

Idaho Farm Bureau. **Quarterly**

Summer Issue • Volume 23 Issue 3

Idaho **A Global Seed Producer**



**Idaho Farm
Bureau Cares**

**Summer
Word Search**

**Potato Acres
Increase**

Farm bill for America's families



The clock is ticking for the farm bill as it is set to expire at the end of September. Farmers and ranchers aren't the only ones with eyes on the clock either.

In mid-July, the American Farm Bureau joined with a diverse group of agricultural, environmental, forestry, wildlife, nutrition and hunger advocates to launch the "Farm Bill for America's Families: Sustaining Our Future" campaign.

Together, we are calling for an effective 2023 farm bill this year, and we're inviting others to join us. We know the farm bill matters for all

Americans, and we cannot afford a delay.

At Farm Bureau, we are committed to ensuring that the 2023 farm bill provides the tools and resources all farmers and ranchers need.

Our advocacy work is already in full gear. It's been all hands on deck, across state and national staff and grassroots members and leaders, in laying the groundwork for the next farm bill.

And you better believe that we will be studying the new bill backwards and forwards to ensure it aligns with our grassroots policies. When we

See **DUVALL**, page 6

The President's Desk

By **Bryan Searle**

President Idaho Farm Bureau Federation

Ranchers, be cautious about signing 'voluntary agreements'



In a landmark water rights case, Idaho's Supreme Court in 2007 ruled the government cannot own in-stream stock watering rights on federal land because it doesn't own cattle.

Sixteen years later, the U.S. Bureau of Land Management and U.S. Forest Service are still trying to find a way around that ruling, known as the Joyce Livestock Decision.

[See a story on this issue on page 26.]

This time around, BLM and Forest Service are trying to get ranchers in the Bear River basin, as well as other areas, to sign voluntary agreements stating they are acting as limited agents of the

federal government when watering their cattle on federal grazing allotments.

We support ranchers doing what they deem to be right when it comes to their federal grazing permits, but we also caution them that signing these agreements would allow BLM and Forest Service to maintain those watering rights in their name.

It would also prohibit the rancher from filing for in-stream stock watering rights on that land in the future.

See **SEARLE**, page 6

Inside Farm Bureau

By **Zak Miller**

CEO Idaho Farm Bureau Federation

Cowboy conservation



Recently, the U.S. Bureau of Land Management (BLM) recommended a potentially scary new rule.

Like all federal agencies, the BLM has thousands upon thousands of rules. A fair question would be, why is this new rule so potentially harmful?

I will spare the technical details and explain it in my own words, primarily because it is far too technical and complicated for me to fully grasp, let alone explain.

The BLM manages public lands for multiple

uses and resources, including forage, timber, energy, habitat, grazing, recreation, and mining.

The agency must ensure a balanced combination of resource utilization to meet the current and future needs of the people.

Most agree that the principle of multiple use on public lands is reasonable, fair, and appropriate.

Back to the proposed scary rule. The BLM has proposed adding "conservation" as one of the multiple uses on public lands.

That term – conservation – is what makes the

See **MILLER**, page 7

President.....Bryan Searle, Shelley
 Vice President.....Richard Durrant, Meridian
 Executive Vice President/CEOZak Miller

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Dan Garner..... Clifton
 Austin Tubbs Malad
 Jason Fellows Weston
 Scott Steele Idaho Falls
 Doug Barrie Idaho Falls
 Travis McAfee Howe
 Darren Taber Shoshone
 Rick Pearson Hagerman
 Rick Brune..... Hazelton
 Cody Chandler Weiser
 Galen Lee New Plymouth
 Matt Dorsey Caldwell
 Marjorie French..... Princeton
 Tom Daniel Bonners Ferry
 Tom Mosman Craigmont
 Ray Searle Shelley

STAFF

Executive Assistant.....Cara Dyer
 V.P. - Operations..... Justin Patten
 Operations Assistant Elly MacDonald
 Dir. - Finance & Systems..... Tyler Moore
 YF&R - P&E Manager Ott Clark
 V.P. - Member Relations & Commodities.....Brody Miller
 Dist. I Regional Manager.....Kylee Urie
 Dist. II Regional Manager Camron Hammond
 Dist. III Regional ManagerZack Lanier
 Dist. IV Regional ManagerVacant
 Dist. V Regional ManagerBob Smathers
 Boise Office Manager.....Quinne Russell
 V.P. - Governmental AffairsRuss Hendricks
 Director - Governmental Affairs.....Braden Jensen
 V.P. - InformationJoel Benson
 Project Manager.....Kristy Lindauer
 Publications Editor/Media Contact Sean Ellis
 Broadcast Manager James Gallacci
 Videographer Jacob Christensen
 Director- Member Benefits Betty Inskip

Printed by: Adams Publishing Group, Pocatello, ID

IDAHO FARM BUREAU QUARTERLY

USPS #022-899, is published quarterly by the
 IDAHO FARM BUREAU FEDERATION,
 275 Tierra Vista Drive, Pocatello, ID 83201.

POSTMASTER send changes of address to:
 IDAHO FARM BUREAU QUARTERLY

P.O. Box 4848, Pocatello, ID 83205-4848.
 Periodicals postage paid at Pocatello, Idaho,
 and additional mailing offices.

Subscription rate: \$4.00 per year included
 in Farm Bureau dues.

MAGAZINE CONTACTS:

Idaho Farm Bureau Federation
 EDITOR (208) 239-4292 • ADS (208) 239-4279
 E-MAIL: seanellis@idahofb.org
 ADS: advertising@idahofb.org
 web: www.idahofb.org



Photo by Brad Elsberg, Elsberg Studios

A turnip seed field in Canyon County. See page 8 for a story on Idaho's \$600 million seed industry.

Table of Contents

- 4** Lamb Weston expansion project is a \$415 million investment in Idaho potatoes
- 8** Idaho a major global player in seed production
- 10** Summer Fun Word Search
- 12** Public lands grazing vital to the rural West
- 17** New poster features jewel beetles
- 18** Summer recipe: Refresh with barley
- 24** Wood boring Insects on the uptick in Idaho this summer
- 26** Farm Bureau cautions ranchers against signing 'voluntary agreements'
- 28** UI Extension plans giant pumpkin contest for Bannock County 4-H youth
- 32** Twin Falls County a major player in Idaho agriculture
- 34** Classifieds
- 36** Idaho potato acres up 12 percent over last year
- 38** Stockdogs and their handlers form dynamic team on ranches and at trials
- 40** A glance at planted acres in Idaho in 2023

COVER: Seed industry production manager Michael Talkington is shown in a carrot seed field in Canyon County. For a story on the state's \$600 million seed industry, see page 8. (Photo by Brad Elsberg, Elsberg Studios)



Lamb Weston photos

An aerial view of the \$415 million expansion project currently under way at Lamb Weston's American Falls facility.

Lamb Weston expansion project is a \$415 million investment in Idaho potatoes

By Sean Ellis
Idaho Farm Bureau Federation

AMERICAN FALLS – Lamb Weston is in the process of significantly expanding french fry production capacity at its American Falls facility.

The \$415 million-plus expansion project will increase capacity at the facility by about 40 percent and make it one of the largest frozen potato processing facilities in the world, according to Lamb Weston officials.

The expansion project is expected to result in about 12,000 additional acres of potatoes in Idaho, mainly in Power and Bingham counties, where most of the product for the facility is sourced.

The first leg of the three-phase project is complete and the other two legs are under way. Lamb

Weston officials expect the entire project to be completed by next June or July.

Lamb Weston officials, potato farmers and spud industry leaders basically view the expansion project as a \$415 million investment and belief in the future and strength of the Idaho potato industry.

“We continue to be confident about the long-term health and growth of the global french fry market,” Lamb Weston President and CEO Tom Werner said in a news release announcing the project.

Headquartered in Eagle, Idaho, Lamb Weston is one of the world's largest frozen potato companies and has facilities in American Falls, Twin Falls and around the globe.

Idaho is the No. 1 potato-producing state in the nation and most of those spuds are grown close to American Falls.

Mark Wynn, vice president of tax for Lamb Weston, said access to a reliable supply of high-quality potatoes was a big reason the company chose to locate the expansion at its American Falls facility.

“Idaho’s a great state for us to operate in and Idaho has a business-friendly environment,” he said. “We wouldn’t have made that investment unless we had confidence in being able to operate there long-term.”

Travis Blacker, industry relations director for the Idaho Potato Commission, said the expansion is a great sign for the state’s famous potato industry.

“They’re really investing in the Idaho potato industry because of the value of the growers, the brand and all the potato research we do at the University of Idaho,” he said.

The facility, which was built in 1961, sources potatoes mostly from Power County, where American Falls is located, and neighboring Bingham County, the nation’s No. 1 spud-producing county.

Farmers in those areas are excited about the expansion project.

“It’s huge and it’s a great thing for the industry,” said American Falls potato farmer Klaren Koompin, who grows spuds for Lamb Weston.

When Koompin was 8 years old, he viewed the facility when it first opened in 1961.

“It’s been a boon to the area as well as all of southeast Idaho,” he said. “It’s pretty amazing to see how that facility has grown over the past (62) years. It’s over 10 times larger today capacity-wise than it was when it first opened.”

Besides benefitting potato growers, the expansion will also provide an economic boost to Power County. The expansion will result in Lamb Weston adding about 280 new positions at its American Falls facility.

Because of the expansion project, the facility in 2029 will account for more than 40 percent of the county’s total property tax base, Wynn said. It currently accounts for about 6 percent and that amount will move up steadily until 2029.

“I do like that Lamb Weston will be shouldering north of 40 percent of Power



French fries come off a Lamb Weston production line. A \$415 million expansion at Lamb Weston’s American Falls facility will significantly increase production capacity.

County’s property tax burden,” Power County Commissioner Delane Anderson said during a recent commission meeting. “In 2029, it will be like a celebration.”

The project was first announced in July 2021 and was expected to be finished this year but it was delayed by challenges related to COVID-19 and is now expected to be completed during the first half of 2024.

“We were planning to do the American Falls expansion project all in one shot but we ended up having to phase it because of COVID,” Wynn said.

The first phase of the project, which is complete, was increasing efficiency at the plant, including the addition of a new chop-and-formed line that compliments the facility’s french fry production capacity.

When Lamb Weston contracts with a grower to purchase potatoes, they buy all the potatoes that come out of that field. The small or odd-shaped ones that are not ideal for french fries are turned into potato products that are formed together, such as hash browns or tater puffs.

The American Falls facility had been long on those small potatoes and was essentially aggregating them together and selling them to another company that

could use them.

With the new chopped-and-formed line, those small and odd-sized potatoes can now be used at the American Falls facility and complement its french fry production.

“It just made our plant more efficient,” Wynn said of this phase of the expansion. “Plus, there was a very high demand, and we were not meeting the demand, from customers for chopped and formed products.”

The second phase of the project, which is underway and is the main part of the expansion, is the addition of a new french fry line. That phase is expected to be up and running during the first half of 2024.

That phase will add about 1 million pounds per day of additional french fry capacity at the facility and will use spuds from the 2023 crop.

The third phase is the addition of a new 275,000-square-foot cold storage facility that will store about 50 million pounds of frozen french fries and is needed to support the volume of finished product that will come from the new fry line.

That phase of the project is also under way and expected to be completed about the same time as the new fry line is finished. ■

Continued from page 2

speak as the united Voice of Agriculture, we make a real difference.

We also know that when we lock arms across agriculture and beyond, lawmakers take extra notice.

Finding common ground with a diverse group of stakeholders is truly powerful in showing everyone how important the farm bill is for our nation.

With 260 members of Congress who have never worked on a farm bill and 71% of adults saying they don't know much, if anything, about the bill, now is the time to engage with consumers, leaders and lawmakers alike.

We need all Americans to understand the broad impact the farm bill has, and to urge their members of Congress to pass an effective 2023 farm bill.

That's why Farm Bill for America's Families is highlighting how the farm bill is critical to food security, job creation, conservation, risk management and addressing hunger.

The farm bill, as I've said often, could really be called a food and farm bill because of its far-reaching impact.

Farmers know first-hand how important farm bill programs like crop insurance are to keeping farms running through tough times like weather disasters, high inflation,

'It's important for everyone to understand how it promotes the well-being of all Americans by securing our supply of safe, sustainable food, fiber and fuel.'

and supply chain disruptions.

Risk management programs have an impact well beyond the farm, too, as they help ensure we can keep growing the food, fiber and fuel all Americans depend on.

More Americans are recognizing the important role our food supply plays in national security, given the supply chain and global disruptions we've seen like the war in Ukraine.

Of course, the farm bill covers a lot more than crop insurance. Funding for the farm bill is comprehensive—from voluntary conservation programs to advancing agricultural research, this legislation is an investment in the future of our food system and the health of our natural resources.

Through farm bill nutrition programs, farmers also play a role in providing 9 billion meals every year to those facing hunger.

Farmers and ranchers aren't just growing food either, we're growing jobs in rural, suburban and urban communities alike.

Did you know that U.S. agriculture supports 46 million jobs across the food and agriculture sectors? When you consider there are just over 2 million farms in this country, that yield is amazing.

All this just skims the surface when it comes to the impact of the farm bill. We hope this campaign will engage a broad audience to highlight how the farm bill impacts their families.

It's important for everyone to understand how it promotes the well-being of all Americans by securing our supply of safe, sustainable food, fiber and fuel.

I invite you to learn more about the campaign at FarmBillForAmericasFamilies.com, and we welcome more groups to join us—from our state and county Farm Bureaus to other commodity groups, to food banks and environmental groups.

Congress needs to hear from all of us, loud and clear, how important the farm bill is for all Americans. ■

SEARLE

Continued from page 2

In the Joyce Livestock ruling, which pitted two Owyhee County ranchers in their battle with the BLM over who owns in-stream stock watering rights on federally administered land, the court ruled the government could not own those rights because it didn't own cows and thus could not put the water to beneficial use.

That was simple but profound reasoning.

One would think.

During the trial, the federal government recognized the need for beneficial use and attempted to persuade the court that ranchers were acting as their "agents" when they watered their livestock on federal lands.

The court did not agree.

While speaking at an Idaho Farm Bureau Federation water rights conference in 2015, former Idaho Supreme Court Justice

Dan Eismann, who authored the court's Joyce Livestock decision, said, "People did not come West to be agents of the federal government, so that (argument) was easily rejected."

Despite the court seeing through their bogus argument, the BLM and Forest Service persist in their efforts to circumvent the Joyce decision and control those water rights by trying to get ranchers to sign so-called voluntary agreements stating they are acting as agents of the federal government.

Congress and the Joyce Livestock decision make it crystal clear that stock owners can seek and receive stockwater rights on federally administered land.

By signing one of these voluntary agreements, a rancher would give up their opportunity to file for those stockwater rights in their name.

This is the title of the agreements BLM is asking ranchers to sign: "Limited agency agreement for the purposes of establishing

and maintaining stockwater rights under the laws of the state of Idaho.”

Our advice to anyone being asked to sign one of these voluntary agreements by BLM or the Forest Service is to think long and hard before doing so. And don't give into any scare tactics used by either agency.

In Idaho, in order to have a water right, one has to put that water to beneficial use. A water right cannot be claimed by someone who has not used the water.

You, the rancher, are the one putting that water to beneficial use, not BLM or the Forest Service.

By the way, I would be remiss in not mentioning that all Idaho ranchers who run cows on federal land owe a big thanks to those Owyhee County ranchers, Paul Nettleton and Tim Lowry, who battled the BLM on this issue for years, all the way to the state's highest court.

They refused to back down on the issue because they knew in their minds and hearts that ranchers are the ones who own those in-stream watering rights.

Lowry has told Farm Bureau there was no debate among his family on whether to fight that court battle “because what was going on was completely wrong, as the Supreme Court validated. The BLM had absolutely no right to hold the water right. We decided that we had no other option than to stand and fight.”

Even though the ranchers won, they were saddled with more than \$1 million in legal fees because the court didn't grant them

the right to recover attorney fees in the case.

Idaho Farm Bureau has backed efforts to attempt to convince the state to help the ranchers cover their legal costs associated with the court case.

That includes supporting a proclamation passed by the Idaho Legislature in 2018 that encouraged the state's Constitutional Defense Council to help reimburse the ranchers for their legal costs.

So far, unfortunately, those efforts have not been successful and the Nettleton and Lowry families still face a significant financial challenge covering those legal costs.

Idaho Farm Bureau continues to request that funds from the state go toward helping the ranchers cover those costs.

Their victory, on their own dime, has potentially benefited every other rancher in the state and changed the way stockwater rights are adjudicated in Idaho.

Before the Joyce Livestock decision, every stockwater right in Idaho on federal allotments that was conveyed went to the federal government. Since then, those rights have gone to ranchers with grazing permits.

So, on behalf of Idaho Farm Bureau, kudos to the Nettleton and Lowry families for fighting a righteous fight on behalf of all Idahoans.

And to the BLM and Forest Service, we say, please accept the Idaho Supreme Court's 2007 decision in this case and stop trying to find ways around it. ■

MILLER

Continued from page 2

proposed rule scary. Who in their right mind would ever say they are against conservation? Some people may not be interested in protecting the earth's resources and beauty. I don't know any of them.

Hence the fear of “conservation” being included as one of the multiple uses on public lands. We all want to conserve our public lands, but many of us also differ on what conservation means, and that is why this rule is potentially the scary clown in the storm drain.

I am a fifth-generation farmer and rancher and a third-generation public land grazing permit holder. My family has been on public lands longer than three generations.

Spoiler alert: my family's time on the land is, at best, average compared to the many farmers, ranchers, loggers and miners that have responsibly used the West's public lands for many generations.

Those of us raised working on public

lands take great pride in the fact that we have managed our leases in such ways that we have been able to use them not just year to year but from generation to generation.

If we had not used significant conservation efforts on the public lands our family runs cows on during that time frame, how on earth are my children gathering cows on the same land as my grandfather?

To me, generational use of public lands exemplifies the current multiple-use doctrine of using a renewable resource.

While caring for my cattle on BLM lands, I also find myself giving directions to hikers and ATV riders using the roads and trails and pointing out where I have seen deer, elk, and game birds to hunters during game season.

Some people are excited and advocating for conservation to be a part of the multiple-use doctrine, and why that concerns me is that their view of conservation is actually protectionism, which means they would exclude all forage, timber, energy, grazing, recreation, mining, etc., from the

land to “conserve” it.

Of course, I worry about losing my grazing rights, but “conservation” could also be used to remove all human access to “conserve” the land.

Some are advocating for that very idea, which is why such a seemingly harmless term as “conservation” could turn out to be the “IT” character Stephen King terrified me with for years.

My cowboy definition of conservation is this simple: This last 4th of July, I asked my family where they would like to go for the day and what they would like to do.

My family's response blew me away. They all wanted to spend the day on our cattle allotment. To me, that is conservation.

The same land that provides economic value to my family and community is the same land my family was drawn to. I am proud to be among the many farmer and rancher conservationists who conserve our resources on working lands. ■

Idaho a major global player in seed production

By Sean Ellis
Idaho Farm Bureau Federation

CALDWELL – A good chunk of the world’s seed production occurs in the Treasure Valley of southwestern Idaho.

Because all farming starts with seed, that makes the Gem State a major player around the globe when it comes to food production.

“Our climate is one of the best in the world for growing seed crops,” says Meridian farmer Richard Durrant, who grows wheat and barley seed in addition to several other crops.

Most of Idaho’s seed production happens in and around Canyon County in southwestern Idaho but the state’s seed production area also extends to part of the Magic Valley in southcentral Idaho and a slice of eastern Oregon in Malheur County.

That area is one of five major global seed production regions in the world, according to Roger Batt, executive director of the Idaho-Eastern Oregon Seed Association.

“We have a saying in the seed industry: It all starts with the seed,” he says. “Seed is the cornerstone of agriculture. If you don’t have seed production, you don’t have a food supply.”

Most of the seed produced in this region is vegetable seed and farmers here grow about 60 different types of vegetable seed, including for major crops like onions, sweet corn, beans and carrots.

That seed is exported around the globe and is used to grow a large amount of food for the world’s 8 billion people.



“Idaho has a good reputation in the seed industry,” says Lorell Skogsberg, global supply lead for large seeds for HM Clause, a major global seed producer that has a seed facility in Nampa. “Most of the world’s major seed companies operate in this valley.”

Seed is a \$600 million industry in Idaho and that total reaches \$750 million when Malheur County in Oregon is included, according to Batt.

The state’s main seed production area is in Canyon County.

According to farmers and seed industry experts, the region’s climate is ideal for producing vegetable seed, which can be much more sensitive to certain growing conditions than other crops.

Southern Idaho’s dry, hot summers are ideal for producing seed and the availability of irrigation water from the state’s reservoir systems is a huge plus.

The region’s cold winters limit insects’ ability to thrive and the arid climate reduces the types of plant diseases that can survive here.

“There are plant diseases elsewhere in the country that we don’t have here in the Treasure Valley,” says IEOSA President Kevin Osborne, the production manager for Allied Seed in Nampa. “The Treasure Valley of Idaho is very unique when it comes to climate.”

Caldwell farmer Matt Dorsey, who grows radish seed, bean seed, carrot seed and triticale seed, says the area’s hot, arid climate is ideal for keeping down pressure from mildew and fungus.

“We have a drier, warmer climate ... that makes it a good place to grow seed crops,” he says.

Frost-free growing days and the use of gravity or drip irrigation as opposed to sprinkler irrigation, which carries more disease risks with some vegetable crops, are other factors, according to

the region’s farmers.

“It’s a unique area,” Skogsberg says. “It’s hard to find areas that have all of these factors.”

George Crookham, CEO of Crookham Seed Co. in Caldwell, says the main reason the region is such a great seed-producing area boils down to the fact that farmers here live in a high desert with adequate water supplies.

“Name another high desert with adequate water in the world?” he says. “We’re a high-desert climate with adequate water. That explains everything. We have a very unique environment.”

There are other regions with better soils, Crookham says.

“What they don’t have is they don’t have our environment,” he says. “With our water and environment, we can pretty much make any soil work.”

“All of the major vegetable seed companies in the world have a presence here in the Treasure Valley,” Crookham adds. “There is a reason they are here.”

“The reason those seed companies are here is because of our climate and our ability to produce seed in a desert because of our reservoir systems and the irrigation projects we have,” says Batt.

Durrant says because the Treasure Valley area is a desert climate, the region’s farm fields don’t get untimely rains that other areas receive that can impact germination rates.

“Because we only irrigate when it needs to be irrigated, we can end up with a better germination rate on those crops,” he says.

While the Treasure Valley is a great place to grow seed crops, it’s also one of the fastest-growing areas of the country and that is posing a growing challenge to the region’s seed industry.

During the IEOSA’s annual meeting

in November, David Anderson, the Idaho program manager for American Farmland Trust, told seed industry members that just shy of two square miles a year of ag land in Canyon County is being converted to development.

As more development occurs in the valley and farmland is lost as a result, that reduces the acreage available to grow certain seed crops that require minimum isolation distances to avoid cross-contamination with similar varieties, Osborne says.

“When you funnel your farm ground down, it actually limits how many types of seed crops you can put in,” he says. “That really affects a lot of the crops that we have in the seed industry.”

According to Anderson, about 49,000 acres of the valley’s top 12 crops are on the chopping block for development.

“That’s a really scary number,” says Batt.

He says preserving farmland in the valley is the top issue for the Idaho-Eastern Oregon Seed Association and the organization will poll industry this year and work with other farm groups to try to find a solution.

“We will be working on this topic over the coming year and hopefully we’ll come up with a really good solution in 2024,” Batt says.

He says the goal is to find a reasonable solution that preserves a farmer or rancher’s private property rights and ability to sell their land if they choose to but also offers them the ability to be compensated financially if they voluntarily agree to preserve their farmland for a certain number of years. ■

Word Search

Summer Fun

Answer key on page 42

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

Barefoot

Barbeque

Baseball

Beach

Biking

Boating

Cabin

Camping

Canoe

Climb

Destination

Fireworks

Fishing

Flipflops

Frisbee

Garden

Hamburger

Hike

Hot

Hotdog

Icecream

Lake

Lemonade

Map

Mosquito

Picnic

Pool

Sand

Shade

Shorts

Snowcones

Sunblock

Sunglasses

Suntan

Swim

Vacation

Waterpark

MAKE THE CO-OP CHOICE



ENERGY

Propane, bulk fuel, oils & lubricants

wvcenergy.com

FARM SUPPLY

Farm supply, clothing, boots, fencing & feed

shop.valleywidecoop.com

AGRONOMY

Precision agriculture, fertilizer & seed

valleyag.com

Your referral, like Darla's, could be worth \$525.



Get **\$25**
WHEN A FRIEND YOU REFER PURCHASES A POLICY FROM US



Get **\$500**
IF YOU WIN OUR QUARTERLY DRAWING*



*You're automatically entered into our \$500 drawing when you refer a friend, even if they don't purchase a policy.

Visit: idahofarmbureauinsurance.com/refer-a-friend-get-a-gift for complete rules and restrictions. Above left:

Darla Fletcher (third from left) of Cocolalla, the winner of our 4th quarter 2022 Refer A Friend, Get A Gift \$500 drawing.



Photo by Colorado Farm Bureau, used with permission

Public lands grazing vital to the rural West

By Daniel Munch
*American Farm Bureau
Federation Economist*

Chances are, when you think of the West, images of cattle and horses and the ranchers that manage them are top of mind.

For centuries, grazing livestock have been at the heart of rural economies across what is now the Western United States. Through these many generations, ranchers have contributed far more than their job titles indicate.

They are county commissioners, teachers, bankers, truck drivers, energy workers, hunters, sportsmen and more – contributing directly to the stability and longevity of the communities in which they live.

This article reviews the latest avail-

able economic metrics evaluating both direct and indirect benefits of livestock grazing on federally owned lands.

Background

The federal government owns roughly 640 million acres of the 2.27 billion acres of land in the United States – just over 28% of total land.

The percentage of federally owned land in each state varies widely, from 0.3% in Connecticut and Iowa to nearly 80% in Nevada. Federal ownership of land is heavily concentrated in the West with 61.3% of Alaska federally owned, along with 46.5% of the 11 next westernmost states.

In comparison, the federal govern-

ment owns 4.2% of land in the remaining 38 states.

Five major federal agencies administer 620 million acres of federally owned land, led by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) at 248.3 million acres, Forest Service (FS) at 193 million acres, Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) at over 90 million acres, the National Park Service (NPS) at 80 million acres, and Department of Defense (DOD) at just over 11 million acres.

Residents of heavily federally owned states that utilize lands for commerce have to abide by these federal agencies' regulations – a challenge much of the rest of the country does not encounter.

Agencies administer permits that allow ranchers to graze livestock on specified public lands for a fee. Grazing fees through BLM, in 2023, for example, cannot fall below \$1.35 per animal unit month (AUM) and any fee increase or decrease cannot exceed 25% of the previous year's levels.

An AUM is the amount of forage needed to sustain one cow and her calf or one horse, or five sheep or goats for a month.

Actively permitted AUMs in 2022 ranged from a low of 254 in South Dakota to 2.1 million in Nevada, with a total of 10.8 million across the country.

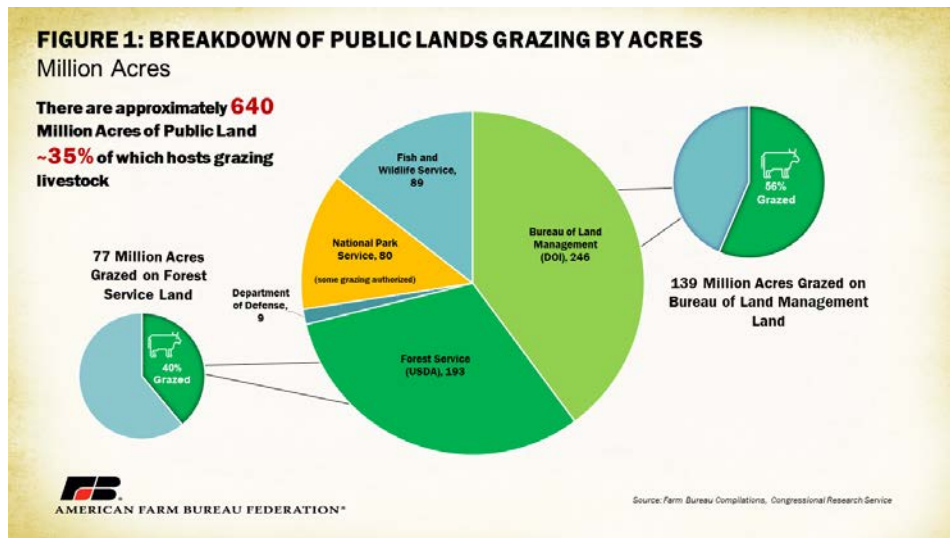
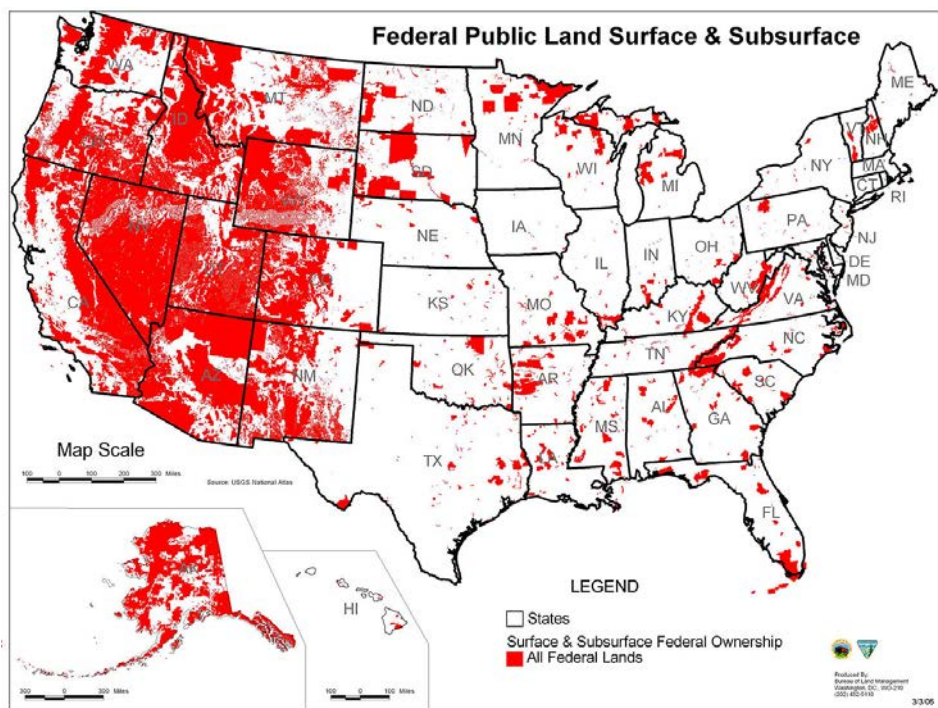
Active permits ranged from four in Oklahoma to 3,813 in Montana, with a national total of 17,911.

Any U.S. citizen or validly licensed business can apply for a BLM grazing permit if they buy or control private property, known as a base property, that has been legally recognized as having preference for use of public lands grazing or acquire property that can serve as a base property and then apply to BLM to transfer a grazing preference from an existing property to the acquired property.

There are different types of permits, the most common being the term permit, which may be issued for up to 10 years.

Term permits describe the season of use, number of AUMs authorized and the kind and class of livestock that can be grazed on a specified area of federal lands.

Temporary permits may be issued for a period not to exceed one year and are sparingly used. Livestock use permits are issued for a primary use other than grazing livestock for a year or less and are com-



monly used in research circumstances.

The Congressional Research Service reported that of the 248 million acres administered by the BLM, 154 million acres (62%) are available for grazing, though only 139 million acres (56%) are in use.

Of the 193 million acres managed by the FS, more than 95 million acres are available for grazing (49%) and 77 million (40%) are actively grazed.

There is also some grazing on NPS land, though this number is comparatively small. Of the approximately 640 million acres of federally owned land, about 35%

is actively permitted for grazing purposes (Figure 1).

Direct effects

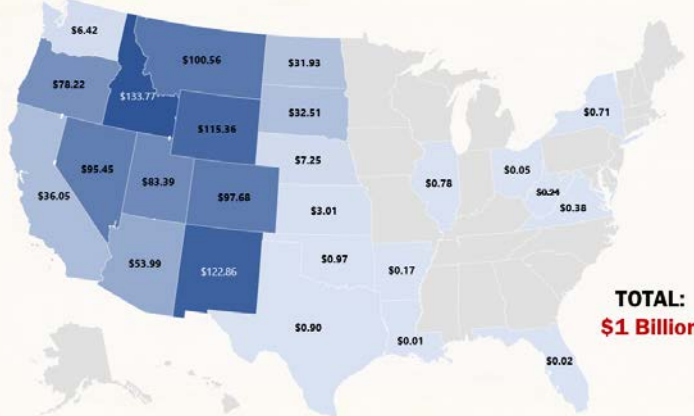
In this analysis, “direct effects” refers to the portion of monetary value of livestock sales linked to forage produced and utilized on public lands.

Typically, ranching of cattle, sheep and goats uses a combination of private and public grazing lands, as well as grazed forage and purchased forage and/or grain.

This means that while a finished steer that ultimately ends up at market some-

FIGURE 2: DIRECT CATTLE, SHEEP AND GOAT SALES BENEFITS OF PUBLIC LANDS GRAZING

\$ Millions



**TOTAL:
\$1 Billion**

AMERICAN FARM BUREAU FEDERATION*

Source: American Farm Bureau Comptrollers, Journal of Rangeland Ecology & Management, USDA Forest Service

where in the Midwest may have started on public lands forage, many other sources of forage contributed to its final market weight.

In a recent study by the U.S. Forest Service, researchers focused on quantifying economic contributions of federal grazing at the state and national level by adjusting sales values reported by the census of agriculture by active AUM numbers.

This methodology allows us to estimate the value of end livestock sales directly attributable to public lands forage.

Figure 2 displays the combined value of cattle, sheep and goat sales linked to public lands grazing. In total, over \$1 billion in livestock sales value is attributable to public lands forage.

States like New Mexico, Wyoming, Idaho and Montana all come in at over \$100 million each. The small values calculated for some Eastern states is linked to small cattle grazing allotments under the FS. NPS grazing was not estimated.

Figures 3 and 4 break down these direct estimations further. Figure 3 displays the value of cattle sales attributed to public lands forage. Close to 90% of the estimated total livestock value, or \$893 million, is linked to cattle production.

Idaho (\$122 million), New Mexico (\$119 million) and Wyoming (\$100 million) are the top public lands cattle states.

Figure 4 displays the value of sheep and goat sales attributed to public lands forage, with nearly \$110 million in total value. Colorado leads at \$38 million, followed by Utah (\$21 million) and Wyoming (\$14 million).

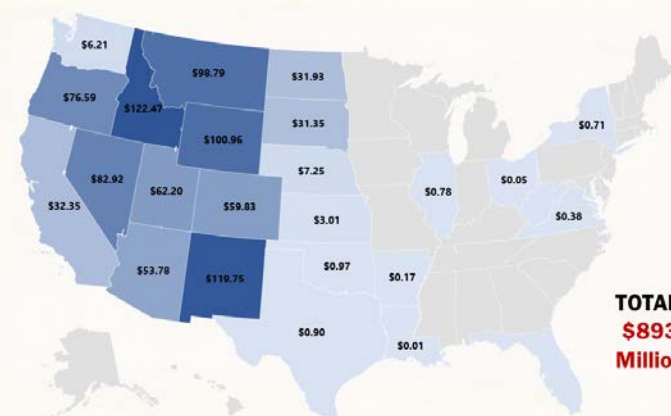
These direct sales values contribute to the income basis for thousands of rural families in these states.

Economic modeling specific to Idaho, Oregon and Nevada showed the loss of 5,389 active grazing permits resulted in an average 60% decline in cattle sales, 50% decline in labor income, a 65% decline in personal income (from \$33,940 to \$11,812), per operation, and billions in downstream economic losses.

Additionally, the tax revenue received on these sales supports public safety, education and infrastructure in locations that are often already underserved and don't otherwise receive tax revenue from federally-owned land.

FIGURE 3: DIRECT CATTLE SALES BENEFITS OF PUBLIC LANDS GRAZING

\$ Millions



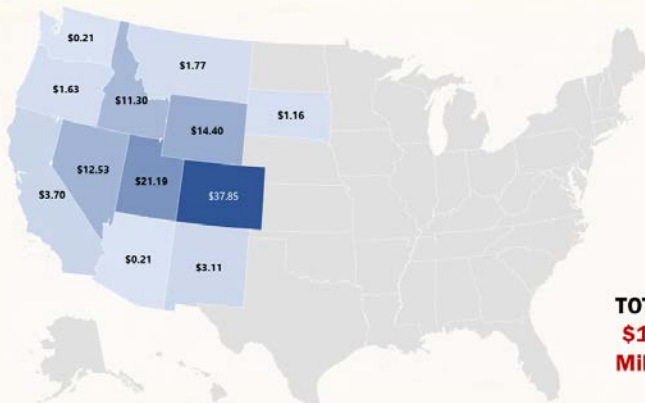
**TOTAL:
\$893
Million**

AMERICAN FARM BUREAU FEDERATION*

Source: American Farm Bureau Comptrollers, Journal of Rangeland Ecology & Management, USDA Forest Service

FIGURE 4: DIRECT SHEEP AND GOAT SALES BENEFITS OF PUBLIC LANDS GRAZING

\$ Millions



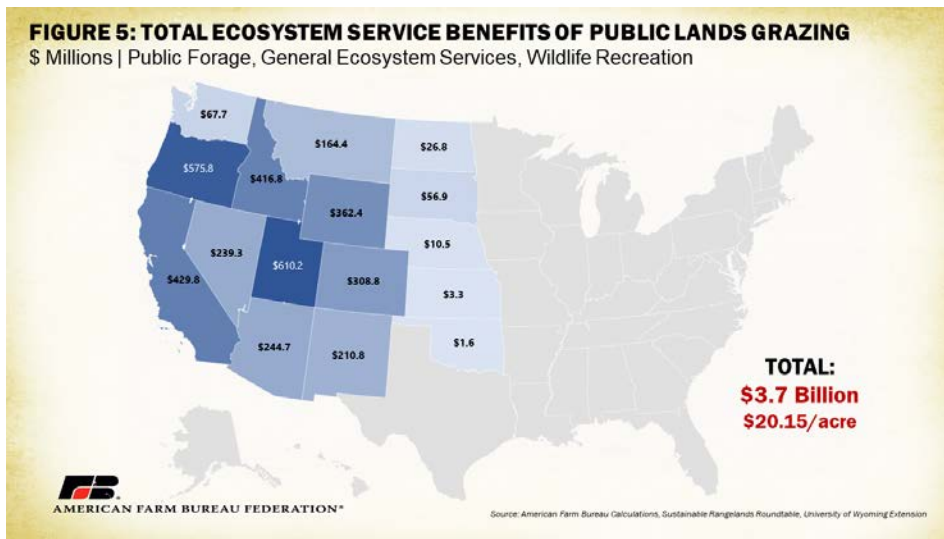
**TOTAL:
\$109
Million**

AMERICAN FARM BUREAU FEDERATION*

Source: American Farm Bureau Comptrollers, Journal of Rangeland Ecology & Management, USDA Forest Service

FIGURE 5: TOTAL ECOSYSTEM SERVICE BENEFITS OF PUBLIC LANDS GRAZING

\$ Millions | Public Forage, General Ecosystem Services, Wildlife Recreation



Indirect effects

There is a wide array of indirect economic effects associated with public lands grazing. Notably, ruminants like cattle, sheep and goats utilize forage on otherwise marginal lands to convert low-quality forage into high-quality nutrients humans can consume.

Ranchers who can pair private land forage and purchased feed with public lands forage lower their input costs, helping make margins workable, especially during periods of high feed costs.

Though the direct sales value of livestock weight gained on public lands is a little over \$1 billion, the value of cattle and calves produced in the 13 westernmost states sits at over \$16 billion.

In 2021 alone, states with large swaths of public land like Colorado (35% federally owned), California (45% federally owned) and Idaho (62% federally owned) yielded \$4.2 billion, \$3.1 billion and \$1.6 billion in total cattle and calf sales, respectively.

Many of the cow-calf pairs and yearlings raised in these states spent some time grazing on public lands, meaning those lands contributed to the lifecycle and final marketable value of these animals.

Removing the option of public lands would further pressure private lands to produce additional forage and feed, increasing input costs for producers and food costs for consumers.

Not to mention, many communities reliant on grazing systems are often isolated in remote locations making them difficult to access. In many cases, federal land of-

ten crisscrosses and even divides private property into what geographically looks like abstract checkerboards of federal and private land.

A decrease in the ability to feed livestock on rangeland that exists near or adjacent to a rancher's own property often shifts demand to offsite feed resources that can be expensive and difficult to receive, potentially undermining the viability of the ranch operation.

Grazing also provides indirect economic benefits by helping preserve regional ecosystems.

Properly managed rangelands can increase soil organic matter, improving soil structure and contributing to increased water storage capacity and filtration, which is important for reducing the severity of drought conditions.

Grazing ruminants feed off perennial forage, promoting complex roots structures that minimize soil erosion and increase carbon sequestration. They also help maintain distinctive plant communities necessary to support certain threatened and endangered species.

General wildlife habitat, open space and recreation opportunities are just a few of the many other benefits retained when land is used for grazing.

These benefits are often not present in alternative land uses and are difficult to replace with human-made services.

In a University of Wyoming study, researchers estimated the value of some ecosystem services generated by cattle grazing on both private and public lands.

Researchers identified four different types of ecosystem services: 1) provisioning, such as production of food and water; 2) regulating, such as control of climate and disease; 3) supporting, such as nutrient cycles and crop pollination; and 4) cultural, such as spiritual and recreation benefits.

Though many of these services are difficult to put a monetary value on because they are not sold or traded, estimates were generated for forage production, general services (intended to capture conservation and climate-related benefits) and wildlife values (focused on wildlife preservation and recreation).

Nationally, it was estimated that federal rangelands contribute \$3.7 billion in ecosystem services which translated to \$20.15 per public acre grazed.

For comparison, after adjusting for the approximately \$26 million ranchers pay in grazing fees each year, taxpayers support appropriations for rangeland management programs at about 30 cents per acre.

Excluding all other benefits of public lands grazing, consumers have a net return of \$19.85 per 30 cents spent to support federal lands grazing. Figure 5 displays these state estimations.

Utah and Oregon had the highest ecosystem service values at \$610 million and \$575 million, respectively.

An often-overlooked benefit of public lands grazing is the land stewardship benefits offered by ranchers, their families and their employees.

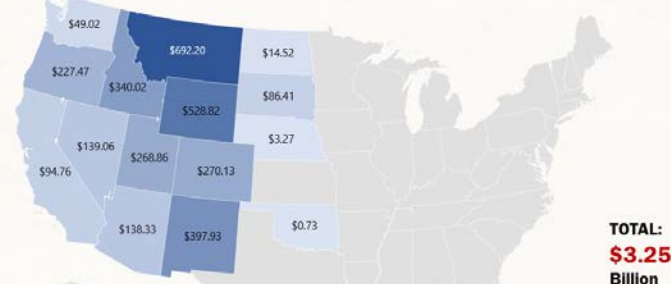
The federal government employs thousands of conservation scientists, foresters, rangeland management specialists, forest and conservation technicians and others tasked with helping manage and conserve land appropriately.

Most ranchers do a portion of these tasks free of charge to taxpayers as part of their everyday role as rangeland operators. Median government salaries reported by the Bureau of Labor Statistics for these positions range from a low of \$39,180 for entry-level technicians to well over \$64,010 for more specialized positions.

A hypothetical removal of public lands grazing would shift the burden of ground-level management of millions of acres currently shared by private ranchers and their employees to government agen-

FIGURE 6: REPLACEMENT VALUE OF RANGELAND MANAGEMENT LABOR PROVIDED BY PUBLIC LANDS RANCHERS

\$ Millions | Primary operator, spouse and two workers



TOTAL:
\$3.25
Billion

AFB
AMERICAN FARM BUREAU FEDERATION*

Source: AFB Calculations, Bureau of Land Management, Bureau of Labor Statistics, Congressional Research Service

cies.

To grasp the extent of this cost, the replacement value of public lands permittee operators, their spouses and two hypothetical workers was calculated.

At the \$64,010 rate for operators and their spouses and \$39,180 for each of the workers, each ranching operation would, conservatively, cost the government \$206,380 to replace.

Between 2002 and 2016, the number of

operators with grazing permits was averaged to 15,755 operators. This means, in total, the labor replacement value of these ranching operators would be at least \$3.25 billion annually.

Figure 6 displays these calculations by state, with the highest replacement costs in Montana (\$692 million) and Wyoming (\$528 million), both very sparsely populated states where rural residents take on the brunt of rangeland management responsi-

bilities.

The families who live in rural communities are often drawn by the inherent role they play in stewarding the land, a passion that saves taxpayers billions in rangeland management duties.

Conclusion

Cattle, sheep and goat producers across the Western U.S. have partnered with federal agencies for generations to manage hundreds of millions of acres of land.

As a result, consumers across the country have benefited from a more resilient and economical domestic food supply, countless ecosystem and climate-related gains of ruminant grazing and open lands preservation, and the effective and careful management of public lands.

With each dollar produced by an agricultural community multiplying through downstream channels into many billions in economic value, public lands grazing is a vital part of the Western economy, and its loss could threaten the livelihoods and traditions of thousands of rural communities. ■

Country Chuckles

By Jonny Hawkins



New poster features jewel beetles

By John O'Connell
University of Idaho

MOSCOW, Idaho – Taxonomist William F. Barr was one of the world's foremost experts on jewel beetles, a family of insects whose larvae feed on roots, logs and branches.

Consequently, the museum he significantly expanded after arriving at the University of Idaho campus in 1946 – now known as the William F. Barr Entomological Museum – has an incredible collection of jewel beetles with about 50,000 identified specimens.

A second-year undergraduate student studying entomology and environmental science, Emma Eakins, of Hillsboro, Ore., has featured that extensive jewel beetle collection in a new educational poster that includes her personal photography of the museum's most intact specimens.

Eakins, who is completing the project through a museum work-study program, also made a spreadsheet based on locations throughout Idaho where 1,996 of the collection's jewel beetles were found.

She'll use the data to create distribution maps documenting the territory of each species within the Gem State.

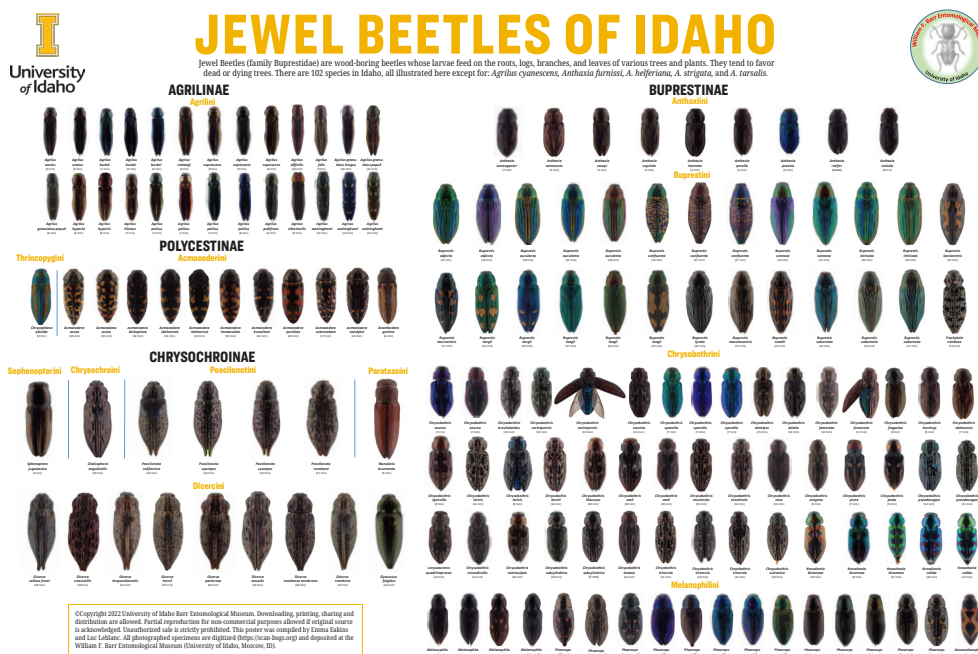
Her poster, maps and other pertinent information will be incorporated in a downloadable PDF book, "Annotated Photographic Checklist of Jewel Beetles in Idaho."

It is planned for publication in the "Occasional papers of the Florida State Collection of Arthropods" – a Florida State Department of Agriculture's entomology publication series.

University of Idaho College of Agricultural and Life Sciences Dean Michael Parrella's office provided funding to print 100 2- by 3-foot posters, to be displayed at every University of Idaho Extension office and research station statewide.

The posters are also available to download at no cost.

"Not only is it just super beautiful, but it's also a great tool for people who are



unfamiliar with jewel beetles to say, "Hey, I found this beetle. What is it?" said Eakins, who has wanted to be an entomologist ever since learning it was a career option in the third grade. "This is the first published entomology project I've ever done. I know a lot of undergraduates don't get this kind of experience."

Eakins began working on the project in August 2021.

Idaho is home to 102 jewel beetle species – 98 of which were available in the museum's collection to photograph and include in the poster.

Eakins photographed specimens dating back to the 1930s, using a basic camera with a focus stacking function, which allows photographers to take several photographs, each one magnifying and focusing a different area of the specimen.

Special software built in the camera assembles the images into a single, high-quality photograph. Eakins used photo editing software to digitally remove the pins through the collection's beetle specimen.

Some invasive jewel beetle species are pests to forests. For example, the emerald

ash borer, native to north-eastern Asia, has decimated ash trees in the East Coast and was recently discovered in Oregon.

Most jewel beetle species, however, serve an important purpose, helping to break down dead trees.

Luc Leblanc, the museum's curator and manager, previously published a poster on Idaho butterflies. The posters provide his museum guests with supplemental information about the specimens they see in the collection.

"When school children come to the museum, we'll show them drawers of pinned beetles and then we'll show them the poster, just to encourage them to take an interest in the natural sciences," Leblanc said.

Leblanc plans to next publish a poster on the yellowjackets and paper wasps of Idaho, and later one on the common bees of Idaho.

That will be an exhaustive project, as Idaho is home to 707 bee species, and males and females look very different, which will necessitate two photographs of many species. ■

Refresh with Barley

Barley is a delicious, nutrition-packed addition and healthy ingredient swap for many recipes, year-round. Refresh your summer recipe repertoire with

these fabulous recipes featuring barley. For more barley recipes and inspiration from the Idaho Barley Commission, go to www.eatbarley.com.

Charred Corn & Zucchini Barley Salad



INGREDIENTS:

For the salad

- 3 ears corn, husks removed
- 2 medium zucchini
- 1 medium bell pepper
- 1 cup barley
- 2 tbsp olive oil

For the dressing

- 1/4 cup lime juice
- 1 tbsp Dijon mustard
- 1 tbsp honey
- 1/4 cup olive oil

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Cook barley on the stovetop. Bring 3 cups of water to boil, pour in the cup of barley, reduce to simmer for 30-45 minutes. When the liquid is absorbed and barley tender, remove from stovetop.
2. Dice zucchini and bell pepper, lathering in 1 tbsp of olive oil, and placing on a kabob stick. With remaining olive oil, lather the corn.
3. Place on heated grill, turning occasionally until all sides cooked and char developed on vegetables.
4. While vegetables are on the grill, combine all dressing ingredients in a small bowl and whisk together.
5. Pull vegetables off the grill. Using a knife, remove the corn kernels from the cob. Combine all vegetables, barely and dressing together. Serve immediately and enjoy!

Shortcake



INGREDIENTS:

- 1 cup barley flour
- 1 cup all-purpose white flour
- 1/3 cup granulated sugar
- 1 tbsp baking powder
- 1/2 tsp salt
- 1/2 cup unsalted butter or margarine
- 1 egg
- 1 tsp vanilla extract
- 1/2 cup milk

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Preheat oven to 450 degrees. Spray a baking sheet and set aside.
2. In a large bowl whisk together barley flour, all-purpose flour, sugar, baking powder, and salt.
3. Cut in butter and combine until mixture resembles coarse crumbles.
4. Add in milk, egg, and vanilla. Mix until well combined and shape dough into a ball. Cut dough into 6 even pieces.
5. Place evenly on the baking sheet and place in oven. Bake for 12-15 minutes or until golden brown. Remove from oven and top with toppings of your choice. Serve immediately and enjoy!



Life insurance is cheaper than you think.

WHY WAIT?

For less than \$1 a day¹, you can make sure your family will have money to pay for things like a mortgage, tuition and everyday expenses. Don't wait until it's too late.




Contact your Farm Bureau agent today.








¹Individual eligibility for all product promotions is subject to underwriting review and approval. Estimated premium payment is for 20-year Income Guard Term Life Plan; Standard; 30-year-old male or female; non-smoker. Amount is for demonstrative purposes only. Contact your Farm Bureau agent for a quote on your actual monthly premium payment. Farm Bureau Life Insurance Company*/West Des Moines, IA. *Company provider of Farm Bureau Financial Services. LI205 (6-23)

Idaho Farm Bureau Member Benefits

ENTERTAINMENT

HOTELS







AUTO





RETAIL



Est 1908





RENTAL CARS






TRANSPORT




AGRICULTURE



JOHN DEERE




Together, we drive agriculture FORWARD



OF THE WEST
JOBS • CAREERS • INTERNSHIPS




Federation of Employers & Workers of America

INSURANCE



FARM BUREAU MUTUAL INSURANCE COMPANY OF IDAHO





MOVIE TICKETS







PROPANE




Committed to Excellence



America's Propane Company

HEALTH & BEAUTY










HOME & OFFICE











*All programs and benefits are subject to change without notification.



idahofbstore.com

Back to School

Access contract pricing on office essentials and exclusive benefits online at ODP Business Solutions™ (previously Office Depot Business Division).

- **UP TO 75% OFF BEST VALUE PRODUCTS**
Essentials, paper, ink, breakroom, cleaning & more
- **PLUS THOUSANDS OF ITEMS 5-15% OFF**
Additional products discounted below retail
- **LOW COPY & PRINT PRICING**
Easy online ordering with fast shipping
- **FREE SHIPPING ON ORDERS OVER \$50**
Or order online & pick up in stores

Store Discount Program:

Receive a standard discount on select product categories when shopping at any Office Depot OfficeMax store. Simply show your store discount card or mobile QR code at checkout to have your discounts applied.

Register Now: IFBF.SavingCenter.net



Visit the
IDAHOFBSTORE.COM
FOR MORE INFORMATION

*All programs and benefits are subject to change without notification.

**Continue to the next page for
Local Member Benefit Partners!**



idahofbstore.com

LOCAL BENEFITS

CENTRAL IDAHO

point S
ORR'S POINT S TIRE & AUTO

REAL DEALS

Salmon QWIK LUBE
(208) 756-2707
FULL SERVICE SHOP

Salmon River CHIROPRACTIC
CHIROPRACTIC CARE FOR A HEALTHIER COMMUNITY

River City REDE-MIX
756-4475

The Recorder Herald
1700 Klamath - Spans Opportunities For People
819 Van Dref - P.O. Box 310 - Salmon, Idaho 83467
Office: (208) 756-2221 - Fax: (208) 756-2222

EAST IDAHO

Blackfoot Movie Mill

FIREHOSE CAR WASH

JIM DANDY BREWING

SUMMIT EYECARE
Your vision is our focus!

GERONIMO'S! TRAMPOLINE PARK

PRESTON CARQUEST AUTO PARTS

Bru House GALILEI

ESTABLISHED 1915 L7 MACKAY IDAHO

Paramount THEATER
2085 Niagara - Across from the mall (208) 523-1142

RKT Ron Keller Tire, Inc.
-SINCE 1958-

ROOT CAUSE INTEGRATIVE MEDICINE

Centre TWIN
461 Park Ave - Downtown Idaho Falls (208) 525-3340

Smitty's PANCAKE & STEAK HOUSE

DERMACHIC LASER & SKINCARE CENTER

VE VALLEY EQUIPMENT & IRRIGATION

THE VICTOR TETON VALLEY FINE LODGING
www.thevictor.com

SLED SHED BIKES BOARDS BOULDERING

Idaho Potato Museum

Cub River Guest Ranch
Located @ Deerfield on the Cub River - Grapewin, Preston Idaho

Back to School



*All programs and benefits are subject to change without notification.



idahofbstore.com

LOCAL BENEFITS

NORTH IDAHO

SOUTH CENTRAL IDAHO

SOUTHWEST IDAHO

Visit the idahofbstore.com or download the app and start saving today!



Download your Exclusive Members Only Ford Cash* certificate at idahofbstore.com

Farm Bureau Members Receive a \$500 Exclusive Cash Reward* on an Eligible New Super Duty®, F-150®, Ranger® or Maverick®

\$500 Exclusive Cash Reward* on an Eligible New Ford Vehicle!

*Visit FordRecognizesU.com/FarmBureau today for complete offer details!



*All programs and benefits are subject to change without notification.



idahofbstore.com

WOOD BORING INSECTS ON THE UPTICK IN IDAHO THIS SUMMER

By Randy Brooks
University of Idaho

The University of Idaho Extension forestry team works closely with the Idaho Department of Lands to deliver statewide programs on all facets of forest management in an attempt to get information out to the public in response to current events such as insect and disease outbreaks.

Speaking of insects and diseases, while talking recently with the IDL forest health specialists about what is currently bugging our trees, it was brought to my attention that wood borers appear to be killing more trees this year than normal.

Not to be confused with bark beetles, wood boring insects are a diverse group that spend most of their lives inside the wood of trees or logs.

The majority of borers are beetles, but certain wasps and moth caterpillars are also well-known borers that are common in Idaho forests. Wood borers can damage trees and logs through their tunneling, but they can also transmit stain and decay fungi which can affect the value of logs delivered to lumber mills.

In Idaho's natural forest environment, wood borers act as nutrient recyclers, and usually only attack stressed, damaged, or freshly downed or cut trees.

In other words, they are often found in trees already stressed or killed by something else. It is when landowners manage their forests for wood products that borers become a management concern.

Recent drought conditions in combination with other stress

TOP LEFT: Figure 1. Western larch (L) and Douglas-fir (R) infested with metallic wood borers. Woodpeckers have removed the outer bark to feed on the larvae underneath.

LEFT: Figure 2. Frass (wood shavings) from a longhorn beetle on a down lodgepole pine log. Larvae push the frass out of the entrance hole while excavating their galleries.

Photos by Tom Eckbert, IDL





TOP LEFT: Figure 3. Longhorn grub (round-headed borer) inside split firewood

LEFT: Figure 4. Metallic wood borer adult female ovipositing (laying eggs) on grand fir.

ABOVE: Figure 5. Egg niche chewed into bark of ponderosa pine scorched during a fire. Eggs are laid inside the niche and after hatching, the larvae will tunnel under the bark.

beetles, called roundheaded borers as larvae (Figure 3), and metallic wood borers, called flatheaded borers as larvae (Figure 4), are most commonly encountered.

The photos show examples of common species and there are many other similar looking borers in Idaho (130 species of longhorned beetles and 85 species of metallic wood-boring beetles).

Other types of borers in Idaho, such as horntail wasps (also called wood wasps), clear winged borers, and ambrosia beetles cause additional unique signs and symptoms.

Wood borers usually take one or more years to develop from egg to larva to adult and two years is common for many species.

Metallic and longhorned borers lay eggs in or on the bark of dying trees (Figure 5) or logs in the spring or summer. Larvae hatch and chew their way into the phloem (inner bark).

The following spring, the larvae begin to tunnel in the sapwood. Depending on the species, the larvae may tunnel into the heartwood as well.

However, horntail wasps insert eggs into the wood with their ovipositor, an egg-laying appendage that is often mistaken for a stinger. Borers develop within their host trees and emerge as adults in the spring or summer.

While some systemic insecticides have

proven effective against some boring insects, most will not kill larvae already in the tree. This is especially true for some of the more destructive wood-boring larvae.

Chemical control is usually limited to the short period of time when the adult or newly hatched larvae are exposed on the bark and before they enter the tree.

Males of many species of boring insects, especially moths, are attracted to a chemical produced by females (pheromones). A few of these synthetically produced chemicals have been used successfully to survey for, evaluate, or control a pest species.

Mating disruption strategies, using synthetic pheromones, have been used successfully to reduce harmful populations of some stem-boring insects.

In some cases, males are “trapped” out of naturally occurring populations. In others, pheromones saturate an area with attractant, confuse searching males, and render mating less successful.

Wood borer management is usually only needed in order to minimize damage to trees that will be used for wood products. Promoting tree health through thinning and proper silviculture, alleviating tree stress, and removing wind thrown trees can reduce wood borer damage.

In salvage operations, damaged trees should be removed promptly. Harvested logs should be transported to the lumber mill as soon as possible and processed promptly.

Mills can implement protective measures, such as keeping log decks wet to minimize damage due to tunneling, sap decay and blue stain. ■

Isabella Valdez, Idaho Department of Lands, contributed to this article.

factors have predisposed many live trees to woodborer attacks. All areas in Idaho have been experiencing drought conditions over the last few years, and our trees have been affected, especially those on rocky, south-facing slopes.

Highly stressed trees emit compounds into the air that are attractive to wood borers, and the adult beetles will fly to those trees to lay their eggs. Once the eggs hatch, the larva will bore into the bark, and begin feeding on the phloem and wood tissue of the trees.

Borer-infested trees may have evidence of woodpecker activity (Figure 1) and will often have large galleries, up to 3/4” under the bark packed with frass

(boring dust or shavings Figure 2).

Various species of longhorned

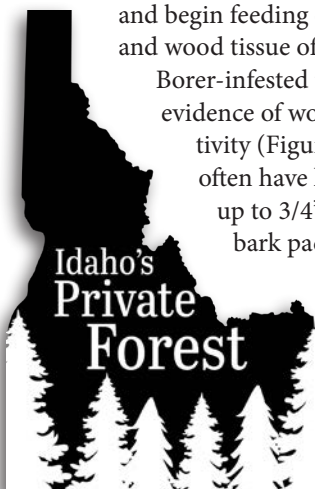




Photo by Sean Ellis

Idaho Farm Bureau Federation is cautioning ranchers to think twice before signing voluntary agreements stating they are acting as limited agents of the federal government when watering their cows on federal grazing allotments.

Farm Bureau cautions ranchers against signing ‘voluntary agreements’

By Sean Ellis

Idaho Farm Bureau Federation

Idaho Farm Bureau Federation is again encouraging ranchers to think long and hard before signing so-called voluntary agreements stating they are acting as limited agents of the federal government when watering their livestock on federal grazing allotments.

The U.S. Bureau of Land Management and U.S. Forest Service have been asking ranchers who graze their cattle on federal land to sign these voluntary agreements, implying that if they don't, the water on their allotment could possibly no longer be available to them in the future.

Russ Hendricks, director of governmental affairs for IFBF, said that is not true and access to that water is protected by state and federal law.

“They’re not actually coming out and saying this but they are implying very heavily that if you don’t sign this agreement with us, that water could be no longer available and you won’t have any water to water your stock with,” he said. “That is simply not true.”

IFBF officials are advising ranchers with grazing permits on federal land to think twice before signing one of these agreements.

Doing so, Hendricks said, would allow the BLM or Forest Service to maintain the water rights in the federal agency’s name and would prohibit the rancher from filing for in-stream stock watering rights on the allotment in the future.

“A water right is based on beneficial use – you have to actually use the water. The water cannot be claimed by anyone who has not actually used that water.”

*-Paul Arrington, executive director,
Idaho Water Users Association*

In a landmark water rights ruling known as the Joyce Livestock decision, the Idaho Supreme Court in 2007 ruled in favor of two Owyhee County ranchers in their battle with the BLM over who owns in-stream stock watering rights on federally administered land.

During the state’s Snake River Basin Adjudication process, southern Idaho ranchers and the BLM filed thousands of overlapping claims to in-stream stock watering rights on federal land.

All but two of the ranchers, Paul Nettleton and Tim Lowry, backed off or negotiated with the BLM when they realized fighting the federal agency in court would cost a lot of money.

Agreeing with Nettleton and Lowry, the state’s supreme court ruled that BLM didn’t own the rights because it doesn’t own cows and couldn’t put the water to beneficial use.

The court said BLM’s argument reflected a serious misunderstanding of Idaho water law.

During the SRBA process, the water adjudication court ended up conveying 17,000 stock watering rights to the BLM prior to the Joyce ruling. However, since BLM cannot put the water to beneficial use, they are now in jeopardy of forfeiting these rights through non-use under decades-old Idaho law.

The Idaho Legislature passed a bill several years ago that codifies the Idaho Supreme Court’s 2007 decision into state law, which paves the way for thousands of ranchers in Idaho to file competing claims for those in-stream stock watering rights on BLM and Forest Service land.

In an effort to keep those water rights, the BLM and Forest Service are now encouraging permittees to sign agreements stating that they are acting as agents of the federal government and that their livestock are putting the water to beneficial use for the agency.

In an email response to IFBF questions on this issue, BLM officials said the agency is “encouraging permittees to sign the voluntary (agreements) to help ensure that they can continue to utilize the state-based stockwater rights obtained by the BLM for the term of their permit and any subsequent renewals. A signed agreement helps protect the stockwater rights in the permittees’ allotments from a possible future forfeiture proceeding.”

BLM said the agreements “ensure regulatory certainty for

permittees and ensure that all stockwater rights in an allotment remain available for the permittee.”

Hendricks said there is no other way the BLM or Forest Service can have a stockwater right unless they have an agent – in this case, the rancher – who is putting the water to beneficial use for them.

“The Joyce Livestock decision is pretty clear,” he said. “The only way that they can have a valid water right under Idaho law is to get somebody who does not fully understand the situation to sign an agency agreement that says they’re putting the water to beneficial use for and on behalf of the agency.”

If a grazing allotment permittee does not sign the agreement, Hendricks said, the BLM or Forest Service could potentially forfeit a water right that was decreed to them during the SRBA because they are not putting the water to beneficial use.

Meanwhile, the rancher would be free to file for that water right with the Idaho Department of Water Resources, he added.

The federal agencies’ assertion that a rancher’s access to that water could be in jeopardy is not true, Hendricks said.

“The water cannot be ‘lost’ or taken away from the allotment by anyone else,” he said. “You are able to legally file for the stock water rights on your allotment in your name, and if the government forfeits their current rights, you will be the sole holder of water rights on your allotment.”

“Under the Joyce Livestock decision by the Idaho Supreme Court, if the permittees own and manage the livestock, they should own the water rights,” said Paul Arrington, executive director of the Idaho Water Users Association. “They are the ones putting the water to beneficial use.”

He said that permittees’ deferred claims are valid water rights recognized under Idaho water law and therefore, even if BLM or Forest Service’s adjudicated water rights are forfeited, the permittees still have a valid, underlying water right that they are entitled to file upon.

“A water right is based on beneficial use – you have to actually use the water,” Arrington said. “The water cannot be claimed by anyone who has not actually used that water.”

Hendricks said Idaho Code 42-113 requires the director of the Idaho Department of Water Resources and district courts to “recognize and protect water rights for in-stream (as well as out-of-stream) livestock use.”

“Therefore, even if the BLM or the Forest Service is legally required to forfeit the stockwater rights they hold, under Idaho law the water reverts back to the state and is protected for stock watering,” he said. “Nobody else can file on that water nor prohibit the ability to water stock on your allotment in the future.”

Hendricks also pointed out that same Idaho Code states that an individual’s stockwater rights on a federal allotment are an appurtenance to the permittee’s base property. Therefore, when a ranch is sold to someone else, the water rights transfer with the base property for the new owner to use on the associated federal grazing allotment.

“This makes a federal grazing permit more valuable, and thus the ranch more valuable, by having secure water rights to go along with the permit,” he said. ■

UI Extension plans giant pumpkin contest for Bannock County 4-H youth

By John O'Connell
University of Idaho



Past participants in the Franklin County pumpkin growing contest display their giant pumpkins. Photo by Bracken Henderson

University of Idaho Extension educator Nikki Ennis, Bannock County, is thinking big when it comes to getting local youth excited about gardening.

Ennis and Extension staff members will host their first giant pumpkin growing contest this summer for UI Extension 4-H Youth Development participants.

They've ordered seeds rated to grow pumpkins ranging from 50 to 300 pounds. Participants in the competition will each receive a seedling raised from a giant pumpkin seed.

The youth will be encouraged to post photographs documenting their progress on the Bannock County 4-H Facebook page, and prizes for the largest pumpkins will be awarded in August, following a weigh-in at the Bannock County Fair in Downey.

"They're going to learn how to grow a plant and how to take care of it, and there's a lot of information on how to set up a plant so it can grow the best," Ennis said. "I think it will be a good learning experience that will teach some responsibility keeping their plant alive."

In addition to raising an oversized gourd, participants will create a poster illustrating the steps involved in their project. They'll also write a paragraph about the parts of a seed.

Youth will be given a pamphlet about raising giant pumpkins, and UI Extension will offer training, teaching several tips for growing champion giant pumpkins.

For example, using a bedsheet or tarp to provide partial shade helps with growth, and placing a pumpkin on a firm and dry platform, such as a sand-covered board, helps growers avoid rot.

While attending a recent conference, UI Extension staff in Bannock County got the idea for the contest from a Cooperative Extension educator based in Hawaii.

"She does a giant pumpkin contest, and she does some other

giant vegetables also," Ennis said.

Though this will be Bannock County's first year of having a giant pumpkin growing contest, Franklin County has had one since 2019.

During the first year, the winning pumpkin in Franklin County weighed in at 529 pounds. The county's winner was 593 pounds in 2020, and the top pumpkin was 612 pounds in 2021.

Franklin County staff also helped Oneida County start a giant pumpkin contest in 2021.

Weather conditions weren't conducive to growing large pumpkins in 2022, and UI Extension educator in Franklin County, Bracken Henderson, isn't planning to host a 2023 contest due to the likelihood of a short growing season.

UI Extension in Franklin County partnered with Intermountain Farmers Association (IFA) to help with the weigh-ins.

Henderson has found giant pumpkins struggle to set female blossoms in southeast Idaho's soils, which he attributes to a manganese deficiency. He's found that spraying micronutrients onto foliage helps with the problem.

"Growing a giant pumpkin isn't easy," Henderson said.

Following the weigh-in during the contest's initial year, a Utah radio station bought the giant pumpkins, which were filled with numbered balls and dropped from a crane.

After the pumpkins splattered, spectators gathered the balls and matched winning numbers to claim prizes.

In subsequent years, Franklin County's giant pumpkins were displayed either outside of the UI Extension office or in front of IFA. ■



IDAHO FARMERS MARKET FUN FACT:

Did you know that Idaho has over 60 farmers markets with local vendors providing Idaho grown and raised products throughout the state?

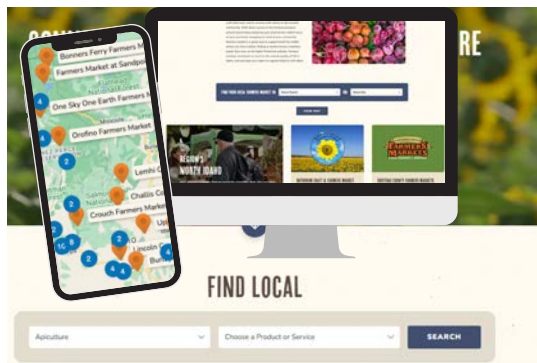
IDAHO FARMERS MARKET MONTH

Governor Little has declared August as the inaugural Idaho Farmers Market Month, and Idaho Preferred, along with the Idaho Farmers Market Association, is joining in the celebration to highlight the significant impact farmers markets have on Idaho's economy and overall quality of life.

Farmers markets play a crucial role in our local food supply chain, ensuring that communities across the state have convenient access to fresh, locally-grown produce at its peak of the season.

Idaho farmers markets connect residents with their local farmers, ranchers, and food crafters, allowing them to learn about the origins of their food. Importantly, farmers markets contribute to the growth of the local economy by directly supporting Idaho producers and reinvesting money back into regional communities.

Visit your local farmers market this month and celebrate with us!



IDAHO DIGITAL FARMERS MARKET DIRECTORY

The Idaho Preferred website has become the go-to resource for discovering local Idaho agriculture products and experiences for consumers and businesses alike with over 2.1 million unique views in 2022. The new **Idaho Preferred Farmers Market Directory** gives local shoppers a quick and simple-to-use resource to find what markets and vendors are near them.

A user can find a market by filtering region and/or days of the week they are open, as well as identify if they participate in SNAP or Double Up Food Bucks.

Visit: www.idahopreferred.com/products/farmers-markets/



Lance Phillips of Gem Orchard is saving and cultivating one orchard at a time in the Valley of Plenty

It is easy to see that Lance is passionate about what he does, possessing a dedication to quality, a commitment to preserving orchard traditions, and a welcoming personality; some refer to him as the "Lancepedia" of tree fruits! Under his stewardship, Gem Orchards continues to redefine the standard for farm experiences, leaving a lasting impression on all who visit.

AGVENTURE IDAHO



August

MO	TU	WE	TH	FR	SA
1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12
14	15	16	17	18	19
21	22	23	24	25	26
28	29	30	31		

Idaho Preferred Community Calendar

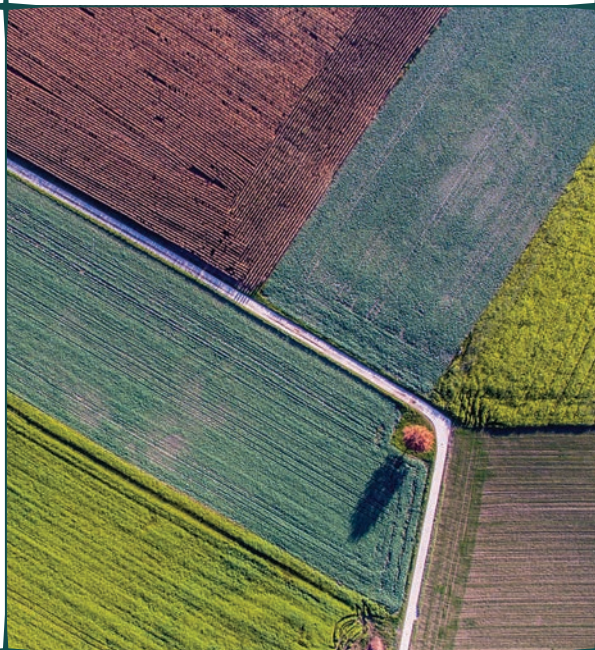
WHAT'S IN SEASON IDAHO?

[JAN](#)
[FEB](#)
[MAR](#)
[APR](#)
[MAY](#)
[JUN](#)
[JUL](#)
[AUG](#)
[SEP](#)
[OCT](#)
[NOV](#)
[DEC](#)

Are you in search of fresh, locally sourced products to enhance your summer recipes, create unique dishes, or prepare for canning season? Look no further than the Idaho Preferred What's In Season Crop Calendar. This convenient resource provides a quick overview of the locally grown, raised, and crafted foods that are currently at their peak. For more information, simply click on the specific crop to view a map of nearby growers in your community.

What's In Season: www.idahopreferred.com/products

Idaho State Department of Agriculture



New name. Same commitment to your success.

Northwest Farm Credit Services is now
AgWest Farm Credit.

Providing agricultural financial services, backed by a
century of experience—to help you grow your legacy.

Contact your local branch
or visit AgWestFC.com
to learn more.



Ag-Probe Auto-Field Sampler (AFS)

Increase field productivity and efficiency
without hiring extra staff!

Retrieve a 7/8 in. diameter soil core
from 0 to 12 in. deep all within 5.5
seconds.

Samples are automatically
deposited into a collection
container for a composite sample.



AMS Equipping the World to Sample the Earth
www.ams-samplers.com | 208-226-2017 | 800-635-7330

Providing Confidence in Idaho Transactions

By Elizabeth Shaw - Idaho State Department of Agriculture



Have you ever wondered while pumping gas, weighing produce or buying products from a grocery store if the price you pay is accurate to the amount of product you are receiving? Did you know that the Idaho State Department of Agriculture plays a major role in ensuring that you are getting what you pay for? From produce to gas to even price and product labeling verification, the Idaho State Department of Agriculture Weights and Measures Program is working to provide you with confidence in all your Idaho purchases involving a commercial weighing or measuring device.

“The Weights and Measures Program goal is to assure customers and Idaho businesses that devices and transactions are accurate.” said Stacie Ybarra, ISDA Program Manager. “Our inspectors across the state are looking to create a level playing field for both the business and the customer.”

Some of the most common commercial weighing or measuring devices inspected by ISDA Weights and Measures include:

- Gas Pumps
- LPG (Propane) Dispensers
- Small Scales – Grocery/Shipping
- Large Scales - Livestock/Truck
- Package Checking
- Price & Label Verification
- Complaint Responses

The metrology laboratory and inspectors impact every Idahoan by verifying scales, meters and pumps that are used by businesses and customers each day. Commercial devices that are used to buy, sell or determine a charge require a device license issued by the ISDA. Licenses must be displayed or easily accessible at the device location. All commercial scales, meters and pumps are tested on an annual basis. If the device passes the inspection, they will be given an ISDA approval sticker to show they have been approved for use.

“Customers will often assume that they are getting what they pay for and the visual of an ISDA approval sticker on a scale, pump or other commercial device provides for added customer confidence,” said David Bennett, Program Specialist. “When the general public sees ISDA inspectors testing devices in the field, they can be assured that they are participating in honest and fair commerce.”

Often, customers will ask ISDA employees what they are doing when inspecting different devices across the state, considering most of the general public is unfamiliar with the program. Once customers understand the service that the inspectors are providing, a common response to their efforts is simply, “Thank you.”

Whether inspectors are testing commercial purpose devices or confirming that transactions are accurate, the Weights and Measures Program serves every corner of Idaho. “Field inspectors also respond to customer concerns regarding issues with scales, propane and fuel meters,” said Bennett. “Our office is available to respond to any questions or concerns that arise.”

The next time you find yourself questioning if you are paying the correct amount for the groceries that you bring home or the gas you put into your vehicle here in the Gem State, know that you can find confidence in your purchases because of ISDA Weights and Measures.





Photos by Shalani Wilcox

Dairy is the main ag commodity in Twin Falls County when it comes to total farm-gate revenue.

Twin Falls County a major player in Idaho agriculture

By Sean Ellis

Idaho Farm Bureau Federation

TWIN FALLS – Twin Falls County is one of Idaho’s heavy-weight counties when it comes to agriculture.

According to the 2017 Census of Agriculture, agricultural producers in Twin Falls County brought in \$680 million in farm-gate revenue during the 2017 census year, ranking Twin Falls County No. 3 in that category in the state.

Outside of the city of Twin Falls, “Pretty much the entire county is used for agriculture of some sort, whether that’s grazing, dairy, potatoes, sugar beets, hay, grain or corn,” says Hansen farmer Larry Hollifield. “We’re a very heavily agricultural county.”

Farming and ranching are the backbone of the county’s economy, says Tyler Hyink, who is part of a family-owned dairy operation just south of Twin Falls.

“Agriculture drives the economy in Twin Falls County,” he says.

Hollifield, president of Twin Falls County Farm Bureau, points out that Buhl is also known as the trout capital of the world and a lot of seed beans and malt barley are also produced here.

“We’re always looking for new, fresh ideas and people to collaborate with for the betterment of agriculture.”

-Larry Hollifield, Hansen farmer

“We do a great job with our malt barley production here,” says Hollifield, who grows sugar beets, wheat, barley, corn, alfalfa and dry beans. “The irrigation we have up here and the dry climate allows us to grow an excellent barley crop.”

When it comes to total farm-gate revenue in Twin Falls County, the dairy industry is the No. 1 ag commodity in the county.

According to the ag census, milk brought in \$373 million in farm-gate revenue in the county during the 2017 census year.

“The climate here is ideal for dairy cows,” Hyink says.

According to the ag census, there were 1,211 farms in Twin Falls County and

468,809 acres of land in farming in 2017. Fifty-five percent of that land was used as cropland and 42 percent as pastureland.

According to the ag census, there were 199,000 cattle and calves in the county in 2017 and a lot of the crops grown in Twin Falls County center around the dairy and cattle industry.

There were 84,037 acres of hay grown in Twin Falls County during the ag census year, as well as 41,625 acres of corn, 24,825 acres of barley, 20,794 acres of dry edible beans and 19,359 acres of wheat.

Hollifield said the main focus of the Twin Falls County Farm Bureau is helping the county’s youth and educating them about agriculture.

“The board really puts a lot of empha-

sis on the youth programs in Twin Falls County,” he says. “The youth are vital to our future.”

Besides providing ag scholarships, the county Farm Bureau organization also supports the area’s FFA and 4-H youth programs and provides grants to local ag teachers, he says.

“We try to help every 4-H and FFA program we can,” Hollifield says. “We want to help get these kids involved with agriculture and continue the legacy of agriculture we have here in Twin Falls County and in the state of Idaho.”

The Twin Falls County Farm Bureau organization also donated \$10,000 this year toward the rebuilding of pig barns at the county fairgrounds that are used by FFA and 4-H kids, says Hyink, who serves as vice president for TFCFB.

“We focus a lot on helping the youth,” he says. “We feel the next generation is what is going to keep agriculture alive around here. It’s important to educate the youth on agriculture and try to get them involved.”

TFCFB also focuses heavily on the policy side of agriculture, Hollifield says. That includes staying engaged with local officials and legislators and statewide farm organizations, including Idaho Farm Bureau Federation and Food Producers of Idaho.

“We really stay engaged in policy development and agriculture-related issues ... to get better legislation and support for agriculture in Idaho,” Hollifield says.

He says the TFCFB always welcomes new members who want to serve on one of the organization’s boards or who just want to pitch fresh ideas.

“We’re always looking for new, fresh ideas and people to collaborate with for the betterment of agriculture,” he says.

To find out more about Twin Falls County Farm Bureau, visit the Idaho Farm Bureau Federation website at idahofb.org and go to the bottom of the page and click on “County Presidents & Board Information” and then click on the Twin Falls page. ■



LEFT: A hay field is irrigated in Twin Falls County, which ranks as the No. 3 county in Idaho in total farm revenue.

Classifieds

FARMING/EQUIPMENT

Ford 4,000 Tractor. 500 hours on engine. New back tires and runs well. \$6,000. Call 812-620-3475 Cobalt, Idaho

Antique Horse Drawn Sickle Bar Mower McCormick "New Big 4" Five-foot long sickle bar; 34-inch tall wheels. Located in Bonners Ferry area. Asking \$1495 OBO. Call 208-267-2908 or text 208-610-4571 for more info or photos.

Bale wagons: New Holland self-propelled or pul-type models, parts, tires, manuals. Also interested in buying bale wagons. Will consider any model. Call Luke 208-880-2889

Unique Antique! Farmhall M tractor with farm hand loader attached. Bought in 1955 used and has been in the same family since. Last ran in 2018. Will need to be hauled. Call 208-785-8001 or 208-681-4920 Blackfoot, Idaho

Alfalfa hay, 1st & 2nd cut good horse hay, no rain, 95% weed free. \$200 a ton, Firth, Idaho area. Call or text 208-357-1845 for more information.

LIVESTOCK

Fisher Texel ram lambs for sale. Born February/March Located in Payette, ID. Call 208-315-5659

AUTO

1984 Corvette classic. 90 90 restored, overhauled engine and transmission. Beautiful gold color and clean interior. California

car and fun to drive. Garaged in Salmon. \$8,500 obo. Insured for \$10,000 will consider trade for ATV. Call 858-518-4622

FOR SALE

Colorado Saddle. 15 inch seat, used but good condition. 208-221-2158

Kimball Spinnet piano for sale. Excellent condition. 208-785-2021. Lava Hot Springs, Idaho
Half Bengal/half Jungle male kitten for sale, available end of July. He looks like a Bengal. Call 208-357-1845 Firth, ID

MISCELLANEOUS

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 208-530-6466

WANTED

Used 16 ft hay elevator. Will pay for delivery to Roberts, ID. Call James, 208-310-2277 or email mellojam.zillinger@gmail.com

Paying cash for unwanted fire-works, the older the better. I collect firecrackers, Roman candles, mortars and anything else aerial. I also collect old m-80s like fish and game used to hand out. Great way to repurpose old fire-works as they are disassembled and used to create new ones. 208-866-2112

Looking for old sawmill two or three

saw board edger mounted or by itself. Older three- or four-sided lumber planner. Call 208-743-9204. Lewiston, ID

Paying cash for old cork top embossed bottles and some telephone insulators as well as other vintage and antique items. Call Randy. Payette, ID. 208-740-0178
Paying cash for German & Japanese war relics/souvenirs! Pistols, rifles, swords, daggers, flags, scopes, optical equipment, uniforms, helmets, machine guns (ATF rules apply) medals, flags, etc. 208-405-9338

Pre-1970 Idaho License Plates Wanted: Also Revere Ware and Solar-Sturges Permanent cook-ware, and old signs. Will pay cash. Please email, text, call, or write. Gary Peterson, 115 E D St, Moscow, ID 83843. gearlep@gmail.com. 208-285-1258

Wanted old Idaho Patches! Farm Bureau, Farming, Hunting, Idaho Cattlemen Assoc, Idaho Fish and Game. Top Dollar Paid! Call,

email, or text pics. Rusty Kramer idahotrapguy@hotmail.com 208-870-3217

SERVICES

4S Welding- Mobile welding for Bingham County and surrounding areas. Fencing, pipe, equipment repair, etc. Carbon and stainless, 20 years of experience. Call Mike 208-680-7372

Nat's Farm Yard Care- Brush hogging, rototilling, scraping manure, and stump grinding. Servicing Bingham County, Power County, and surrounding areas. Text or leave a voicemail for Natalie 8am-5pm M-F 208-917-2726

Ranch made items- Personalized Stainless-Steel Shovels with your name stamped on it. Dependable Chain Oilers- for harvesters, planters, every chain on earth. Custom Portable Stainless Steele Tilting Bathtubs-With sliding seat for home care. Rocking Cowboy Piano-Chassis 21" wagon wheels. Weiser, ID call 208-550-4619

FREE CLASSIFIEDS

Non-commercial classified ads are free to Idaho Farm Bureau members. Must include membership number for free ad. Forty (40) words maximum. Non-member cost is 50 cents per word. You may advertise your own crops, livestock, used machinery, household items, vehicles, etc. Ads will not be accepted by phone, Ads run one time only and must be re-submitted in each subsequent issue. We reserve the right to refuse to run any ad. Please type or print clearly. Proofread your ad. Ads must be received by August 16 for the September Producer.

Mail ad copy to:
FARM BUREAU PRODUCER
P.O. Box 4848, Pocatello, ID 83205-4848
or email Kristy at knlindauer@idahofb.org

**Free Classified ads for
Idaho Farm Bureau Members
Send to knlindauer@idahofb.org**

Thank You

FRIENDS OF IDAHO FFA

To learn more about supporting agriculture education, leadership development, and career success, visit growidahoffa.org



Local and state fair season in Idaho is coming right up! Support local FFA chapters and learn more about their Supervised Agricultural Experience projects at a fair near you.

IDAHO FOUNDATION **FFA**



Photo by Sean Ellis

Potatoes are planted in a field near Firth this spring. With Idaho spud farmers planting 12 percent more potatoes this year than last year, the state's 2023 potato crop should be much bigger than the 2022 crop.

Idaho potato acres up 12 percent over last year

By Sean Ellis

Idaho Farm Bureau Federation

POCATELLO – Idaho's 2023 potato crop will likely be much bigger than its 2022 crop.

Idaho farmers planted 328,858 acres of spuds this year, according to United Potato Growers of America, which does a physical count of spud acres in Idaho each year.

That estimate is 12 percent or 33,858 acres higher than last year's 295,000-acre total.

Idaho's total 2022 potato production was smaller than normal due to challenging agronomic conditions and a significant reduction in acreage.

Idaho potato farmers and industry leaders expected a sizable bump in acreage this year but the 328,858-acre number, released June 22, was higher than anticipated.

"There were signals it would be a high number but acres were higher than some people thought they would be," said Idaho Potato Commission President and CEO Jamey Higham.

Idaho's spud farmers produced a total of 12 billion pounds of potatoes in 2022, which was well below the typical 13 billion pounds of spuds that come out of the nation's No. 1 potato-producing state each year.

With farm-level potato prices higher than normal this past year, industry leaders and farmers were expecting a bump in acreage in 2023.

“We all knew the number would come up; it had to come up,” said Declo potato farmer and IPC board member Mark Darrington. But, he added, “It surprised me that it was that high.”

According to the June 22 edition of North American Potato Market News, this year’s spud acreage increase in Idaho “appears to be driven by demand for processing potatoes. Most of the additional acreage was in the major processing potato-growing counties. Both dehydrators and fryers have been contracting aggressively.”

NAPMN estimates that if average potato yields in Idaho this year reach the 20-year trend – 447 hundredweight per acre – total spud production in the state could reach 14.7 billion pounds in 2023.

If realized, that would be the second highest potato production year in Idaho, behind only the current record of 15.2

billion pounds set in 2000.

That would also exceed the 2022 crop by 22 percent.

Higham said it’s way too early to know what this year’s bigger spud crop will mean for the supply-and-demand situation and, ultimately, farm-level potato prices.

He also pointed out this year’s acreage isn’t that much above the state’s 20-year average of 320,000 potato acres.

He said it’s been a couple of years since Idaho had a potato crop that was normal in both acreage and yields. Since then, the state’s big three potato processors have all added capacity.

“So much has changed since (then) that we don’t know for sure where supply and demand meet up,” Higham said. “One way or another, we’ll figure out how to get the best return for our growers. That’s one great thing about Idaho potato growers: they are adaptable.”

Darrington said last year’s smaller crop resulted in Idaho processors bringing in a significant amount of potatoes from out of

state to meet their processing needs.

North American Potato Market News also estimates that Idaho’s June 1 potato stocks were down 19 percent compared with the same period last year. That’s the state’s smallest June 1 inventory since 2011, according to NAPMN.

Darrington said this year’s potato acreage “is manageable given the expectations of today.”

Higham and Darrington both pointed out there’s a long way to go until it’s known for sure just how big Idaho’s 2023 potato crop will be.

Besides acreage, other major factors to consider are yield and quality, Higham said.

“We only know one of those factors right now,” he said. “There’s still quite a bit of time in this growing season left before we see how the crops is going to turn out.”

Most of Idaho’s potato crop is typically harvested in September and into October.

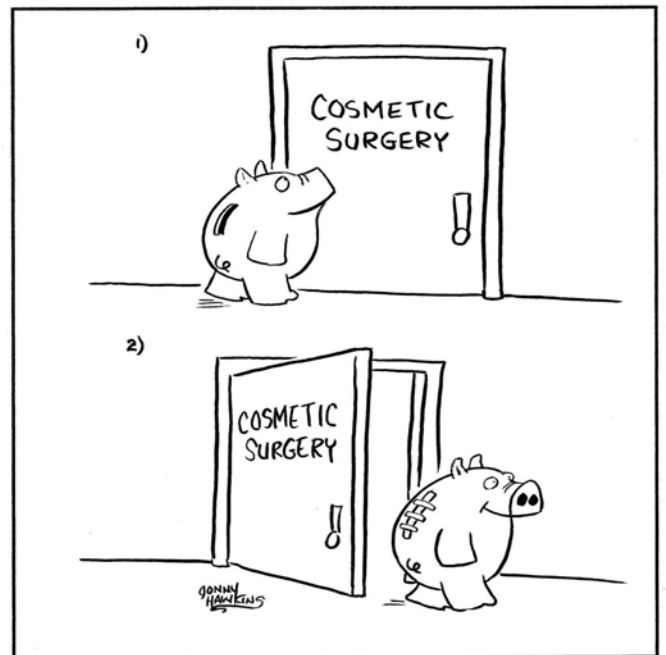
“We’re a long way from having them harvested,” Darrington. ■

Country Chuckles

By Jonny Hawkins



“Would you like the results of your yammogram?”



Stockdogs and their handlers form dynamic team on ranches and at trials

By Dianna Troyer

For Idaho Farm Bureau Federation

Both fluent in stockdog language, Lerrina Collins and her border collie Red are a dynamic duo, moving sheep and cattle at national competitions and on ranches.

Infinitely energetic and eager to please, Red darts and slinks or races around sheep, depending on Collins' commands, as they work together at home – King's View Ranch near Moore in the Lost River Valley.

Unblinking in concentration, Red stares at the sheep while listening for the familiar commands – come by (move clockwise), away (move counterclockwise), walk up, (move toward the stock), come back, and stand.

"It's more than merely words," Collins explained. "It's position, mindset, feel, timing, and pressure, to name a few components."

For the past three years, Collins has qualified dogs to compete at the National Finals of the Mountain States Stockdog Association. The trials showcase the partnership of handler and dog as they move sheep and cattle.

"The dogs love it as much as I do," said Collins, who has been competing on the MSSA circuit since 2017.

Collins said stockdog trials are exploding in popularity in the cattle world as "people catch the bug and realize this is not only fun but a family friendly sport. There's a huge demand, too, for dogs that have been started right."

Red and Sky, also a 3-year-old border collie, are ideal for ranch work and trials "because they're biddable, yet won't back down when facing off with a cow," Collins said. "When a cow is being obstinate, they have the calm confidence needed to change the cow's mind without being overly aggressive."

Red eagerly herds sheep at King's View Ranch near Moore.
Photo by Dianna Troyer



"A well-trained dog can replace two or three cowboys when you're moving cattle."

*-Lerrina Collins,
Ranch owner and stockdog competitor*

To start her young dogs, Collins works them on livestock in a round pen, a little less than 30 feet across. Explaining basic training techniques, she says to imagine a clock.

"The wonderful thing about border collies is they've been bred for centuries to bring animals to you. So if I'm standing at 6 o'clock, the dog will naturally tend to go to 12 o'clock so they can bring the stock to me."

With that idea as a foundation, she can walk to various positions and teach the verbal commands.

Collins not only competes, but also relies on her border collies for assistance with handling the grass-fed beef and lamb that she and her husband, Craig, raise and sell.

Every spring on the rolling grasslands of southeastern Montana near Alzada, she and her dogs help a friend move 2,000 sheep, bringing them in from winter range for shearing.

“It’s wild country – true dog-using country,” Collins said. “Their sheep graze across 25,000 acres plus a similar-sized Bureau of Land Management permit. It’s one of the best times of the year for the dogs and I.”

Several years ago, Collins became intrigued with talented stockdogs while helping a friend move his cattle in eastern Oregon.

“I was riding the legs off my horse while he rode along with a couple of his dogs excited to be doing all the work and listening eagerly for his commands,” she said. “A well-trained dog can replace two or three cowboys when you’re moving cattle.”

Mountain States Stockdog Association

Chesterfield rancher and MSSA founder, Steve Wight, agrees.

“Without our trained border collies, we’d have to hire about four cowboys to move our stock,” said Wight, who raises Black Angus cattle at the Mill Iron S Ranch. “It’s just me, my wife Sheri, and our kids.”

To promote the use of border collies and other breeds of stockdogs, the Wights and their friends established MSSA in 2016. The association has more than 500



Photo by XP Ranch Photography

Steve Wight and his dog Levi won more than three dozen awards during their six years of competition on the MSSA circuit. From left are MSSA board of directors Jeannie Biggers, Sheri and Steve Wight, and Doreen and Clyde McCourt.

members from throughout the USA, Canada, and Mexico.

“Our goal is to encourage the use of skilled working stockdogs in all aspects of ranching and to organize trials to compete with our dogs,” Wight said. “We’re a collective of ranchers, dog handlers, trainers and hobbyists coming together to trial, train, and improve our dogs and our stock-handling capabilities.”

At the MSSA National Finals in June, more than 300 dogs and their trainers competed in several classes: professional, novice, beginner and nursery or junior. They traveled from Canada, Mexico, throughout the West, Florida, Georgia, Tennessee, and New York

“It’s the highlight of the year for us,” said Wight, who trains, competes in trials, offers clinics, and raises border collies.

He grew up with border collies, learned to train them from his father, and bought his first dog when he was 8.

“They’ve always been a part of my life,” he said.

Competing from 2012 to 2018, Wight and his dog Levi won more than three dozen awards. Although Levi passed away, he lives on through his offspring.

“We’re always trying to breed the best lines possible,” Wight said.

For the Wights, MSSA trials are family events. Their kids Stockton, 13, Stone, 12, Sam, 10, and Sage, 8, have competed on a national level. In 2022, Sam and Sage were co-champions of the Junior Class at the National Finals.

“It’s fun to see them succeed and enjoy themselves,” Wight said. ■

Videos of stockdogs at work can be seen on Collins’ Facebook page at King’s View Ranch, Wight’s website at the www.milliron-sranch.com, and the MSSA website, mountainstatesstockdog.com.



LEFT: Lerrina Collins and her 3-year-old border collie Red competed in the Mountain States Stockdog Association National Finals in June in Afton, Wyo. It was the third time she qualified dogs for nationals. Photo by Dianna Troyer



Photo by Sean Ellis

Wheat is planted in a field near Rockland this spring.

A glance at planted acres in Idaho in 2023

By Sean Ellis

Idaho Farm Bureau Federation

POCATELLO – Idaho farmers planted significantly more corn and chickpeas this year, a good amount more potatoes, a little more barley and about the same amount of wheat, hay and sugar beets.

According to USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service, Idaho farmers planted 390,000 acres of corn for grain in 2023, a 22 percent increase over the 2022 total of 320,000 acres.

The NASS forecast for planted acres was released June 30 and is based on grower surveys.

NASS forecasts that Idaho growers planted 73,000 acres of chickpeas, also known as garbanzo beans, this year, up 20 percent from 61,000 last year. NASS puts large chickpea acres in Idaho at 53,000 this year, up from 46,000 last year, and small chickpea acres at 20,000, up from 15,000.

Most of the state's chickpeas are grown in North Idaho, as are other pulse crops such as lentils and dry edible peas.

NASS forecasts dry edible pea acres in Idaho at 14,000 in 2023, down from 28,000 last year, and it expects lentil acres to be down slightly, from 15,000 last year to 13,000 this year.

Farm-level chickpea prices are up about 10 percent compared with last fall, lentil prices are a bit higher and pea prices are down a bit, said Dirk Hammond, administrative services manager for George F. Brocke and Sons, a processor of peas, lentils and garbanzo beans in Kendrick.

Those pulse crops saw some stiff compe-

tion from canola acres in North Idaho this year, Hammond said.

“We’ve seen a huge increase in canola acres in northcentral Idaho and that has competed with garb, lentil and green pea acres,” he said.

NASS does not track canola acres in Idaho but that might change soon if they keep growing.

“It has not been a significant crop in our area up until last year,” Hammond said.

He said unusually high temperatures this growing season in North Idaho have posed a challenge to pulse crops and how total production for pulses in Idaho will look in 2023 is a big unknown right now.

“We’ll have to wait and see how they do,” he said. “The heat is going to affect some of the crops in our area and eastern Washington.”

Total planted barley acres in Idaho are estimated at 590,000 this year, up 5 percent from 560,000 last year. Idaho is the nation’s No. 1 barley-producing state and most of that barley is used in the malting process during beer production.

NASS projects 550,000 acres of that planted barley will be harvested this year, up from 540,000 last year.

Idaho farmers produced 59.9 million bushels of barley last year, the state’s second-biggest barley crop in at least a decade, and growers had an average of 111 bushels per acre in 2022, a state record.

“USDA’s projection that Idaho’s 2023 harvested barley acres will be up to 550,000, 2 percent over 2022, is on track with what we’re seeing across the state,” said Laura Wilder, executive director for the Idaho Barley Commission. “Contracting and prices were strong again this season, and demand for Idaho barley is high due to its superior quality and consistency. The 2023 crop looks good overall with expected average yields for Idaho a little below 2022’s record yields of 111 bushels per acre.”

Idaho’s total planted potato acres this year are projected at 330,000 by NASS, a 12 percent increase over 295,000 in 2022. Idaho also leads the nation in potato production.

A separate estimate by United Potato Growers of Idaho projects spud acres in the state at just shy of 329,000 this year.

[See page 36 for a story on Idaho potato acres.]

Total planted wheat acres in Idaho are estimated at 1.17 million this year, up slightly from 1.16 million last year, and total harvested hay acres in the state are projected at 1.44 million acres this year, up slightly from 1.41 million last year.

Idaho dry bean acres are estimated at 40,000 in 2023, down from 45,000 in 2022, and oat acres are projected at 45,000 this year, down from 50,000 last year.

NASS estimates Idaho sugar beet acres at 177,000 this year, up from 173,000 last year. ■

OMA & POPIE’S – WHERE TRADITION MEETS INNOVATION!



Discover a Flavor Revolution with Oma and Popie’s Seasoning Sauce & Spice Blends!

Are you in pursuit of flavor that packs a punch, but doesn’t overwhelm your taste buds? Look no further! We are here to tantalize your senses with our exquisite Seasoning Sauces & Spice Blends. The versatility of our products knows no bounds! Whether you’re grilling, roasting, sautéing, or simmering, our Seasoning Sauces & Spice Blends elevate every dish to new heights. Don’t settle for ordinary embrace the extraordinary!

Ready to tantalize your taste buds and redefine your culinary creations?

Visit our website www.omaandpopies.com to experience the magic of Oma and Popie’s Seasoning Sauce & Spice Blends today!

Save 15% with code IFB15



LOW INTEREST LOANS FOR IDAHO SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION



- Sprinkler Irrigation
- No-Till Drills
- Fences
- Livestock Feeding Operations
- Solar Stock Water Pump Systems



SWC.idaho.gov

(208) 332-1790

WANT TO EARN 5.56% APY?



FOR A LIMITED TIME, WE ARE OFFERING A SPECIAL 9 MONTH DEBENTURE NOTE RATE OF 5.45% APR / 5.56% APY!

\$5,000 MINIMUM NEW INVESTMENT TO QUALIFY FOR THIS RATE.

CALL US AT 1- 888-566-3276 OR VISIT WWW.IDFBFS.COM FOR DETAILS

A DEBENTURE NOTE IS A SECURITY OFFERED BY IDFBFS THAT MAY ONLY BE PURCHASED BY RESIDENTS OF THE STATE OF IDAHO



SCAN FOR RATES

**Idaho Farm Bureau
FINANCIAL SERVICES**

Prospectus available upon request

Anser key for page 10 Word Search

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

MASSEY FERGUSON

BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND.

You wanted a small tractor with a mid PTO for more versatility, Massey Ferguson® responded by bringing back a versatile workhorse, the Massey Ferguson 1526 compact tractor. This one's built especially for people like you — a new generation of landowners who want a tractor that's as hardworking and no-nonsense as they are. Come check out the MF1526 today.

www.masseyferguson.us

CHECK OUT THE
MASSEY FERGUSON
1526 COMPACT TRACTOR



8 LOCATIONS THROUGHOUT IDAHO
AND WASHINGTON TO SERVE YOU.

www.agri-service.com
1-800-260-3599



©2016 AGCO Corporation. Massey Ferguson is a worldwide brand of AGCO Corporation. AGCO and Massey Ferguson are trademarks of AGCO. All rights reserved. MF16P022CR



IDAHO FARM BUREAU® CARES

SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAMS

\$151,769

in academic scholarships were awarded to Idaho students



CHARITABLE DONATIONS

\$191,894

was donated to charitable causes

COUNTY BANQUETS & PICNICS



\$122,578 WAS SPENT ON LOCAL BANQUETS & PICNICS BRINGING MEMBERS TOGETHER TO PROVIDE NETWORKING OPPORTUNITIES

4-H & FFA

\$133,202

was donated to local 4-H and FFA Chapters



Idaho Farm Bureau donates hundreds of thousands of dollars to local communities each year. In 2022, Farm Bureau members donated almost \$600,000 to local causes through their county Farm Bureau organizations. The graphics on this page show some of the ways that Farm Bureau members donated in 2022.

**NEW EPISODES
EVERY OTHER
TUESDAY!**



P.O. Box 4848
Pocatello, ID 83205-4848

LOOKING FOR A NEW PODCAST? DIRT ROAD DISCUSSIONS

Episode 33: It Was Mint To Be

FIELDS OF MINT MAY LOOK A LITTLE LIKE HAY, AND GET HARVESTED A LITTLE LIKE HAY, BUT WHEN ONE BARREL OF MINT OIL IS THE FINAL PRODUCT FROM FOUR ACRES OF HARVEST, YOU QUICKLY REALIZE THIS IS NO ORDINARY CROP. FROM CHEWING GUM TO TOOTHPASTE, ICE CREAM TO CANDY CANES, MINT IS PART OF OUR DAILY LIVES. DEL CHRISTENSEN, AREA MANAGER FOR LABBEEMINT, TAKES US THROUGH THE PROCESS OF HOW MINT MAKES IT FROM THE FIELD TO OUR STORE SHELVES.

