


# Gem State Producer



**IFB**® IDAHO FARM BUREAU

September 2016 • Volume 20, Issue 6



Falling Numbers  
Penalize N. Idaho  
Wheat Growers

Hawaiians Tour Idaho  
Looking for Crop  
Options

Agriculture Rallies  
for Legal, Reliable  
Workforce

## Rural Vote Can't be Overlooked in 2016



By Zippy Duvall  
AFBF President

Country roads are an important part of the route to public office. There's no such thing as "fly-over country" in an election year—and some lawmakers have learned this the hard way. Farmers and ranchers are fully engaged in the political process.

## Beyond the Fencerows



They know their businesses and families have too much at stake to take a back seat during any

While rural areas have gotten smaller over recent decades, lawmakers can't ignore that America's farmland and the people who live there are at the heart of what built this country, and what nourishes it still today. Our nation is run by people who

show up and make their voices heard. Our friends in Kansas recently reminded us of this in the primary race for their first district. Many of the district's farmers and ranchers felt that Congressman Huelskamp had forgotten his neighbors and the people who sent him to Washington, especially when it came to his lack of support for the

See DUVALL, page 10

## Riding Out the Storm



By Bryan Searle  
President Idaho Farm Bureau Federation

Milton Berle said if opportunity doesn't knock, build a door.

Times are tough in agriculture

right now. That's not news to any of us. The harvest may be complete for some while others are in the heat of the battle. While crops appear to be some of the best quality and yield, as always some face challenges delivered from mother nature and other cropping conditions. But the larger challenge is markets are flat or slumping for almost all commodities and livestock and the outlook is grim.

Adding to the problem is that many of us have struggled over the past two years, experiencing

low prices for sprout-damaged grain, dropping livestock and feed prices and quality issues in other crops.

I've visited with Farm Bureau Presidents from around the nation and traveled our state and have visited with many farmers and ranchers. Most are discouraged and worried about the future. But I've also talked with others who never seem to miss a beat. They find a way to stay at least one step

See SEARLE, page 16

## Good Fences Make Good Neighbors



By Rick Keller  
CEO Idaho Farm Bureau Federation

A century ago, American poet Robert Frost wrote the classical poem called the "Mending Wall." In the poem, Frost describes a New England farmer who entices his neighbor to help mend the

stone wall between their two properties. Several times the narrator questions why a fence needs to be between them, and twice the farmer replied with the proverb, "Good fences makes good neighbors."

One observation displayed in the complexity of this poem is that the wall sets boundaries and separates the two neighbors, but the fence in contrast, also joins the two together as they regularly walk their stone fence line, repairing and conversing.

Farm Bureau's structure is made of good fences, boundaries which both separate and join. The boundaries of the county, state and American Farm Bureaus clearly identifies jurisdictions of responsibilities: a county Farm Bureau is responsible for local issues; state-wide issues fall within the Idaho Farm Bureau's role, and finally, national and international matters belong to the American Farm Bureau.

See KELLER, page 16



# IDAHO FARM BUREAU

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An estimated 100 farmers showed up for a special meeting in Greencreek in mid-August. Many farms in the region are seeing falling numbers in their grain crop in spite of excellent yields.

Photo by Steve Ritter

# Falling numbers doom Camas Prairie Wheat Crop

By Jake Putnam

Greencreek - Angry North Idaho wheat farmers wanted answers.

More than a hundred producers crowded a Greencreek meeting hall on August 15th. They wanted an explanation of why they can't sell their wheat at market prices this year.

"It's the most beautiful crop I've ever seen with the biggest yields," said Randy Olstead of Columbia Grain. "But we had a falling number and it's disheartening because we have 130 bushel wheat with a falling number of 200. That's a discount of a dollar, when it should be the best crop in decades."

"I'm scared the discounts from falling numbers, I think it'll get worse in the next couple of months," said farmer Eric Hasslestrom of Winchester. "We have so much of it now, so much wheat in these elevators and now it's next to worthless."

Falling numbers is a standard gravity test that measures starch damage in flour caused by alpha-amylase, an enzyme affecting baking quality. Flour with too much alpha-amylase means crumbly, gummy bread that fails to rise.

The loss of starch in specialty soft white and club wheat is disastrous for Japanese bakers and other Pacific rim counties because they use high quality Idaho wheat in everything from noodles to bread and they know falling numbers make flour unfit for baking.

"We've seen falling numbers this year, as low 185 or 190, and as high as 410," said Olstead. "The falling number test has a variance 15 points either way and when you're

See *FALLING NUMBERS* page 4

Cover: Grain growers from all over the state are bringing in the harvest and reporting good yields in most areas. Some growers in the Palouse region are seeing falling numbers in wheat. See story on page 3.

Photo by Steve Ritter



# FALLING NUMBERS

Continued from page 3

talking discounts of 25-cents every 25 points under 300. It could be a .25 cent discount to a producer, or a 50-cent discount.”

Some farmers on the Camas Prairie could lose up to 70 percent of their crop, none of which is covered by government safety nets or private insurance. Just two years ago farmers saw the highest wheat prices in history and now they face possibly the

lowest.

“You’re looking at a \$5.12 price today in Portland, but if you had a 200 falling number you’re looking at a \$4.12 in Portland. The bad thing is that our customers in Japan, Taiwan and the Philippines won’t buy a number under 200, the flour just doesn’t work and the numbers don’t blend right because it’s a negative blend,” said Olstead.

Nez Perce, Lewis, Latah and Idaho coun-

ties are the hardest hit so far and all had severe cold mornings and hot afternoons the second week of June. There was no significant rainfall during that period but Washington State Scientists think wild temperatures triggered sprouting in the wheat and that changed the starch needed for milling and dropped the quality of the wheat to a feedlot grade.

“It’s a massive yo-yo,” said Mike Pumphrey, Washington State University spring wheat breeder and geneticist. “We saw severe temperature spikes of up to 95 degrees throughout the region, followed by 40-degree night time lows that persisted for days during a critical period. That’s the textbook condition for expressing late-maturity alpha-amylase, or LMA, caused by temperature shocks during maturation.”

Idaho farmers were completely blindsided.

“No one could plan for what happened this year,” said Hasselstrom. “I’m still not sure what happened, we don’t know if it was weather or wheat varieties combined with weather, if it was nutrition varieties or what. We don’t know how to battle it. So now it’s best to communicate with the grain elevators and the researchers and segregate the grain maybe change the way we do things.”

Safeguarding against low falling numbers is one of Pumphrey’s primary breeding goals.

“We’re screened advanced lines and new releases the past three years to make sure they’re much less likely to have this problem,” said Pumphrey. “Breeding the perfect wheat isn’t easy. But we have good, adapted wheat varieties with stable falling numbers.” WSU scientists are working with new found urgency.

From Latah to Caribou counties, Idaho farmers have completed about half of the wheat harvest. The market is so tight that by July they knew they’d see prices below \$4.90 a bushel because of a flooded worldwide market this year. Transportation costs to Portland are skyrocketing too and now dockage fees are a factor because of fall-



Wheat harvest is about half way done throughout Idaho. Most areas are reporting good yields.

Photo by Steve Ritter

ing numbers. For farmers it means selling wheat at \$2.50 a bushel or less and that's close to a full dollar below the break-even price.

This is the second bad year in a row for wheat on the Camas Prairie and livelihoods are on the line. Idaho Wheat Commission representatives say they're looking for every way to help ease the crisis and keep producers in business.

"We'll get through this, we need just a little time to let markets emerge and let customers know about this situation," said Blaine Jacobson, Idaho Wheat Commission executive director. "It won't be the traditional marketing channel, because they're looking for a certain specification of wheat, but if there's a market, we're going to find it."

Still, farmers attending the meeting, many on the brink of financial ruin, don't trust the falling numbers test. Several said they tested wheat grown in fields side by side under identical conditions and the falling numbers varied greatly from field to field. But farmer Eric Hasselstrom warned the

test is still the industry standard.

"The falling number test is not going away, all buyers use that, all their recipes for noodles, breads and even pound cake is formulated around that test," he said. "They're not going to change it because they know what they want. If they can't get it, they'll find it somewhere else, Australia, Canada, anywhere."

But farmers at the meeting wouldn't let go of test inconsistency, some clung to the hope that the numbers went back up after extended storage in grain bins.

Washington State researchers say some evidence suggests that if wheat is stored for a time, falling numbers could rise as the enzyme degrades—but this only works if the falling numbers are not below 200.

"Everyone wants to plan for next year," said Hasselstrom. "There had to be more than a hundred farmers at that meeting in Greencreek and none of them had seen this in their lifetime. To keep this from happening again we're going to have to plant many

varieties, different classes, red wheat, white wheat all the different varieties so we're diversified enough just so it's not low protein or falling numbers or both. You do the best you can and hope it comes out."

But this year grain storage could be a premium with hopes of selling wheat later in the year.

"You're going to see local elevators and individual farmers storing their wheat and hoping that it climbs enough to get across the threshold of 300," said Pumphrey.

Through it all farmers like Hasselstrom remain optimistic. "Next year is always better, we're always saying it, let's try and help each other out and work with the industry to solve the problem and be better partners in the future. That's the best way to handle this."

And the Winchester farmer has advice for fellow farmers.

"Take the government loan, let this shake out and maybe the price will be back up again after that loan is paid back," he said.

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Representatives from the Hawaiian Commercial and Sugar Company recently visited farmer Dave Dixon near Greenleaf to learn about drip irrigation.

## Hawaiian Farm Group Seeks Alternative Crops

*Article and photo by Steve Ritter*

Sometimes in farming who you know is as important as what you know.

Case in point, the loss of the sugar cane industry in Hawaii. After a 180-year history, the last of the cane growers, the Hawaiian Commercial and Sugar Company will end its sugar production operations by the end of 2016 and transition to a diversified agricultural model.

“With the end of sugar cane we are trying to find the next crop for HC&S and a lot of it is crops you already grow on the mainland,” said Mae Nakahata, Director of Agricultural Research and Crop Control for HC&S.

Nakahata lead a delegation of Hawaiian farmers on a recent tour of Western states seeking crop and farming advice in Texas, Utah, Oregon, California and Idaho.

In Idaho, Greenleaf farmer Dave Dixon hosted the group to discuss underground tape irrigation systems – drip irrigation. The meeting was arranged through state Farm Bureau staff members. Nakahata is also the vice president of the Hawaii Farm Bureau and has contacts in several states.

“We knew there were some operations here so I had asked Russ (Hendricks) from Idaho Farm Bureau to help me out and he’s been great with the contacts,” she said. “He got us in touch with farmers and actually took us around and we appreciate it.”

Corn, sorghum, safflower, and sunflower are some of the new crops HC&S is exploring. Nakahata told farmers, “We have never seen safflower in Hawaii we only saw it in books and so forth so I thought the best way to learn was to come and visit some safflower farmers. Same thing with corn and sorghum.”

Nakahata says it’s all about farmers helping farmers. “That’s right and that’s what’s great about Farm Bureau because it’s like you have a family right across the whole country. You know you call and ask somebody and they always lift a helping hand.”

Russ Hendricks, Director of Governmental Affairs for Idaho Farm Bureau enjoyed the visit. “We were delighted to assist Mae and the other folks from Hawaii to learn whether safflower may be a viable alternative crop for them. We were also happy to show them some of the innovative ways Idaho farmers are conserving water through several different types of advanced irrigation techniques.”

With thirty-six thousand acres of farmland available for new crops Nakahata says the conversion will take time and money. A challenge farmers across America seem to face often.



Immigration reform has been a long time in coming. Several groups advocating change recently held a press conference in Boise. *Farm Bureau file photo*

## Immigration Reform News Conference held in Boise

By Jake Putnam

Boise—Immigration advocates want to overhaul the nation's immigration policies.

Societal problems related to illegal immigration and agriculture's need for a legal, stable workforce have been at odds for several years now with no progress being made by the federal government.

Advocates for immigration reform held a news conference August 4th at the Idaho Farm Bureau Building in Boise focusing on reforming immigration policy and highlighting the economic contributions of immigrants.

"This is a very important issue for the Idaho Farm Bureau," said Dennis Tanikuni Farm Bureau assistant director of governmental affairs. "It's not only about agriculture but every segment of the economy that

uses general labor, so we're interested in a vital, legal, dependable workforce. That's the reason why Farm Bureaus across the nation are participating in this effort today."

The Partnership for A New American Economy released individual reports for all 50 states in early August, specifically identifying how immigrants contribute to the workforce, tax rolls and the overall economy, based primarily upon data from the Census American Community Survey.

"I'm here in support of this report and we support not only the economic aspect but the social aspect of immigration. This is a call out to leadership to get comprehensive reform to something that is long past due," said Ivan Castillo, President of the Idaho Hispanic Chamber of Commerce.

The reports, including Idaho's report can help elected officials make sound policy decisions based on the talents of an immigrant workforce that is highly entrepreneurial and willing to do jobs that many Americans will not take.

"We've always been a nation of immigrants, a country built by people coming here to work hard and build a better life," said American Farm Bureau Federation President Zippy Duvall.

America's farmers face a crisis because that traditional workforce is in danger.

"We need a reliable workforce to tend our crops and harvest them on time, but we can't find enough workers to meet the nation's needs," said Duvall. "Worker short-

*See IMMIGRATION REFORM page 13*



Dairy farms throughout the country are struggling to make ends meet. Federal assistance programs were recently engaged to help.  
*Farm Bureau file photo*

## USDA Announces Assistance for Milk Producers

By *Jake Putnam*

A narrowing margin between the price of milk and the cost of feed recently triggered assistance through the Farm Bill's dairy margin protection program.

This past summer here in Idaho and nationwide, average dairy margins were below \$6 per hundred weight. In other words, for every 100 gallons of milk a dairy producer sells, dairymen pocketed less than \$6.

"The decline in dairy farm revenue has led many dairy farm families to exit the industry," American Farm Bureau President Zippy Duvall wrote. "In 2015 we lost 1,225 dairy farms-many of those small dairy farm operations where the average herd size is fewer than 200 milking cows."

Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack wants at least \$11.2 million in financial assistance

to American dairy producers enrolled in the 2016 Margin Protection Program for Dairy.

The payment rate for May/June 2016 will be the largest since the program started in 2014.

"We know the nation's dairy producers are experiencing challenges due to market conditions," said Vilsack. "MPP-Dairy payments are part of a comprehensive farm safety net that help to provide dairy producing families during tough times."

Dairy operations enrolled in the 2016 MPP-Dairy program will get \$11.2 million this month.

"I want to urge dairy farmers to use this opportunity and look over enrollment options for 2017, that enrollment period is currently scheduled to end Sept. 30, 2016. By sup-

porting a strong farm safety net, expanding credit options and growing domestic and foreign markets, USDA is committed to helping America's dairy operations stay successful," added Vilsack.

Dairy farmers that enrolled at the \$6 through \$8 margin trigger coverage level will receive payments. MPP-Dairy payments are triggered when the national average margin, that's the difference between the price of milk and the cost of feed, falls below a level of coverage selected by the dairy producer between \$4 to \$8, for a specified consecutive two-month period. All final USDA prices for milk and feed components required to determine the national average margin for May/June 2016 were released the last of July.

The national average margin for the May/June 2016 two-month consecutive period





In addition to the margin insurance program, USDA recently announced plans to purchase surplus cheese to be used in feeding and nutrition programs. *Farm Bureau file photo*

is \$5.76277 per hundred weight (cwt.), resulting in the following MPP payment rates:

**Margin Trigger Coverage Levels**

Payment Rate/cwt.

- \$6.00
- \$0.23723
- \$6.50
- \$0.73723
- \$7.00
- \$1.23723
- \$7.50
- \$1.73723
- \$8.00
- \$2.23723

US dairy farmers have slowly adopted USDA-sponsored tools to manage market price

risk, due to the cost, but also because benefits are less attractive to some producers. In 2015, just 25,000 of the 45,000 US dairy farms signed up for the 2014 Farm Bill Margin Protection Program and only 23,000 farmers enrolled this year, a majority of them for catastrophic coverage only.

Duvall said AFBF was appreciative of USDA's deadline extension to sign-up for MPP as well as the expansion of a farm's production when new family members join the business. He said the AFBF also believes the \$11.2 million in MPP assistance announced in August will help, but more can be done. Duvall asked USDA to buy additional dairy products to be used in USDA's nutrition programs and for donations to food banks.

"Specifically, we think cheese could be purchased in a quantity that would help the dairy industry and yet not negatively impact our exports of cheese products," Duvall said. "If the Department spent \$50 million, it could purchase 28 million pounds of cheese for domestic feeding programs. This would not only be beneficial to those in need of food, but also would help reduce the record high inventories and would provide a positive price impact for dairy producers."

The U.S. Department of Agriculture announced August 23rd to purchase approximately 11 million pounds of cheese from private inventories to assist food banks and pantries across the nation, while reducing a cheese surplus that is at its highest level in 30 years. The

purchase, valued at \$20 million, will be provided to families in need across the country through USDA nutrition assistance programs, while assisting the stalled marketplace for dairy producers whose revenues have dropped 35 percent over the past two years.

"We understand that the nation's dairy producers are experiencing challenges due to market conditions while food banks see strong demand for assistance," said Secretary Vilsack. "This commodity purchase is part of a comprehensive safety net that'll help reduce a cheese surplus that's at a 30-year high while, at the same time, moving a high-protein food to the tables of the needy."

# DUVALL

Continued from page 2

farm bill that provides a safety net for farmers when prices plummet and ensures we can continue to feed ourselves. The Kansas Farm Bureau took a firm stance by calling out Huelskamp and endorsing his primary opponent Roger Marshall, to ensure agriculture in the first district would once again have a voice on Capitol Hill. Voters then stood up on primary day and called for a different approach to politics. Maintaining a healthy agriculture and strong food security requires a willingness to reach across party lines to find solutions that

work. Huelskamp's rural constituents are sending him home after his term ends this year. That's what happens when a lawmaker becomes more beholden to groups in Washington than their own constituents.

Whether it's the presidential ticket or a vote for a county board member, every farmer and rancher needs to be informed on where candidates stand and hold them accountable for their campaign trail promises. Our voices only stop counting when we fail to make them heard. At the American

Farm Bureau, we've been studying the candidates' platforms to see where they stand on the issues facing agriculture. One great resource our staff has been keeping up with since early in the primary season is our election blog (election16.fb.org). We encourage you to check it out for updates at the national level, and reach out to your states and counties for more information on local elections.

Our country needs leaders at every level of government who will listen to farmers and ranchers and work to-

gether to find practical solutions. We need to maintain a strong farm safety net. We need elected leaders who help expand markets for our agricultural exports through new free trade agreements that protect our interests abroad like the Trans-Pacific Partnership. From reforming our immigration and guest worker system to stamping out regulatory overreach, we need men and women in office who will roll up their sleeves and address these critical issues, even when the excitement of campaign season is long over.

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# Wage and Hour Requirements for Agricultural Employers

## *U.S. Department of Labor*

The U.S. Department of Labor's Wage and Hour Division enforces three separate and distinct federal laws establishing minimally acceptable labor standards for wages and working conditions that may impact agricultural employers or associations.

These labor standards are set forth in the Fair Labor Standards Act (minimum wage, overtime pay, child labor and recordkeeping requirements), the Migrant and Seasonal Agricultural Worker Protection Act (vehicle safety, housing safety and health, disclosure of wages and working conditions, farm labor contractor registration and other requirements), and OSHA Field Sanitation (drinking water, toilets and hand-washing for field workers).

This article will explain the basic provisions of these multi-faceted laws but if more information is desired, please call the Department of Labor's toll-free help line at 1-866-4USWAGE (1-866-487-9243). Information also is available on the Internet at [www.wagehour.dol.gov](http://www.wagehour.dol.gov).

## **The Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA)**

Virtually all employees in agriculture are covered by the FLSA since they produce goods for interstate commerce. There are, however, some exemptions which exempt certain employees from the minimum wage provisions, the overtime pay provisions, or both.

Employees that are employed in agriculture, as defined in the FLSA, are exempt from the overtime pay provisions. Thus, they do not have to be paid time and one-half their regular rates of pay for hours worked in excess of forty in a single

workweek.

The FLSA's definition of agriculture excludes work performed on a farm that is not incidental to or in conjunction with such farmer's farming operation. It also excludes operations performed off a farm if performed by those employed by someone other than the farmer whose agricultural products are being processed.

Any employer in agriculture who did not utilize more than 500 «man days» of agricultural labor in any calendar quarter of the preceding calendar year is exempt from the minimum wage and overtime pay provisions of the FLSA for the current calendar year. A «man day» is defined as any day during which an employee performs agricultural work for at least one hour.

Although exempt from the overtime requirements of the FLSA, agricultural employees must be paid no less than the minimum wage - currently \$7.25 per hour. There are numerous restrictions on the employment of minors who are less than 16 years of age, particularly in occupations declared hazardous by the Secretary of Labor. Substantial civil money penalties are prescribed for violations of the monetary and child labor provisions of the law. The FLSA also requires that specified records be kept.

The coverage provisions and scope of State laws and regulations may vary significantly with that of the FLSA. Please consult with the appropriate State Department of Labor or visit [www.dol.gov/esa/programs/whd/state/state.htm](http://www.dol.gov/esa/programs/whd/state/state.htm).

## **The Migrant & Seasonal Agricultural Worker Protection Act (MSPA)**

The Migrant and Seasonal Agricultural

Worker Protection Act (MSPA) protects migrant and seasonal agricultural workers by establishing employment standards related to wages, housing, transportation, disclosures and recordkeeping. MSPA also requires farm labor contractors to register with the U.S. Department of Labor.

A Farm Labor Contractor is someone who, for money or other valuable consideration paid or promised to be paid, recruits, solicits, hires, employs, furnishes or transports migrant and/or seasonal agricultural workers or, provides housing to migrant agricultural workers. Agricultural employers, agricultural associations and their employees are not included in the term.

Certain persons and organizations, such as small businesses, some seed and tobacco operations, labor unions, and their employees, are exempt from the Act.

Before performing any farm labor contracting activity, a farm labor contractor must register with the U.S. Department of Labor and obtain a certificate of registration. A farm labor contractor must be specifically authorized to provide housing or transportation to migrant or seasonal agricultural workers prior to providing the housing or transportation. Persons employed by farm labor contractors to perform farm labor contracting activities must also register with DOL.

Each person or organization that owns or controls a facility or real property used for housing migrant workers must comply with federal and state safety and health standards. A written statement of the terms and conditions of occupancy must be posted at the housing site where it can be seen or be given to the workers.

Agricultural associations, agricultural employers, and farm labor contractors must assure that vehicles used or caused to be used by a farm labor contractor, agricultural employer, or agricultural association to transport workers are properly insured, are operated by licensed drivers, and meet federal and state safety standards.

Agricultural associations, agricultural employers, and farm labor contractors must inform migrant and seasonal agricultural workers about prospective employment, including the work to be performed, wages to be paid, the period of employment, whether state workers' compensation or state unemployment insurance will be provided.

### **OSHA Act Field Sanitation**

The Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970 was enacted to assure safe and healthful working conditions for working men and women. In 1987, the Occupational Safety and Health Administra-

tion issued regulations establishing minimum standards for field sanitation in covered agricultural settings. Authority for enforcing these field sanitation standards in most states has been delegated to the Wage and Hour Division.

In general, the field sanitation standards apply to any agricultural establishment employing 11 or more workers on any one day during the previous 12 months, to perform hand labor. Hand labor includes hand-cultivation, hand-weeding, hand-planting, and hand-harvesting of vegetables, nuts, fruits, seedlings, or other crops, including mushrooms, and the hand-packing of produce in the field into containers, whether performed on the ground, on moving machinery, or in a shed.

Covered agricultural employers must provide potable drinking water, suitably cool and in sufficient amounts, dispensed in single-use cups or by fountains, located so as to be readily acces-

sible to all employees.

Covered agricultural employers must provide one toilet and handwashing facility for every 20 employees, located within a quarter-mile walk, or if not feasible, at the closest point of vehicular access. Pre-moistened towelettes, once allowed by some state regulators, cannot be substituted for handwashing facilities. Toilets and hand-washing facilities are not required for employees who do field work for three hours or less each day, including travel to and from work.

Employers must maintain such facilities in accordance with public health sanitation practices, including upkeep of water quality through daily change (or more often if necessary); toilets clean, kept sanitary, and operational; handwashing facilities refilled with potable water as necessary and kept clean, sanitary, and safe; and proper disposal of wastes from the facilities.

## **IMMIGRATION REFORM**

Continued from page 7

ages have placed our nation's food supply at risk. Increasing immigration enforcement will cost the country \$60 billion in agricultural production unless we do something now about increasing the supply of guest workers. We cannot let this nation's harvest rot in the fields."

Idaho's report showed that the Gem State had a 15.1 percent increase in immigrants living in Idaho between 2010 and 2014, which is one of the largest jumps in the country.

In 2014, immigrants in Idaho earned more than \$2 billion combined. Castillo said that number shows rising immigrant spending power showing the importance of that growing community to Idaho.

"Immigration looks bright here in Idaho. It's here, it exists and we need to find bet-

ter ways to actually address it streamline it to make sure that the economic development of the state of Idaho becomes even more successful," said Castillo.

According to the report immigrants contributed \$154 million to the State of Idaho through taxes in 2014. Idaho's largest immigrant populations come from Mexico, Canada, and China.

"The employers we represent still can't find the workers they need to fill jobs for which there aren't enough willing and able Americans," said Tamar Jacoby, Co-Chair of the Essential Worker Immigration Coalition and President of ImmigrationWorks USA. "We need immigration reform so employers can hire immigrants easily, safely and legally, keeping their companies growing and contributing to the economy."

The research was co-sponsored by Intel, the American Farm Bureau, the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, Google, Microsoft, the Western Growers Association, the National Council of Farmer Coops, and the United Fresh Produce Association and released the report at 62 news conferences across the nation.

"As state legislators and members of Congress debate proposals related to immigration, they should consider the multiple aspects of the issue," said Castillo. He added that the issues of border control, refugee citizenship and residency for immigrants are separate issues that deserve separate solutions.



**American Farm Bureau Federation estimates that annual net farm income will increase by \$4.4 billion, driven by an increase of direct U.S. agricultural exports of \$5.3 billion per year upon full implementation of the TPP agreement as compared to a scenario in which the U.S. fails to pass the agreement while the remaining member countries proceed apace.**

The TPP agreement is expected to increase cash receipts and net exports from Idaho by **\$174.9 million and \$112.8 million** per year respectively. It is estimated that the increased marketing opportunities for Idaho’s farmers and ranchers will add more than **850 jobs** to the Idaho economy. Eliminating tariffs and other trade barriers on Idaho’s agricultural exports to TPP-partner countries will increase trade for a range of Idaho agricultural products, including **vegetables, beef, dairy and processed food products**. Export sales make an important contribution to Idaho’s farm economy, which had total cash receipts of **\$8.7 billion in 2014**.

<b>GAINS FROM FULL TPP IMPLEMENTATION</b>		
<b>IDAHO</b>		
<b>Agricultural Product</b>	<b>Cash Receipts</b>	<b>Net Exports</b>
Corn	2,929.1	-392.3
Soybeans and Products	0.0	0.0
Wheat	1,672.1	-751.6
Cotton	0.0	0.0
Rice	0.0	0.0
Fruits and Nuts	0.0	0.0
Vegetables	27,058.6	24,082.2
Beef	26,920.1	24,827.3
Pork	0.0	0.0
Poultry	730.6	196.6
Dairy	18,090.5	8,617.6
Other Ag	97,492.5	56,190.4
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>174,893.5</b>	<b>112,770.1</b>

*Thousand \$USD*

**Failure to Lead:** It is critical to remember that the TPP is a multi-lateral agreement intended to create high quality rules and market access across its 12 members. However, outside of TPP, other member countries would – and indeed are – already negotiating and implementing bilateral agreements without waiting for the United States to complete action. While legally TPP would only go into full effect if the United States ratifies the agreement, other countries will move forward with their trade capabilities regardless of whether or not the United States decides to ratify the agreement. U.S. failure to enact TPP will not see our trade situation stay the same, but will lead to declining net exports and market share in important markets.

**Dairy:** Idaho's dairy industry leads all other agricultural industries in the state with \$3.2 billion in cash receipts in 2014. TPP passage is expected to increase dairy cash receipts by \$18.1 million per year, which is driven by an \$8.6 million per year increase in direct exports to TPP countries.

- Japan's cheese tariffs as high as 40 percent, will be eliminated in 16 years.
- Japan's tariffs on whey will be eliminated, while establishing safeguards for whey powder will be terminated within 18 years. Whey protein concentrate will be terminated within 24 years.
- Japan's whey for food tariffs, which currently face tariffs as high as 29.8 percent, will be eliminated in 21 years.
- Malaysia's dairy product tariffs as high as 5 percent, will be eliminated immediately.
- Vietnam's tariffs of 20 percent on cheese, milk powder, and whey will be eliminated immediately.
- New Zealand's and Brunei's tariffs on dairy products will be eliminated immediately.

**Beef:** Idaho's cattle industry produced \$2 billion in cash receipts in 2014. TPP passage is expected to increase beef cash receipts by \$26.9 million per year, which is driven by a \$24.8 million per year increase in direct exports to TPP countries.

- Japan will eliminate 74 percent of duties on beef imports within 16 years. This includes reducing a tariff of 38.5 percent to 9 percent within 16 years on fresh, chilled, and frozen beef cut. The World Trade Organization safeguard will also be replaced by the

TPP-wide safeguard, which is predicted to be less trade-limiting.

- Japan's beef offal tariffs as high as 21.3 percent will be eliminated in 6-16 years.
- Malaysia's tariffs on imports of beef will be eliminated.
- Vietnam's tariffs as high as 34 percent on beef, will be eliminated in 3-8 years.
- New Zealand's tariffs as high as 5 percent on beef, will be eliminated immediately.

**Processed Food and Fish:** In 2014, Idaho exported \$387.4 million of processed foods to TPP countries. As of 2012, there were 15,053 employees in Idaho's food manufacturing sector, with the largest subsector being dairy product manufacturing at 37% of food manufacturing.

- Japan's tariffs on lactose and lactose syrup, which are as high as 8.5 percent, will be eliminated immediately.
- Whipped cream, frozen yogurt, and various dairy- and cocoa-containing food, which currently face tariffs in Japan as high as 29.8 percent, will be 0 percent in 6-11 years.
- Ice cream, yogurt, blue cheese, and whole milk powder, which currently face tariffs in Japan as high as 35 percent, will be reduced 50 to 90 percent.
- Vietnam's tariffs on dairy products other than cheese, milk powder, and whey, which currently are as high as 20 percent, will be eliminated within 5 years.

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# KELLER

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Continued from page 2

As is common in life, we too often focus on what is happening within our own fence line for it holds our attention, it requires the here and now. Sometimes, however, we must walk the fence line and look to our neighbors and witness what affects them.

We express appreciation to the American Farm Bureau. Understanding the matters that affect us within our state and county boundaries, we more fully appreciate the issues the American Farm Bureau continually battles, often in our own defense.

The American Farm Bureau, with their teams of seasoned and qualified experts must embattle the massive and gargantuan bureaucracies of the federal govern-

ment. Scores of Farm Bureau squads walk the marble halls of the multiple federal institutions, seeking ways to reduce the government's unquenchable thirst to expand its roles and jurisdictions. Federal overregulation and unyielding requirements continually plague farmers and ranchers locally and state wide and Farm Bureau is there seeking to restrict these additional burdens.

A sampling of the issues the American Farm Bureau's team addressed just in the past few days are: EPA's proposed revisions to the NPDES regulations; USDA announces reopening the U.S. market to Brazilian beef exports; fuel economy and emission standards for heavy-duty trucks; DOL finalizes overtime rule; EPA's pend-

ing restriction on atrazine, a widely used herbicide; proposed rule for horse protection and designated inspectors; GMO disclosure legislation and rules; dairy assistance; immigration reform; checkoff programs; rural broadband; OSHA process safety management legislation; and the list goes on and on, every day for weeks, months and even years.

We express appreciation to the structure of the Farm Bureau, in which we have an American Farm Bureau representing agriculture beyond our fence line. That you for doing the day-to-day in the nation's Capital because we cannot, for we are committed within our own fence lines and don't have the time.

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# SEARLE

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Continued from page 2

ahead of the tax collector and the banker. Let's explore some of their strategies.

First, they are inquisitive, persistent and lifelong learners. They constantly seek information on what's new in agriculture and related business. When they come across things they don't understand, they find someone who does.

They are diversified. They know how to spread risk and they know that while all of their ventures aren't going to be profitable every year, some will. They don't always hit the top of the market but they know that even in the toughest years, they aren't going to have to live or die based on what happens with one or two commodities.

They know the markets. They read and study market trends and they understand how to make the markets work to their advantage.

They consistently produce quality crops, livestock and livestock products and many have their hands in direct marketing ventures to help avoid third parties

(middlemen).

This is not a comprehensive list but these are some of the qualities I have observed and admired from others. Another opportunity that all of us have is to take advantage of the services provided by Farm Bureau. First, we have a market consultant who gets how markets work. His name is Clark Johnston and he writes for this magazine eight times each year and holds marketing seminars all over the state. He's available for consulting. If you aren't taking advantage of his expertise, or another expert like him, you probably should.

Farm Bureau provides daily market reports, agriculture news and weather reports and DTN market information free of charge to members. DTN alone costs several hundred dollars a year. Take advantage of these services, they can help.

Farm Bureau provides a voice for farmers and ranchers. We are a grassroots organization and we get our marching orders from our members every Decem-

ber when they meet and update our policy book. Agriculture isn't sustainable if it isn't profitable. One of our main goals, included in our mission statement is to strengthen agriculture. *"The Idaho Farm Bureau is a voluntary grassroots organization dedicated to strengthening agriculture and protecting the rights, values and property of our member families and their neighbors."*

Interest in the political process tends to ebb and flow but definitely gains momentum when commodity prices are in the ditch. Our policy book is sound, but we know there are many good ideas out there that have yet to be vetted. Make your voice heard.

In closing, I hope you all have a safe harvest season. But after the tractors and combines are parked and the cows are brought home to pasture, stay involved in the political process and encourage your neighbors to do the same. Working together we can be assured that agriculture will remain the backbone of Idaho's economy.



# Those big moments in life?

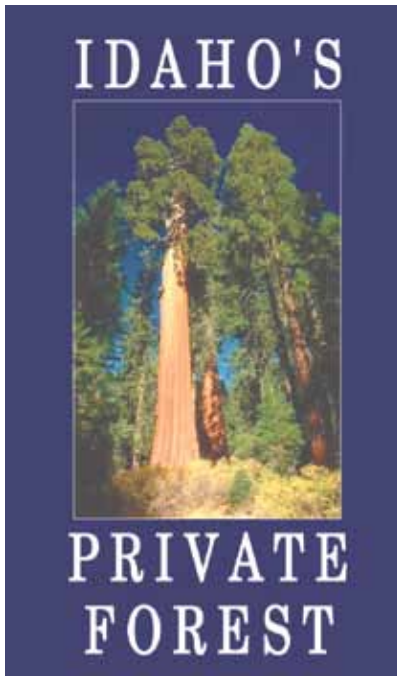
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# Shrubs Are Part of the Forest Too



By Chris Schnepf

Many of our UI Extension forestry programs include time spent helping people identify trees. But many landowners who are fairly confident naming Idaho trees, struggle identifying Idaho shrubs.

In part, this is because we have so many shrub species. The *Field Guide to Forest Plants of Northern Idaho* lists over 50 shrubs found in Idaho forests. These plants vary in stature from ground covers, such as kinnikinnick, to near-trees, such as Rocky Mountain maple. Too often, these plants are dismissed as an understory backdrop. But shrubs live fairly large in Idaho forests, especially in the early stages of forest development after a fire or stand regeneration harvest. They are worth knowing and considering in forest management decisions, as they provide many forest benefits and some challenges as well.

## Post-Fire

One thing shrubs do well is stabilize soils after a fire. If a site has shrubs prior to a fire, they revegetate the site remarkably quickly after a fire because shrubs usually have latent buds in the root crown that re-sprout (unless the fire was especially harsh), creating fresh tops from old root systems.

Shrubs can be a serious hindrance to reforestation projects.

On sites shrubs were not present before the site burned or was harvested, they often colonize the site promptly. Shrubs may come from seeds spread by wind (e.g., Rocky Mountain maple seed wings), seeds deposited from by wildlife consumption of fruits (e.g., berries) or seed stored many years in the forest floor. For example, shiny-leaf Ceanothus (*Ceanothus velutinus*) seeds can remain dormant and viable in the forest floor for hundreds of years, until a fire or some other type of disturbance raises soil temperatures enough to germinate them. Most trees do not store seeds for more than a few years in the forest floor.

Hot fires remove nitrogen from a site. Many shrubs have adapted to this by packing their own lunch. Species such as ceanothus, snowberry, and alders fix nitrogen from the air, ultimately helping replenish site nitrogen lost in fires. While nitrogen from shrubs may help conifer regeneration in some situations, that value must be balanced against shrubs' demands for mois-

ture, which is usually the most limiting factor to Idaho forest tree growth.

## Wildlife

All of our shrubs benefit wildlife species in varied ways. Shrubs provide thermal cover and nesting sites for a variety of birds. Many shrubs are also important food sources for deer, elk, and moose, especially during winter. One of my first calls as an extension forester in Orofino in the late 1980s was from the US Army Corps of Engineers. They wanted to stop tent caterpillars' feeding on redstem ceanothus they had planted to mitigate elk habitat lost when the pool behind Dworshak dam was filled. These were small clearcuts managed primarily to grow shrubs for elk browse.

## Non-Timber Forest Products

Idaho's state fruit – huckleberry – comes from a forest shrub. Many other foods are harvested from Idaho shrubs including serviceberries, chokecherries, black-caps, and raspberries, to name a few. Some of these



Herbicides are commonly used on shrubs for reforestation.

can be quite tart straight off the plant, but are often mixed with sugar to create jams, jellies, syrups, and many other foods. For the most part, these fruits are harvested for personal use, but some shrub fruits are harvested commercially, often by people who need the income the most. Not all shrub fruits are edible, and some require special preparation. For example, elderberries can be poisonous if they are not harvested and prepared correctly. Local bookstores often carry popular booklets with instructions and recipes for edible fruits from Idaho shrubs.

### The Trouble with Shrubs

For all their positive attributes, shrubs sometimes impede other forest management goals. Shrubs can be fierce competitors with tree seedlings for moisture and sunlight. This can impede reforestation, especially on dry sites. Some northern Idaho sites have been dominated by shrubs for over 50 years. Once shrubs fully occupy a site, it becomes more and more expensive to reduce them sufficiently for successful reforestation. Shrubs can also be a fire hazard in some areas, especially next to

homes.

### Managing Forest Shrubs

Strategies to manage forest shrubs vary with the site and management objectives. The first step to managing shrubs is to correctly identify the species of shrubs present on the site. The print and online tools listed at the end of this article can help you identify shrubs, understand their biology and ecology, and assess treatment strategies.

Around a home you might be able to deal with shrubs by cutting them. But cutting shrubs without additional treatment is likely a continual commitment. Most Idaho shrubs will keep re-sprouting from mechanical top removal the same way they respond to top removal by fire, especially if they are allowed any growth that replenishes their roots.

Continually cutting back shrubs is even less practical for forest management, so herbicides are often an important part of strategies to manage forest shrubs. Different herbicides have varying degrees of effectiveness on different shrubs (one of the reasons it is important to correctly identify

shrubs). Methods to get the chemical into the plant include foliar sprays, applications to cut stumps or cut surfaces, and basal bark treatments, whereby herbicide is mixed with an oil that allows the herbicide to penetrate the bark at the base of the shrub.

The annually updated PNW Weed Control Handbook is an excellent resource for shrub management. Hard copies are available, but since it is updated annually, it is probably best to get it online at <http://pnwhandbooks.org/weed> - click on "Contents", then "Forestry and Hybrid Cottonwoods", then the "Forestry and Hybrid Cottonwoods" PDF icon on left of page to get species by species recommendations. Always follow the pesticide label exactly when using these materials and be aware of Idaho forest practice laws regarding chemical uses, especially if you are considering treating areas near streams.

Other strategies to ensure prompt reforestation in the context of shrubs include planting larger seedlings on a site and us-

*See UI FORESTRY page 31*

# Idaho Farm Bureau Online

**Idaho Farm Bureau Homepage**  
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In addition, the local FFA chapters designated on the winning tickets will receive a portion of the total ticket proceeds.

Tickets may be purchased from your local FFA chapter or the Idaho FFA Foundation. **The drawing will be on April 7, 2017 at the Idaho State FFA Leadership Conference in Twin Falls. Need not be present to win.**

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For more information about the Tractor Raffle, visit: [www.idffaoundation.org](http://www.idffaoundation.org)

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# Focus on Agriculture

## Free Trade Makes Good Sense for U.S. Ag

By Kari Barbic and Veronica Nigh

America's farmers and ranchers support free trade. And when you look at the numbers it's not hard to see why.

Between 2003 and 2015, U.S. agricultural exports to countries we have trade agreements with increased more than 136 percent – from \$24.1 billion to \$57 billion. During the same time period, U.S. ag exports to countries where we don't have trade agreements (excluding China) only increased by 84 percent.

1. Trade agreements generate more ag business, a lot more.

Farmers and ranchers do more business where the U.S. has established free trade agreements. More customers equal more business: Logic alone makes that case. But the numbers backing up the facts and logic are staggering. In the 20 years following the signing of NAFTA, our total exports to Canada and Mexico have quadrupled, growing from \$8.9 billion in 1993 to \$38.6 billion in 2015. The U.S. enjoys a 65 percent market share in the NAFTA market, compared to our market share in countries where we don't have a trade agreement (11 percent). Before NAFTA, Canada was the fourth leading U.S. market. It is now the number one market for our agricultural exports, and by far the largest U.S. market for high-value consumer-oriented products. Mexico's imports

of feedstuff from the United States are closely linked to its quickly growing poultry and pork industries. It is the top market for U.S. corn, soybean meal, and poultry, as well as the second largest market for U.S. pork. But North America isn't the only place ag business has picked up, thanks to free trade agreements. In Asia-Pacific countries like Singapore and Australia, where we have trade agreements, U.S. ag exports have more than doubled and tripled, respectively.

2. We need trade agreements to level the playing field for our goods abroad.

While American-grown food, fuel and fiber is prized around the world for quality and value, high tariffs and non-scientific trade barriers place our products at a disadvantage in countries where we have no free trade agreement. Why buy the best, when you can get second best at half the cost? We don't have to look far from our shores to see how this plays out. In Cuba, financing restrictions on U.S. products have placed us behind other countries in trade there.

The U.S. share of the Cuban market has slipped dramatically, from a high of 42 percent in the 2009 fiscal year to only 16 percent in fiscal year 2014. The United States is now Cuba's third-largest supplier, after the European Union and Brazil.

Without agreements that look out for American business,



Idaho farmers produce yellow peas (pictured), garbanzo beans, lentils and other pulse crops for export.

Photo by Steve Ritter

other countries quickly turn to more accessible markets. Other countries will, and do, trade freely without us. The negotiating table, not the podium, is the place for tough talk that protects American businesses and increases our reach to markets abroad. But it's harder to be taken

seriously in those negotiations if we don't swiftly pass deals that have been hammered out for the overall good of the U.S. economy.

3. Agricultural exports support jobs on U.S. soil, beyond the ag industry.

See FOCUS ON AGRICULTURE page 31



Potlatch farmer Terry Largent

# Horse Candy

*Article and photos by Bob Smathers*

Export hay grower Terry Largent farms in northern Idaho just north of Potlatch. Largent finished harvesting his Timothy hay in late July. He said they were late this year because of cool, wet weather that lasted well into July.

Largent said he is experimenting with a new grass that may fit nicely into his Timothy hay rotation. "Teff grass is raised mainly for the horse people, in fact this variety is called horse candy," he said.

"It's a new crop for us up here; it's an annual grass." Largent expects it to be a good rotation crop with a yield of about two and one half tons per acre on the

first cutting and in a good year perhaps a second cutting may be possible. He will harvest his Teff grass in early August this year, then the ground will be planted back into Timothy Hay this fall. Teff will give Largent a crop during what would normally be a fallow year in the Timothy rotation. "A Timothy Crop will last four to six years before it has to be taken out and rotated with other crops for a few years," he said.

Largent's main emphasis is on Timothy Hay for export. His Timothy is typically hauled to Ellensburg, Washington, where it is processed into small compact bales. The large bales from his farm are run through a device that shreds the hay similar to what a French fry cutter



Teff is an annual grass being used as a rotational crop by farmer Terry Largent in North Idaho.

does to potatoes. The hay is then compressed into 14" by 18" bales weighing about 60 pounds each that are palletized and put into containers.

The containers are then railed from Ellensburg to the Port at Seattle/Tacoma where they will be loaded onto sea vessels and shipped to Japan.

# It's Never Too Early to Look at Next Year

*By Clark Johnston*

Grain harvest is over in some areas and winding down in others and in the mornings you can feel just a little fall in the air. The bids for your commodities are most definitely depressed which leaves producers trying to follow their marketing plan as best they can or just forgetting about marketing until they absolutely are forced into contracting grain.

Since the first of the year the December wheat contract has moved 52 cents lower. If we look at the spikes that contract has experienced it looks worse than this. The December wheat contract is down 81 cents from the third week in April and \$1.03 lower than we were the second week in June.

Looking at this, how many of us would like to trade with just a little hind sight? In a perfect world we could be delivering soft white today for a dollar a bushel higher than the current posted bids in the market. Even if I don't use the highest market to price and just use a level of 50 cents per bushel higher than the current bid, I dare say that there would be a large amount of wheat contracting right now if the market was 50 cent per bushel higher than the current bid.

There may be some of you that are sick and tired of hearing me talk about marketing where you separate the futures and basis. Well, you aint seen nothin yet!

I don't want you to give up on this crop year but, I feel that it is important to begin looking at how to market your 2017 crop. First of all, let's look at December 2017 wheat futures. Currently the carry charge in the market between December 2016 and 2017 is 73 cents per bushel. Remember, the carry charge is telling us that there is a good supply of wheat and the market is paying you to store on the farm for delivery at a later date.

If you could contract your wheat for next year at 73 cents per bushel higher than today's level would you do it? This is the question that each of you need to answer for yourselves, and if you would then let's figure out just how to accomplish this goal.

The first step is to have your lender on board with your marketing plan. Present your 2017 crop year budget along with your plan to use futures in your marketing in an effort to limit your price risk in the cash grain market.

Discuss with them that this is a partnership between you and them and how with their help you have a very good chance to be profitable in 2017. This should at least interest them enough to listen.

There are programs and policies in the market place that help you in the case of a crop failure. These are good and have a place in your plan but, don't get these confused with tools in the market that help you be profitable. Some of these plans lock in a



**Clark Johnston**

floor but you still need to do a good job in marketing your commodities.

At this time the market is giving you the opportunity to lock in the futures side of your price equation for next year. Even you corn producers have the opportunity as the December 2017 futures are trading 40 cents higher than the current market.

I know that for many of you the word futures makes you very uneasy but they are here to stay and they play a very large part of your pricing in the cash market. Let's learn how to make them work for you as you move forward in your operation.

Technology has changed the way you produce your crops. Not many, (if any) would like to go back to farming the way you did in years past. The same applies to marketing. Things change, and the way you marketed just a few years ago may not be profitable in the years ahead. Let's use the tools that are available and will be available to help us remain profitable in the industry.

*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](mailto:clark@jcmanagement.net)*





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# Top Farm Bureau Agents July 2016



Rookie of the Month:  
Brad Burbank  
Biggs Agency



Agent of the Month:  
Kendon Perry  
Rae Agency



Agency of the Month:  
Rae Agency

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- Sandpoint** (208) 263-1486
- Coeur D'Alene** (208) 772-7521
- Kamiah** (208) 743-9455
- Tremonton** (425) 257-3310



# County Happenings



Bannock County FB Young Farmers and Ranchers recently awarded a \$300 Livestock Scholarship to Mekell Kofford, right. Mekell showed a market lamb at the County Fair. She has been working with market lambs for eight years. She is a junior at Marsh Valley High School. On the left and center are Bannock County Young Farmer Chairmen Matt and Jessica Henderson.

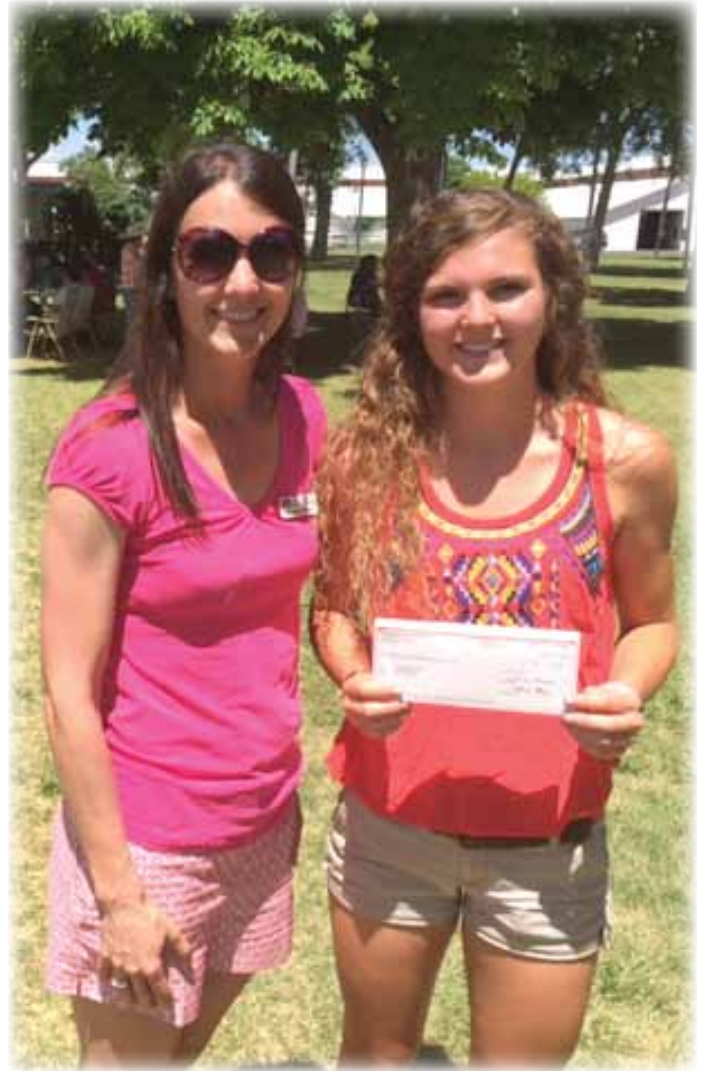
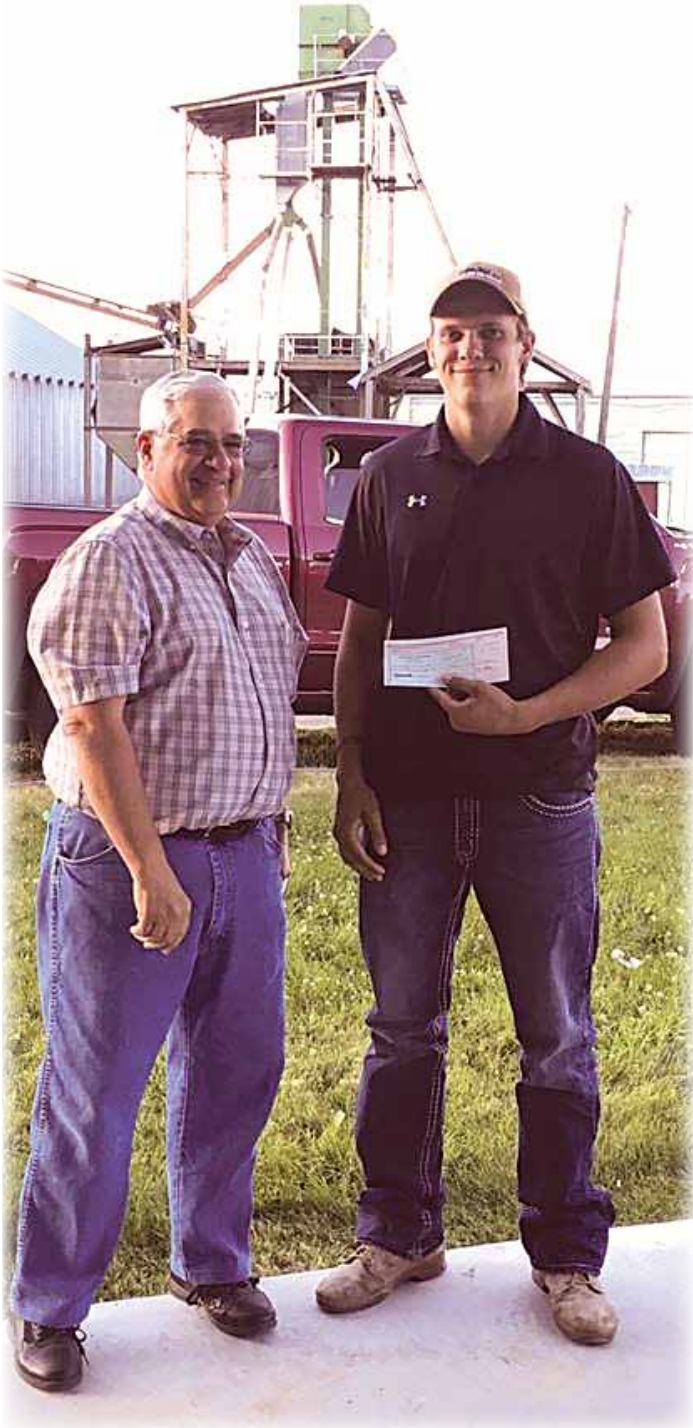


Bannock County Young Farmers and Ranchers recently awarded a \$200 Livestock Scholarship to Keston Pallensen, left. Keston showed a market hog at the Bannock County Fair. He has shown hogs for five years. He is an 8th grader at Marsh Valley Middle School. On the right is Bannock County YF&R Chair Jessica Henderson.



Bannock County Young Farmers and Ranchers recently awarded a \$100 Livestock Scholarship to Seth Barnes, center. This was his first year showing a market hog. He is a 4th grader at Downey Elementary. On the right is YF&R Chair Jessica Henderson and on the left is YF&R Chair Matt Henderson.

# County Happenings



Above: Twin Falls County Farm Bureau President Elizabeth Kohtz, left, presents a scholarship check to Hannah Bybee.

Left: Jerome County Farm Bureau President Carl Montgomery, left, recently awarded scholarship check to Doug Elorrieta, graduate of Valley High School.

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Chevrolet Colorado	Chevrolet HHR	Chevrolet Sonic	Chevrolet Trax
Chevrolet Corvette	Chevrolet Impala	Chevrolet Spark	Chevrolet Volt
Chevrolet Cruze	Chevrolet Malibu	Chevrolet Suburban	

### GMC

GMC Acadia	GMC Yukon
GMC Canyon	GMC Yukon XL
GMC Savana	
GMC Sierra	
GMC Terrain	

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**Online Instructions:**

**Step 1:** At the bottom of the reservation box there is a box to check for discount and promo codes. After checking the box, type in 0409226 in the CDP code section. Proceed to make the rest of your reservation. Farm Bureau discount prices will now be shown instead of regular prices.

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**Online Instructions:**

**Step 1:** At the bottom of the reservation box there is a line that reads, "OPTIONAL: COUPON, CUSTOMER OR COPORATE NUMBER: Enter Farm Bureau code of "CID2197".

**Step 2:** When the screen asks for the first 3 letters of company name type in "FAR" for Farm Bureau. Farm Bureau discount prices will now be shown instead of regular prices.

**Online Instructions:**

**Step 1:** At the bottom of the reservation box there is a box labelled, "Avis Worldwide Discount (AWD) Number or Rate Code. Place A298812 in the box.

**Step 2:** Proceed to make the rest of your reservation. Farm Bureau discount prices will now be shown instead of regular prices.

# UI FORESTRY

Continued from page 19

ing mulches or mats to reduce competing vegetation. These approaches can be used alone or in combination with herbicides.

Some are apprehensive about herbicides. It is appropriate to be cautious about applying any pesticide. But remember the context. Generally, forest shrub treatments are focused on controlling shrubs just enough to get trees established and free to grow. So, we are typically talking about one herbicide application that only takes place every 40-50 years (or longer), on sites with a great deal of organic matter that keeps most herbicides tied to the site. As long as the applicator carefully follows label recommendations and Idaho forest practice laws, both human health and forest health should be secure.

Depending on objectives, some landowners might actually want to revitalize shrubs. For example, old shrub fields can



Idaho's state fruit comes from a forest shrub.

lose much of their nutritional value for wildlife. If elk, deer, and moose browse is the primary value for the site, a prescribed burn or mechanical treatment may reinvigorate the shrubs for that purpose. Most commonly this is done on public lands by professionals with extensive training and exper-

ience in making prescribed burns. Private landowners should not attempt such burns without qualified professional help.

Shrubs are a vital part of Idaho's forests. By knowing what you have, how they grow, and how to manage them, you can enjoy the benefits of shrubs and

keep them from stifling other forest management objectives.

*Chris Schnepf is an area extension educator – forestry – for the University of Idaho in Bonner, Boundary, Kootenai and Benewah counties. He can be reached at [cschnepf@uidaho.edu](mailto:cschnepf@uidaho.edu)*

# FOCUS ON AGRICULTURE

Continued from page 22

Increasing trade is good for U.S. farmers and ranchers, as well as for the jobs and industries agriculture supports. USDA estimates that every \$1 billion in exports supports 7,550 American jobs throughout the economy. That means that increased exports to FTA partners have added nearly 250,000 jobs to the U.S. economy. Agriculture is not an isolated industry: it's integral to thousands of businesses. Consider a bottle of Kentucky bourbon. Beyond the farmers growing the corn bourbon is distilled from, there's white oak barrel construction for aging the spirits, and glass-making for the final bottling and distribution. Each is

a separate industry representing skilled workers-workers who probably wouldn't identify themselves as part of the export business-but that's just what they are as soon as a batch of Maker's Mark is shipped to Japan.

Increasing international trade also benefits consumers, with access to more competitively priced products, new varieties of food and off-season supplies of fresh produce. For example, trade liberalization has facilitated U.S. imports of grape tomatoes and fresh avocados from Mexico, while Mexico has become the largest market for U.S. apples and pears. For tropical fruits

such as bananas, mangos, pineapples, and others, imports have been filling the demand gaps from a lack of or inadequate U.S. production.

Farmers and consumers alike can look at the numbers and do the math. Free trade agreements make sense if we want to see more competitive prices, a variety of goods in our own marketplace and greater yields for American-grown businesses.

*Kari Barbic is a media specialist and Veronica Nigh is an economist at the American Farm Bureau Federation.*

## New Poll Shows Strong Support for TPP

WASHINGTON, D.C., August 23, 2016 -- A new poll from Morning Consult shows most voters favor fair trade - something all candidates should keep in mind as a congressional vote on the Trans-Pacific Partnership agreement comes closer to reality.

“Most Americans support free trade,” American Farm Bureau Federation President Zippy Duvall said, “and most farmers do, too. Exports account for almost a quarter of American farm receipts, so opposing fair trade

agreements like TPP doesn't make a lot of sense to rural America.”

Among other things, the August poll found:

- Fifty-seven percent of registered voters have a favorable view of “fair trade.”
- Fifty percent said they would be more likely to support TPP if they knew it would provide new markets overseas for U.S. farm products.
- After Americans were told

TPP would increase net farm income by \$4.4 billion and agricultural exports by \$5.3 billion, 52 percent said they would be more likely to support TPP. More than half (51 percent) say an estimated increase of 40,100 jobs resulting from the agreement would make them more likely to support TPP.

- Fifty-two percent of voters say they would be more likely to support TPP if they knew the deal would increase annual income in the U.S. by \$131 billion.

• Sixty-nine percent of voters support trade policies that will open new markets for U.S. products and U.S. farmers while less than one in 10 (8 percent) oppose.

“Most trade deals start out with loud opposition, only to fade away once the details become known,” Duvall said. “We are convinced TPP is no different: The more people know, the more they will support this vitally important agreement.”

## President signs national biotech disclosure into law

Aug. 2, 2016-President Barack Obama on July 29 signed into law a Farm Bureau-supported measure that puts a stop to the harmful patchwork of state GMO labeling laws by setting in place a uniform, national disclosure system that will provide balanced, accurate information to consumers.

“For decades, biotechnology has made it possible for farmers to grow safe and healthful crops while reducing their environmental impact. We are pleased that Congress and the administration have moved swiftly to prevent consumer confusion and protect agricultural innovation,” American Farm Bureau Federation President Zippy Duvall said in a statement.

The law is based on a mandatory disclosure mechanism that

requires food companies to provide information through an on-package statement, symbol or some other means of electronic disclosure abiding by standards developed and regulated by USDA. It gives USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service one year to study consumer access to digitally disclosed information and two years to finalize a rule implementing the law.

Some other key elements of the newly enacted law:

Strong federal preemption effective date of enactment that protects interstate commerce and prevents state-by-state labeling laws.

USDA will direct formal rule-making to set national definitions and standards for the labeling of products that may

contain ingredients derived from biotechnology; prohibits the use of disparaging information relative to biotechnology.

Strong, narrow definition of bioengineering for labeling purposes aimed at protecting emerging/new breeding techniques.

Food manufacturers defined as “very small” would be exempt from the disclosure requirement entirely. AMS will set the thresholds.

Meat and dairy products would not be considered GMO products just because the animals were fed GMO feed, and products such as soup in which meat is the lead ingredient would be exempt, even if there is a minor biotech ingredient such as high fructose corn syrup. However, animals that are genetically en-

gineered, such as some types of salmon, would fall under the disclosure requirements.

USDA would have no authority to issue or require recalls of products that do not comply with the labeling requirements, and there would be no federal penalties for violations. States, however, could impose fines for violations of the standards under state consumer protection rules.

Products that are certified organic by USDA could be labeled as non-GMO.

AMS has established a website for the new biotech program. The website can be found here: <https://www.ams.usda.gov/rules-regulations/gmo>



## Farmer of the Year Contest Launched

LEWISTON, MAINE, August 17, 2016 - Farmers' Almanac, in partnership with the American Farm Bureau Federation, announces its search for three farmers or ranchers to be recognized as "Farmers' Almanac Farmer of the Year."

The contest, announced in the special 200th Collector's Edition of the 2017 Farmers' Almanac, seeks to recognize and share the dedication, hard work and contributions farmers make to our world and society. Stories of outstanding individuals who work hard to bring food to our tables are sought.

"We're looking for farmers and ranchers who have figured out how to keep their centuries-old, family run farms alive and thriving, as well as newcomers who may have just started out in farming or ranching," said Farmers' Almanac Managing Editor Sandi Duncan, Philom. "The people who work in agriculture are vital to our everyday life and we'd like to honor them in the pages of the Farm-

ers' Almanac."

AFBF President Zippy Duvall added, "Farmers and ranchers have long used their ingenuity and tireless work ethic to preserve natural resources and build up local communities while producing food, fiber and fuel for consumers here at home and around the world. We're pleased to join the Farmers' Almanac in launching the Farmer of the Year program."

Nominations must highlight, in 300 words or less, the following criteria:

**Supporting the Tradition:** How long has the nominee been in their field? How did he or she get involved in agriculture and why?

**Innovation in Agriculture:** How the nominee has embraced technology or new ways of farming and ranching;

**Community Involvement:** How has the nominee engaged his/her community to support agriculture and/or teach us more about farming overall; and

**Inspiration:** How the nominee is a true leader in agriculture and deserves to be recognized.

All nominations must be received by Jan. 31, 2017, and must be submitted online at [FarmersAlmanac.com/FarmeroftheYear](http://FarmersAlmanac.com/FarmeroftheYear).

Three winners will be announced in the 2018 Farmers' Almanac and will be offered reimbursement for a one-year membership to the Farm Bureau in their county of residence and a lifetime subscription to the Farmers' Almanac. Each of their stories will also be featured in the pages of the 2018 Farmers' Almanac and on the [FarmersAlmanac.com](http://FarmersAlmanac.com) web site.

*About the American Farm Bureau The American Farm Bureau Federation, established in 1919, is an independent, non-governmental, voluntary organization governed by and representing farm and ranch families united for the purpose of analyzing their problems and*

*formulating action to achieve educational improvement, economic opportunity and social advancement and, thereby, to promote the national well-being. Farm Bureau is the voice of agricultural producers at all levels. For more information, visit [www.fb.org](http://www.fb.org) and follow on Twitter, Facebook and Instagram.*

*About the Farmers' Almanac Plan your day. Grow your life. Time-tested and generation approved, the Farmers' Almanac is a compendium of knowledge on weather, gardening, cooking, home remedies, healthy living, managing your household, preserving the Earth and more. In 2017 Farmers' Almanac celebrates its 200th anniversary with a special edition that includes original advice and lore from the early days of this American icon (on store shelves Aug. 15). "It's what you read when you want to reconnect." Follow Farmers' Almanac on Facebook, Twitter, Pinterest and Instagram.*

## Farm Bureau backs Farm Regulatory Certainty Act

Farm Bureau is urging support for legislation that clarifies congressional intent regarding the inappropriate application of regulations under the Resources Conservation and Recovery Act of 1976 to agricultural nutrient management.

The legislation, sponsored by

Rep. Dan Newhouse (R-Wash.), was prompted by a January 2015 ruling in which a federal judge in Spokane, Washington, sided with environmental activists who brought a lawsuit against several dairies in the state for what they claimed was inappropriate storage and handling of animal manure.

Specifically, the Farm Regulatory Certainty Act (H.R. 5685) would reaffirm and clarify congressional intent regarding the inappropriateness of subjecting agricultural byproducts to RCRA; codify the Environmental Protection Agency's regulations regarding the treatment of agricultural byprod-

ucts under RCRA; and prevent farmers who are already engaged in legal action or are making a diligent attempt to work with state or federal governments to address nutrient management issues from being targeted by citizen lawsuits.

# Idaho News Briefs

## Important Crop Insurance Deadline

Producers in Idaho, Oregon, and Washington Need to Make Decisions Soon

SPOKANE, Wash., – USDA's Risk Management Agency (RMA) reminds Pacific Northwest producers to apply for crop insurance coverage for the 2017 crop year before the sales closing dates. Current policyholders who wish to make changes to their existing coverage

also have until the sales closing dates to do so. Crop insurance provides protection against crop production losses due to natural perils such as drought, hail, and excessive moisture.

The sales closing date for fall-planted barley with winter coverage in select counties in Idaho, Oregon, and Washington is September 30. The sales closing date for fall-planted dry peas and lentils with winter

coverage in select counties in Idaho and Washington is September 30. The sales closing date for forage (alfalfa) seed and for mint with winter coverage in Idaho, Oregon, and Washington is September 30. The sales closing date for wheat in Idaho, Oregon, and Washington is September 30.

Producers are encouraged to visit their crop insurance agent soon to learn specific details for the 2017

crop year. Crop insurance is sold and delivered solely through private crop insurance agents. A list of crop insurance agents is available at all USDA Service Centers and online at the RMA [Agent Locator](#). Producers can use the RMA [Cost Estimator](#) to get a premium amount estimate of their insurance needs online. Learn more about crop insurance and the modern farm safety net at [www.rma.usda.gov](http://www.rma.usda.gov).

# National News Briefs

## Conference For Women In Sustainable Agriculture

“Building Connections towards Resiliency” this November

Portland, OR, - The 5th National Conference for Women in Sustainable Agriculture will bring together farmers, educators, technical assistance providers and activists engaged in healthy food and farming to share educational and organization strategies, build technical and business skills, and address policy issues aimed at expanding the success of

women farmers and ranchers.

Every few years, a regional women's network or agricultural organization takes the lead in planning this national conference for women, supported by the Women, Food & Ag Network (WFAN) and others. The first national conference was held in fall 2005 in Vermont. This year, organization of the conference is being led by Oregon State University Small Farms with support from a national team of leaders in sustainable agriculture and agricultural women's organizations.

The conference is scheduled November 30 through December 2, 2016, at the Doubletree by Hilton Portland, and will feature keynote speaker Natasha Bowen, founder of the The Color of Food, a multimedia project focusing on Black, Latino, Native and Asian farmers. Participants will also enjoy eight concurrent, interactive workshop sessions, a trailblazer panel of venerable sustainable agriculture pioneers, a diverse sponsor trade show, author roundtable, incredible tours of area food and farms, and capstone speaker Cathy Whims, Chef and owner

of Nostrana, a top Portland restaurant.

Registration for the conference only is \$200. Tour selections and additional events may be added for a modest fee. Sponsorships are still available. For \$200, sponsors receive an 8' table and may sell product at the trade show. Registration, tour descriptions, lodging information and more are live on the conference website, <http://2016wisa.org/>, and news and updates will be posted to Facebook: [www.facebook.com/WiSA2016](http://www.facebook.com/WiSA2016).

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## FARM BUREAU COMMODITY REPORT

GRAIN PRICES	7/27/2016	8/22/2016	Trend
<b>PORTLAND:</b>			
White Wheat	5.09-5.21	4.85-4.95	- .24 to - .26
11% Winter	4.87-5.12	4.77-4.97	- .10 to - .15
14% Spring	5.63-5.98	6.00-6.15	+ .37 to + .17
Oats cwt	220.00	225.00	+ 5.00
<b>OGDEN:</b>			
White Wheat	4.09	4.07	- .02
11% Winter	3.77	3.93	+ .16
14% Spring	4.98	5.15	+ .17
Barley	5.70	5.55	- .15
<b>BLACKFOOT/ IDAHO FALLS:</b>			
White Wheat	3.70	3.60	- .10
11.5% Winter	3.90	3.90	Steady
14% Spring	4.70	5.00	+ .30
Hard White	4.52	4.10	- .42
<b>BURLEY:</b>			
White Wheat	4.00	3.75	- .25
11% Winter	3.30	3.27	- .03
14% Spring	4.61	4.77	+ .16
Barley	5.50	5.50	Steady
<b>NAMPA:</b>			
White Wheat (cwt)	7.00	No Bid	N/A
(Bushel)	4.20	No Bid	N/A
<b>LEWISTON:</b>			
White Wheat	4.90	4.68	- .22
H. Red Winter	4.87	4.88	+ .01
Dark N. Spring	5.73	5.90	+ .17
Barley	116.50	106.50	- 10.00
<b>LIVESTOCK PRICES</b>			
	7/26/2016	8/19/2016	Trend
<b>FEEDER STEERS</b>			
Under 500 lbs	130-165	130-180	Steady to + 15
500-700 lbs	124-153	125-170	+ 1 to + 17
700-900 lbs	112-143	115-146	+ 3
Over 900 lbs	100-130	109-134	+ 9 to + 4
<b>FEEDER HEIFERS</b>			
Under 500 lbs	120-156	127-164	+ 7 to + 8
500-700 lbs	118-152	120-146	+ 2 to - 6
700-900 lbs	115-130	110-138	- 5 to + 8
Over 900 lbs	90-120	114-126	+ 24 to + 6
<b>HOLSTEIN STEERS</b>			
Under 700 lbs	83-113	No Test	NA
Over 700 lbs	86-98	No Test	NA
<b>COWS</b>			
Utility/Commercial	63-90	64-83	+ 1 to - 7
Canner & Cutter	55-76	59-74	+ 4 to - 2
Stock Cows	850-1200	No Test	N/A
<b>BULLS</b>			
Slaughter	72-100	72-100	Steady
<b>BEAN PRICES:</b>			
Pinto	28.00-30.00	29.00-30.00	+ 1.00 to steady
Pink	Not established	Not established	Not established
Small Red	Not established	Not established	Not established
Garbanzo	34.00-36.00	34.00-36.00	Steady

COMPILED BY THE IDAHO FARM BUREAU COMMODITY DIVISION

# IDAHO HAY REPORT

August 19, 2016

Compared to last Friday: All grades of Alfalfa steady. Trade near standstill on Alfalfa with light demand as exporters and dairies quit buying. Retail/feed store/horse not tested this week. All prices are dollars per ton and FOB the farm or ranch unless otherwise stated.

Tons: 700 Last Week: 1235 Last Year: 670

Alfalfa	Tons	Price Range	Wtd Avg	Comments
Large Square				
Supreme	200	180.00-180.00	180.00	Del
Premium	500	110.00-125.00	119.00	

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

August 23, 2016

## Potatoes

UPPER VALLEY, TWIN FALLS-BURLEY DISTRICT, IDAHO--- Shipments (2015 crop) 594-452-174 (includes exports of 12-7-1) ---Movement expected to decrease seasonally. Remaining supplies in too few hands to establish a market. UPPER VALLEY, TWIN FALLS-BURLEY DISTRICT, IDAHO---Shipments (2016 crop) 29-213-424 (includes exports of 0-1-2) ---Movement expected to increase as more shippers start to receive new crop potatoes. Trading moderate. Prices lower. Russet Norkotah U.S. One baled 10-5 pound film bags non size A mostly 6.00; 50-pound carton 40-70s 11.00, 80s 8.00-8.50, 90-100s 7.00-7.50.

## Potatoes for Processing

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

## Onions - Dry

---Movement expected to continue to increase as more shippers receive onions. Trading moderate. Prices Yellow Spanish Hybrid U.S. One 50-pound sacks super colossal mostly 9.00, colossal mostly 8.00, jumbo mostly 7.00, medium mostly 6.00; 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.

# 5 YEAR GRAIN COMPARISON

Grain Prices.....08/22/2012.....8/21/2013.....8/25/2014.....8/25/2015.....8/22/2016

Portland:	08/22/2012	8/21/2013	8/25/2014	8/25/2015	8/22/2016
White Wheat.....	8.90	7.34	6.93	5.61	4.85-4.95
11% Winter.....	9.35-9.60	8.05-8.11	7.08-7.23	5.31-5.66	4.77-4.97
14% Spring.....	9.90	8.36	7.96	6.06	6.00-6.15
Corn.....	342-346.50	265-267.25	No Bid.....	250.00	4.37-4.39

## Ogden:

White Wheat.....	8.00	6.32	6.07	5.40	4.07
11% Winter.....	8.05	6.87	6.12	4.46	3.93
14 % Spring.....	8.68	7.58	6.82	5.46	5.15
Barley.....	13.50	8.30	6.35	6.35	5.55

## Pocatello:

White Wheat.....	7.70	5.90	No Bid.....	5.05	3.60
11% Winter.....	7.91	6.44	No Bid.....	4.10	3.90
14% Spring.....	8.39	6.89	No Bid.....	4.80	5.00
Barley.....	12.81	No Bid.....	No Bid.....	4.50	4.10

## Burley:

White Wheat.....	7.97	6.16	No Bid.....	4.94	3.75
11% Winter.....	7.93	6.51	No Bid.....	4.03	3.27
14% Spring.....	8.30	7.00	No Bid.....	4.78	4.77
Barley.....	13.00	8.75	No Bid.....	6.00	5.50

## Nampa:

White Wheat (cwt)	13.08	10.58	10.25	8.91	No Bid
(bushel)	7.85	6.35	6.15	5.35	No Bid

## Lewiston:

White Wheat.....	8.62	7.12	6.70	5.33	4.68
Barley.....	246.50	181.50	156.50	141.50	106.50

## Bean Prices:

Pintos.....	N/A	40.00-42.00	34.00-35.00	N/A	29.00-30.00
Garbonzo.....	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	34.00-36.00

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# MILK PRODUCTION

August 19, 2016

## July Milk Production up 1.4 Percent

Milk production in the 23 major States during July totaled 16.8 billion pounds, up 1.4 percent from July 2015. June revised production, at 16.7 billion pounds, was up 1.6 percent from June 2015. The June revision represented an increase of 9 million pounds or 0.1 percent from last month's preliminary production estimate.

Production per cow in the 23 major States averaged 1,946 pounds for July, 24 pounds above July 2015. This is the highest production per cow for the month of July since the 23 State series began in 2003.

The number of milk cows on farms in the 23 major States was 8.65 million head, 19,000 head more than July 2015, and 2,000 head more than June 2016.

## July Milk Production in the United States up 1.4 Percent

Milk production in the United States during July totaled 17.9 billion pounds, up 1.4 percent from July 2015.

Production per cow in the United States averaged 1,920 pounds for July, 23 pounds above July 2015.

The number of milk cows on farms in the United States was 9.33 million head, 18,000 head more than July 2015, and 2,000 head more than June 2016.



## 5 YEAR LIVESTOCK COMPARISON

	08/20/2012	8/20/2013	8/22/2014	8/25/2015	8/19/2016
Under 500 lbs.....	126-180	140-195	200-360	230-330	130-180
500-700 lbs.....	116-164	129-190	172-310	197-255	125-170
700-900 lbs.....	115-144	120-149	175-239	166-221	115-146
Over 900 lbs.....	101-130	97-138	148-207	160-197	109-134
<b>Feeder Heifers</b>					
Under 500 lbs.....	170-171	125-179	208-309	200-322	127-164
500-700 lbs.....	110-157	123-158	172-280	170-230	120-146
700-900 lbs.....	105-134	115-140	172-245	163-205	110-138
Over 900 lbs.....	92-12	83-135	166-204	160-199	114-126
<b>Holstein Steers</b>					
Under 700 lbs.....	75-110	67-115	150-216	140-200	No test
Over 700 lbs.....	75-100	81-105	149-190	130-172	No test
<b>Cows</b>					
Utility/Commercial.....	60-83	62-84	91-128	85-113	64-83
Canner & Cutter.....	53-77	60-82	83-112	75-101	59-74
Stock Cows.....	800-1200	N/A	1440-1900	1175-2600	No test
Bulls – Slaughter.....	72-93	70-109	110-149	98-143	72-100

## CATTLE ON FEED

August 19, 2016

### United States Cattle on Feed Up 2 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 10.2 million head on August 1, 2016. The inventory was 2 percent above August 1, 2015.

**Placements** in feedlots during July totaled 1.57 million head, 2 percent above 2015. Net placements were 1.52 million head. During July, placements of cattle and calves weighing less than 600 pounds were 352,000 head, 600-699 pounds were 235,000 head, 700-799 pounds were 360,000 head, and 800 pounds and greater were 625,000 head.

**Marketings** of fed cattle during July totaled 1.71 million head, 1 percent below 2015. Marketings were the lowest for July since the series began in 1996.

**Other disappearance** totaled 50,000 head during July, 11 percent below 2015.

## CATTLE OUTLOOK

August 19, 2016

USDA's August Cattle on Feed report said July marketings were down 0.7%, July placements up 1.6%, and the number of cattle on feed up 1.6% at the start of August. Daily marketings were much higher than last year as there were two fewer slaughter days in July this year compared to last year. Placements were higher than expectations. The average of pre-release trade forecasts was for July placements to be down 0.4%, July marketings down 0.7%, and the number on feed at the start of August up 1.3%.

The average retail price of choice beef was \$6.09 per pound during July. That was down 11 cents from the month before and down 27.5 cents from July 2015. July was a good month for middlemen. The farm to retail price spread for choice beef (\$3.54 per retail pound) was record high for the second consecutive month. The wholesale to retail price spread for choice beef (\$2.97 per retail pound) was the largest since October 2015. The farmer's share of the retail price was the lowest since December 2009.

The 5-area average price for slaughter steers was \$117.50/cwt in July. That was down \$5.50 from June, down \$31.30 from last July, and the lowest for any month since July of 2012.

This week fed cattle prices were steady in heavy sales volume. Through Thursday, the 5-area average price for slaughter steers sold on a live weight basis was \$117.54/cwt, up 63 cents from last week's average, but down \$29.73 from a year ago. The 5-area dressed steer price averaged \$186.06/cwt, down 80 cents from the week before and down \$46.49 from a year ago.

Beef cutout value was mixed this week. This morning, the choice boxed beef cutout value was \$200.15/cwt, down \$1.36 from the previous Friday. The select carcass cutout this morning was \$194.00/cwt, up 49 cents from last week.

This week's cattle slaughter totaled 599,000 head, up 3.6% from last week and up 9.9% from a year ago. The average steer dressed weight for the week ending on August 6 was 886 pounds, up 3 pounds from the week before, down 9 pounds from a year ago, and below the year-ago level for the 14th week in a row.

Feeder cattle prices were steady and stocker calf prices \$1 to \$3 higher this week at Oklahoma City. Prices for medium and large frame #1 steers by weight group were: 400-450# \$182.50, 450-500# \$167-\$171, 500-550# \$160-\$169, 550-600# \$155-\$169, 600-650# \$145-\$166.50, 650-700# \$144-\$164, 700-750# \$149.75-\$160, 750-800# \$141-\$154, 800-900# \$138-\$148 and 900-1000# \$130-\$140/cwt.

Cattle futures were lower this week. The August live cattle futures contract settled at \$113.55/cwt today, down \$2.77 for the week. October fed cattle settled at \$110.25/cwt, down \$4.27 from the previous Friday. December fed cattle futures settled at \$111.72/cwt. August feeder cattle futures ended the week at \$146.07/cwt, down \$3.00 from a week earlier. September feeder cattle lost \$3.70 this week to settle at \$143.85/cwt. October feeder cattle closed the week down \$3.05 at \$141.20/cwt.

**University of Missouri**

# CLASSIFIEDS

## Farm Equipment

1960 2 Ton Chevy with Miskin stack master dump/grain truck bed. \$2,500. Montevieu, ID Call 208-589-2526.

Industrial 2 wheel drive international 3444 loader tractor 4 cyl. gas, 4 spd. trans with high/low, forward/reverse, shuttle, dif. Lock, 3 point, lights, new paint and seat. \$4,950. New Holland 1046 self-propelled, balewagon V8 diesel, auto trans, runs and works good. \$4,950. Preston, ID 208-681-3581.

Challenger MT 755, 2209 hrs, annual service by Western States, Trimble A/S, (reduced) \$135,500.; John Deere 4850, \$22,500. 500hp US Motor, 480 volt, hollowshaft irrigation motor, \$20,000. '74 GMC 10 wheeler truck \$15,000. Call 208-220-5588 or e-mail: deegt@aol.com.

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

Gently used leather blend couch (coffee brown \$1500 new asking \$750 OBO). Two used recliners (leather blend dark brown \$150 each /\$250 for pair). Two Handmade end tables. Copper/brown color 1" glass squares each set by hand on 24" circle with three legs. (\$100 for the pair) 208-539-9656.

## Miscellaneous

Two 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.

## 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.

## Vehicles

Have several old cars for sale - 1952 Desoto Very restorable, 1948 Buick Sedan straight 8, 1958 apache chief one ton, 1959 Apache chief one ton, 1956 Chevy one ton. Some cars do run. Hazelton, ID. If interested call 208-431-3435

## Wanted

Want to buy John Deere model 49 snow blower and 30 inch hydraulic tiller to attach to SD316 garden tractor. Prefer good usable condition. 208-256-4375.

Want 5ft x 7ft flail mower. Can do some repairs if necessary. Call Terry 208-922-4539

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.

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