a hearing today exploring the benefits of American agricul-

tural trade with Cuba. AFBF has long supported opening trade with this market, just 90 miles off our coast. "Real opportunities exist for increased sales of U.S. agricultural products to Cuba as growing demand is driven by 11 million Cubans and by increasing tourism," AFBF wrote. Yet, the U.S. has fallen from being the number one supplier of agricultural products to number five due to restrictions imposed on financ-

ing those sales.

"U.S. agriculture is at a global disadvantage as we watch foreign competitors continue to take away our market share," AFBF said. "There is no better time than now to provide American farmers and agribusinesses the tools they need to expand agricultural exports to Cuba and help our industry survive this difficult economic environment."

American Farm Bureau Urges Caution on Ag Mergers

WASHINGTON, D.C., - Farmers and ranchers know market forces have led to major-company mergers like Bayer-Monsanto, but they cannot afford to lose access to technology and innovation if they go through, American Farm Bureau Federation Chief Economist Dr. Bob Young told the Senate Judiciary Committee today.

"AFBF has had several--and repeated--

assurances from the companies involved as to their intent to maintain as strong an innovation arm as they can," Young said. "We have no reason to doubt, but we also are reminded of the old line: trust, but verify."

Young noted the market for seeds, chemicals and crop nutrients is poised to shrink from six major companies to just three. He

asked that regulators review these mergers not only in light of market concentration, but also the structure of the entire industry in a post-merger environment.

"Everyone's knee-jerk reaction is to think that increased concentration will lead to higher prices for these inputs," Young said. "Knees tend to jerk reflexively, but sometimes they jerk with reason."

AFBF Statement on Bayer-Monsanto Merger

WASHINGTON, D.C., - "Market forces led to deals like the one announced in mid-September, but we know that major-company mergers have a profound impact on the tools available to farmers and ranchers, sometimes to their detriment," said American Farm Bureau Economist Bob Young.

"This deal between Monsanto and Bayer

comes close on the heels of the proposed Dow-DuPont merger. Farm Bureau believes the Department of Justice should undertake a close review of the overall business climate that has encouraged these combinations, rather than evaluating them in isolation. Consumers must continue to have fair access to the best technologies and innovation."

"Farmers and ranchers, in particular, are interested in how these deals will impact research and development budgets for companies like Bayer and Monsanto. We depend on access to enhanced technology, and would hate to see agricultural innovation suffer at the cost of business decisions."

National News Briefs

Combined potato crop valued at \$1.86 Billion

The final value of Idaho's 2015 potato crop was \$913 million, down 5 percent from 2014. The marketing year average price for potatoes in Idaho was \$7.00 per hundredweight, down \$0.20 from last year. In Oregon, the 2015 potato crop was valued at \$179 million, up slightly from last year. The all potato price was \$8.20 per hundredweight, up \$0.30 from last year. Washington's 2015 potato crop was valued at \$772 million, up slightly from 2014. The marketing year average price for all potatoes was \$7.70 per hundredweight, up \$0.10 from the previous year.

In Idaho, fall potato production for 2015 totaled 130 million hundredweight. In Oregon, production was 21.8 million hundredweight. Production in Washington was 100 million hundredweight. The combined production for the 3 states was 62 percent of U.S. fall potato production in 2015.

Processors in Idaho and Malheur County Oregon used a total of 86,250 hundredweight in 2015, slightly down from 2014. Washington and Oregon, excluding Malheur County, processors used 91,720 hundredweight during 2015, up 4 percent from last year.

Hop Stocks up 2 Percent from a Year Ago

The inventory of hops held by growers, dealers, and brewers on September 1, 2016, totaled 85.0 million pounds, 2 percent more than the September 1, 2015 stocks of 83.0 million pounds.

Stocks held by brewers, at 36.0 million pounds, were down 3 percent from last year. Stocks held by dealers and growers on September 1, 2016 totaled 49.0 million pounds, up 7 percent from the stocks on hand at the same time in 2015.

Senators Call for Action on County Payments

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Citing the drain on many rural county budgets, Idaho Senators Jim Risch and Mike Crapo, along with Oregon Senator Ron Wyden (D-Oregon), have sent a bipartisan letter to Republican Leader Mitch McConnell (R-Kentucky) and Democratic Leader Harry Reid (D-Nevada) calling for the reauthorization of the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self Determination Act (SRS) in any year-end legislation likely to be signed into law.

SRS payments are vital to many rural budgets as these payments often pay for school programs and personnel like nurses, and for other education services. The SRS program expired on September

30, 2015 and final payments were received by schools in March of 2016. As a result of these stopped payments, county budgets are being stretched thin among competing priorities.

“The federal government has an obligation to pay counties for tax-exempt, federally-managed lands within their jurisdictions,” said Crapo. “Without reauthorization of SRS, counties across the nation will be without funding for local schools, roads, bridges, forest management projects and public safety priorities.”

“Until we see a significant increase in active forest management on our national forests, the federal government must uphold its commitment to support our rural counties and schools that rely on the SRS program,” said Senator Risch.

2016 Farm Income Decline Expected – But...

AFBF - USDA recently released their August farm income projections and the media runs headlines from ‘Farm Income Forecast to Drop’ to ‘Plummeting Farm Income’ among others. USDA first put out projections calling for farm income to fall in 2016 quite a while back. What's interesting is to take the August USDA projections apart and compare to what they said in

February.

The August estimates also revise their earlier figures for 2015 and those numbers are substantially different. Net Cash Income (NCI)—which does not include things like inventory adjustment, non-cash income and depreciation—was revised upward by \$15.3 billion compared to February figures with Net Farm Income (NFI)—which does include all of those non-cash costs and adjustments as well as an allowance for family living—was adjusted up \$24.3 billion. Animal and product receipts were increased \$4.1 billion, while crop receipts were lowered by \$1.9 billion. The real driver of the change, however, was a drop in cash expenses by \$12.4 billion (used for NCI) and a drop in total expenses (used in NFI calculations) by \$21.5 billion.

For the 2016 estimates, August NCI and NFI are \$3.2 billion and \$16.7 billion higher respectively. The receipts side is down noticeably with crop cash receipts coming in \$7.4 billion lower and livestock figures \$6.7 billion lower. Lower receipts overall but higher income figures make it pretty obvious that this is a cost side story as well.

One of the biggest changes this year is in the ‘Net Rent to Landlords’ category. The February estimate suggested a slight rise in net rent to landlords in 2016 compared to the 2015 value, whereas the Au-

National News Briefs

gust value suggests rents have declined, continuing the trend that started in 2013. In fact, the new 2016 figures suggest net rent is down \$3.2 billion from 2013 figures.

Feed costs are actually projected to be \$2.2 billion higher than February estimates; slightly higher feed grain and oilseed meal prices driving at least part of that result. Purchased livestock and poultry expenses, however, are off \$3.8 billion—lower feeder cattle and other prices being behind that end. Seed costs are off \$800 million compared to the February values. An interesting feature of this is that it continues a multi-year trend of a decline in seed cost expenses—albeit a very slight decline—whereas the February forecast had seed costs rising compared to 2015 figures.

Pesticide as well as fuel and oil outlays are projected to be higher than the February forecast, but fertilizer and electricity costs are lower giving a net effect of a \$1.3 billion drop in manufactured inputs in August compared to February numbers.

Labor is a major source of cost savings between February and August, but this may be driven more by data revision as the 2015 values were dropped by a similar \$3.9 billion. Interest expenses are also sharply lowered for 2015, but the 2016 change was even more substantial. Interest

expenses were pulled down by \$2.1 billion for 2015 and by \$3.7 billion for 2016. In fact, the February projection suggested interest expenses would rise in 2015 and continue the trend in 2016. The August estimate actually pegs a lower level of interest expense in 2016 than in 2015.

Capital consumption and inventory adjustment—both important for the NFI calculation—are two more major adjustment areas. Again data revision is probably the driver for the capital consumption figure change as both 2015 and 2016 figures were pulled down by \$9 and \$9.3 billion, respectively. More digging is needed to fully understand and appreciate this shift in the numbers, but it is a big player in the difference between NCI and NFI.

So what does all this mean? To a slight degree, it says that while farm income is going to come down in 2016, it may not come down by quite as much as we thought a few months ago. Some of this is actually real. Fertilizer costs are somewhat lower, rental rates are down some, and certainly feeder animal costs are lower today than they were in the spring. The lower interest expense makes sense. How many of us thought interest rates would continue to stay this low, this long? But it is clearly saving the sector a significant amount of cash. The capital consumption figure does seem a little strange. It

is probably driven more by adjusted data than anything real. Certainly, there is no reason to think farmers adjusted their capital management by \$9 billion between 2014 and 2015.

Girl chooses Trailing of the Sheep Festival as her Wish

Idaho's annual Trailing of the Sheep Festival has received plenty of accolades from attendees and national media over the years, but this tribute is especially touching. Make-A-Wish® Idaho, in partnership with the Trailing of the Sheep Festival, will grant the request of wish kid Shelby to attend this year's 20th anniversary Trailing of the Sheep Festival, October 5-9, in Sun Valley, Ketchum, and Hailey, Idaho. Shelby Huff, age 20, requested her wish because of her love of animals (especially sheep) and the outdoors. She found the Festival online while researching her wish choice. Most children request "to have a shopping spree," "to swim with dolphins," or "to meet a celebrity." Shelby's wish request is a first for Make-A-Wish Idaho and the Festival.

Shelby became eligible to receive a wish due to complications with aplastic anemia (a bone marrow failure disease). She resides in Hill City, South Dakota and will be traveling to Idaho for the first time with her mom, sister, and grand-

parents. She is most looking forward to learning about shepherding and experiencing Idaho's beautiful landscape.

The presentation of Shelby's wish will be happening throughout the Festival's many events where she will be welcomed as a VIP guest, including the Folklife Fair, For Love of Lamb Foodie Fest, Sheepdog Trials, Wool Fest fiber arts classes (for which instructors Patricia Hirsh-Lirk and Joan Contraman are donating class space) Sheep Tales Gathering, Shepherd-er's Ball and, of course, the grand finale of the weekend – the Trailing of the Sheep Parade.

Her initial public welcome will be held at the Festival's Headquarters at the next Stage Theatre in Ketchum on Thursday, October 6, from 1:15 pm-2 pm.

We are so excited and honored to be able to participate with Make-A-Wish® Idaho in granting Shelby's wish and thrilled to have been selected by her," said Trailing of the Sheep Festival Director Laura Musbach Drake. "We will make this a very special weekend for her and her family and hope it is one that she will long remember."



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FARM BUREAU COMMODITY REPORT

GRAIN PRICES	8/22/2016	9/23/2016	Trend
PORTLAND:			
White Wheat	4.85-4.95	4.74-4.89	- .11 to - .06
11% Winter	4.77-4.97	4.81	+ .04 to - .16
14% Spring	6.00-6.15	5.98-6.28	-.02 to + .13
Oats cwt	225.00	225.00	Steady

OGDEN:			
White Wheat	4.07	3.84	-.23
11% Winter	3.93	3.86	-.07
14% Spring	5.15	5.03	-.12
Barley	5.55	5.55	Steady

BLACKFOOT/ IDAHO FALLS			
White Wheat	3.60	3.40	-.20
11.5% Winter	3.90	3.80	-.10
14% Spring	5.00	4.85	-.15
Hard White	4.10	4.00	-.10

BURLEY:			
White Wheat	3.75	3.65	-.10
11% Winter	3.27	3.45	+ .18
14% Spring	4.77	4.82	+ .05
Barley	5.50	5.00	-.50

NAMPA:			
White Wheat (cwt)	No Bid	6.08	N/A
(Bushel)	No Bid	3.65	N/A

LEWISTON:			
White Wheat	4.68	4.55	-.13
H. Red Winter	4.88	4.76	-.12
Dark N. Spring	5.90	5.83	-.07
Barley	106.50	101.50	- 5.00

LIVESTOCK PRICES

	8/19/2016	9/21/2016	Trend
FEEDER STEERS			
Under 500 lbs	130-180	120-176	- 10 to - 04
500-700 lbs	125-170	120-142	- 5 to - 28
700-900 lbs	115-146	107-131	- 8 to - 15
Over 900 lbs	109-134	89-123	- 20 to - 11

FEEDER HEIFERS			
Under 500 lbs	127-164	110-153	- 17 to - 11
500-700 lbs	120-146	101-127	- 19
700-900 lbs	110-138	95-124	- 15 to - 14
Over 900 lbs	114-126	85-119	- 29 to - 7

HOLSTEIN STEERS			
Under 700 lbs	No Test	75-110	NA
Over 700 lbs	No Test	72-107	NA

COWS			
Utility/Commercial	64-83	52-80	- 12 to - 3
Canner & Cutter	59-74	49-68	- 10 to - 6

Stock Cows	No Test	No Test	N/A
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BULLS			
Slaughter	72-100	70-104	- 2 to + 4

BEAN PRICES:			
Pinto	29.00-30.00	28.00-30.00	- 1.00 to Steady
Small Red	Not established	28.00	Not established
Garbanzo	34.00-36.00	34.00	Steady to - 2.00

COMPILED BY THE IDAHO FARM BUREAU COMMODITY DIVISION

IDAHO HAY REPORT

September 23, 2016

Compared to last Friday: All grades of Alfalfa steady. Trade moderate with good demand especially for Organic Alfalfa and Timothy hay. Retail/feed store/horse not tested this week. All prices are dollars per ton and FOB the farm or ranch unless otherwise stated.

Tons: 5500 Last Week: 8950 Last Year: 6700

	Tons	Price	Wtd Avg	Comments
Alfalfa				
Mid Square				
Supreme	325	125.00-125.00	125.00	
Premium/Supreme	225	110.00-110.00	110.00	
Good/Premium	1175	100.00-115.00	107.34	Export
Fair/Good	1250	130.00-130.00	130.00	Organic
Timothy Grass				
Mid Square				
Premium	525	220.00-220.00	220.00	
Good	2000	140.00-140.00	140.00	

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

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

RFV calculated using the Wis/Minn formula. TDN calculated using the western formula. Values based on 100% dry matter, TDN both 90% and 100%.

Quantitative factors are approximate, and many factors can affect feeding Value. Values based on 100 pct. dry matter. End usage may influence hay price or value more than testing results.

POTATOES & ONIONS

September 20, 2016

Potatoes

UPPER VALLEY, TWIN FALLS-BURLEY DISTRICT, IDAHO---Shipments 568-595-780 (includes exports of 2-4-3) ---Movement expected to remain about the same.

Trading bales active, carton 80-100s moderate, others fairly slow. Prices bales lower. Russet Norkotah U.S. One baled 10-5 pound film bags non size A mostly 6.00; 50-pound carton 40-80s 6.00-7.00, 90-100s mostly 6.00-6.50.

Potatoes for Processing

IDAHO--- Movement expected to remain about the same. No prices reported.

Onions - Dry

IDAHO AND MALHEUR COUNTY OREGON---253-208-277---Movement expected to remain about the same. Trading moderate. Prices Yellow super colossal and Yellow medium lower, generally unchanged. Yellow Spanish Hybrid U.S. One 50-pound sacks super colossal mostly 8.00, colossal mostly 7.00, jumbo mostly 6.00, medium 6.00-6.50; White U.S. One 50-pound sacks jumbo mostly 11.00, medium mostly 9.00; Red Globe Type U.S. One 25-pound sacks jumbo mostly 8.00, medium mostly 6.00. *revised.

5 YEAR GRAIN COMPARISON

Grain Prices.....09/24/2012.....9/26/2013.....9/23/2014.....9/21/2015.....9/23/2016

Portland:

White Wheat.....	8.77	7.13	6.69	5.45	4.74-4.89
11% Winter.....	9.43-9.48	No Bid	6.78-7.08	5.76-5.90	4.81
14% Spring.....	No Bid	8.24	7.97	6.41	5.98-6.28
Corn.....	311-312.50	No Bid	No Bid	260.00	225.00

Ogden:

White Wheat.....	7.95	6.53	6.11	5.51	3.84
11% Winter.....	8.29	7.17	5.80	4.60	3.86
14 % Spring.....	8.91	7.98	6.82	5.68	5.03
Barley.....	12.20	7.95	4.90	6.35	5.55

Pocatello:

White Wheat.....	8.00	6.30	5.75	5.20	3.40
11% Winter.....	8.36	7.42	5.75	4.15	3.80
14% Spring.....	8.68	7.32	6.09	5.30	4.85
Barley.....	12.92	No Bid	No Bid	4.75	4.00

Burley:

White Wheat.....	7.82	6.30	5.65	5.19	3.65
11% Winter.....	8.00	6.77	5.25	4.25	3.45
14% Spring.....	8.43	7.00	6.11	4.98	4.82
Barley.....	13.00	8.00	5.20	6.00	5.00

Nampa:

White Wheat (cwt).....	13.08	10.33	9.75	9.53	6.08
(bushel).....	7.85	6.20	5.85	5.72	3.65

Lewiston:

White Wheat.....	8.55	6.84	6.20	5.35	4.55
Barley.....	236.50	144.50	136.50	136.50	101.50

Bean Prices:

Pintos.....	38.00-40.00	40.00-42.00	40.00-42.00	22.00-24.00	28.00-30.00
Pinks.....	40.00-42.00	No Bid	No Bid	No Bid	No Bid
Small Reds.....	40.00-42.00	No Bid	No Bid	30.00	28.00

MILK PRODUCTION

September 20, 2016

August Milk Production up 1.9 Percent

Milk production in the 23 major States during August totaled 16.7 billion pounds, up 1.9 percent from August 2015. July revised production, at 16.9 billion pounds, was up 1.7 percent from July 2015. The July revision represented an increase of 48 million pounds or 0.3 percent from last month's preliminary production estimate.

Production per cow in the 23 major States averaged 1,920 pounds for August, 26 pounds above August 2015. This is the highest production per cow for the month of August since the 23 State series began in 2003.

The number of milk cows on farms in the 23 major States was 8.68 million head, 43,000 head more than August 2015, and 15,000 head more than July 2016.

August Milk Production in the United States up 1.9 Percent

Milk production in the United States during August totaled 17.7 billion pounds, up 1.9 percent from August 2015.

Production per cow in the United States averaged 1,895 pounds for August, 27 pounds above August 2015.

The number of milk cows on farms in the United States was 9.36 million head, 45,000 head more than August 2015, and 16,000 head more than July 2016.

5 YEAR LIVESTOCK COMPARISON

	09/24/2012	9/25/2013	9/22/2014	9/21/2015	9/21/2016
Feeder Steers					
Under 500 lbs.....	126-187	148-198	250-390	220-305	120-176
500-700 lbs.....	116-170	130-174	210-288	170-247	120-142
700-900 lbs.....	115-151	119-157	180-245	150-211	107-131
Over 900 lbs.....	110-129	105-138	160-212	146-180	89-123
Feeder Heifers					
Under 500 lbs.....	117-174	142-186	235-340	220-265	110-153
500-700 lbs.....	116-155	121-160	190-287	165-232	101-127
700-900 lbs.....	110-133	102-144	167-230	145-198	95-124
Over 900 lbs.....	98-120	90-133	150-207	145-165	85-119
Holstein Steers					
Under 700 lbs.....	75-118	71-113	150-234	120-182	75-110
Over 700 lbs.....	63-103	75-102	135-206	120-154	75-107
Cows					
Utility/Commercial.....	54-78	58-86	89-124	75-105	52-80
Canner & Cutter.....	55-72	50-73	80-109	68-97	49-68
Stock Cows.....	N/A	N/A	1300-2100	1200-2300	N/A
Bulls – Slaughter.....	70-90	69-95	104-151	93-136	70-104

CATTLE ON FEED

September 23, 2016

United States Cattle on Feed Up 1 Percent

Cattle and calves on feed for the slaughter market in the United States for feedlots with capacity of 1,000 or more head totaled 10.1 million head on September 1, 2016. The inventory was 1 percent above September 1, 2015.

Placements in feedlots during August totaled 1.88 million head, 15 percent above 2015. Net placements were

1.84 million head. During August, placements of cattle and calves weighing less than 600 pounds were 360,000 head, 600-699 pounds were 290,000 head, 700-799 pounds were 429,000 head, and 800 pounds and greater were 800,000 head.

Marketings of fed cattle during August totaled 1.87 million head, 18 percent above 2015.

Other disappearance totaled 41,000 head during August, 32 percent below 2015.

CATTLE OUTLOOK

September 23, 2016

USDA's September Cattle on Feed report said placements were up 15.1% and marketings were up 17.6% compared to August 2015. That left the number of cattle on feed at the start of September at 101.5% of the year-earlier level. The pre-release average of trade predictions was for August placements to be up 13.1%, marketings to be up 17.5%, and the number of cattle on feed at the start of September to be up 1.2%. There were two extra slaughter days this August compared to last.

According to calculations by the Livestock Marketing Information Center, cattle feeders lost \$89.75 per head on slaughter steers marketed in August. That compares to losses of \$272.28 per head in August 2015.

Fed cattle prices this week were a bit lower on light sales volume. Through Thursday, the 5-area average price for slaughter steers sold on a live weight basis was \$106.63/cwt, down 35 cents from last week's average and down \$21.84 from a year ago. The 5-area dressed steer price averaged \$167.90/cwt, down 15 cents from the week before and down \$34.58 from a year ago.

Beef cutout value was higher this week. This morning, the choice boxed beef cutout value was \$187.17/cwt, up \$1.11 from the previous Friday, but down \$26.28 from this week last year. The select carcass cutout this morning was \$179.31/cwt, up 78 cents from last week, but down \$31.37 from a year ago.

This week's cattle slaughter totaled 592,000 head, down 2.0% from last and up 3.1% from a year ago. The average steer dressed weight for the week ending on Septem-

ber 10 was 903 pounds, up 5 pounds from the week before, down 16 pounds from a year ago, and below the year-ago level for the 19th week in a row. Year-to-date cattle slaughter is up 4.4% compared to 2015 and year-to-date beef production is up 4.6%. USDA's weekly crop progress report said that 18% of U.S. pastures were in poor or very poor condition on September 18. That is up 2 points from the week before, but down 2 points from a year ago.

Feeder cattle prices were \$2 to \$5 higher this week at the Oklahoma City auction. Stocker cattle prices were steady to \$5 higher. Prices for medium and large frame #1 steers by weight group were: 400-450# \$157.50-\$160, 450-500# \$135.25-\$162, 500-550# \$142-\$156, 550-600# \$134.50-\$146, 600-650# \$123-\$148.50, 650-700# \$133.50-\$149, 700-750# \$130.25-\$145, 750-800# \$132.25-\$140, 800-900# \$126-\$139.50 and 900-1000# \$119.85-\$124.75/cwt.

The October live cattle futures contract settled at \$107.27/cwt today, down 60 cents for the week. December fed cattle settled at \$106.85/cwt, down \$1.20 from the previous Friday. February fed cattle futures settled at \$107.10/cwt and April ended the week at \$106.47/cwt.

September feeder cattle futures ended the week at \$136.82/cwt, up \$1.32 from a week earlier. October feeder cattle lost 58 cents this week to settle at \$132.37/cwt. November feeder cattle futures closed the week at \$129.72/cwt.

University of Missouri

CLASSIFIEDS

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

Animals

For sale. Registered Red Angus Bull registration number 3521834 sired by 5L Norseman King 2291 and out of ASV Vilari 133-032, who is out of the Vos cowherd. Interested buyers call (208)-421-7270 between 8:00 AM and 8:00 PM.

Farm Equipment

5 rolls wire & lath snow fence. \$10 each. One full roll barbed wire, \$20. Heyburn, Id 208-431-7401.

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

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

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

2012 Massey Ferguson/Hesston 9740 Swather, 718 hours (like new); 4840 John Deere, PS, duals, recent overhaul with/without 9 ft JD dozer blade; 30 ft gooseneck tandem dual flatbed trailer; R23A Vermeer rake. Challis, Id. 208-339-2434.

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

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

Household

Pioneer 55" HD TV & Pioneer Receiver - Older cabinet model. Very nice. Sold As-is Condition. \$275.00 Shelley. Call 528-5337.

Miscellaneous

2 plots At Sunset Memorial in Twin Falls. 1 open/close paid for and a 24x30 grey marker also. Asking \$5,000 for both plots. (1 is \$10,000 now) contact bestcooktwo@yahoo.com for more info.

Two Taylor cemetery plots, Shelley, Id area. \$200 each in Taylor district or \$400 each out of District. call 208-529-4894 or 524-4616.

Newer 17 inch wheel and tire for 2004, 2500 Dodge pickup. BF Goodrich Rugged Trail TA LT 265/70 R17 Load E. \$75. Blackfoot 208-604-2205

Real Estate/Acreage

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

Lot for Sale - 1/2 Acre Country Lot. City water, Gas, Utilities available. Must obtain Permits. Shelley area. Call 528-5337.

40 acres plus on Little Salmon River half way between Riggins and New Meadows. \$15,000 down and terms. 208-253-6135.

6.9 acres with 10 water shares can be divided into 1 acre lots for building. Located in prime location Twin Falls just outside city limits. 208-420-1882.

Recreational Equipment

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

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

Vehicles

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

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

1980 Olds Toronado, FWD, leather interior. Needs motor repair; otherwise excellent condition. \$1,500 obo. Genesee, ID 208-285-1584.

2009 Kawasaki Vulcan motorcycle. 500 cc with 2350 miles. Windshield and saddle bags. Below book at \$2,595. American Falls, Id 802-221-9575.

Wanted

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

Wanted

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

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

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

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

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

FREE CLASSIFIEDS

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

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

Name: _____

Address: _____

City / State / Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Membership No. _____

Ad Copy: _____



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

Farm Bureau Member Benefit

Receive a \$300 per unit discount on all Polaris Utility and Sport Vehicles, \$200 per unit on all All-Terrain Vehicles and \$300 per unit on all GEM Electric Vehicles.

Save \$200-\$300 at Polaris!

- Individuals must be members of the Idaho Farm Bureau for a minimum of 30 days prior to purchase and present a valid certificate to the Polaris dealership before purchase process to be valid.
- Go to fbverify.com/Polaris and enter in membership number and zip code to generate a rebate certificate. Some restrictions may apply. For questions, call Joel at 208-239-4289.



**Farm Bureau membership
has serious advantages.**

**MEMBER
ADVANTAGE!**