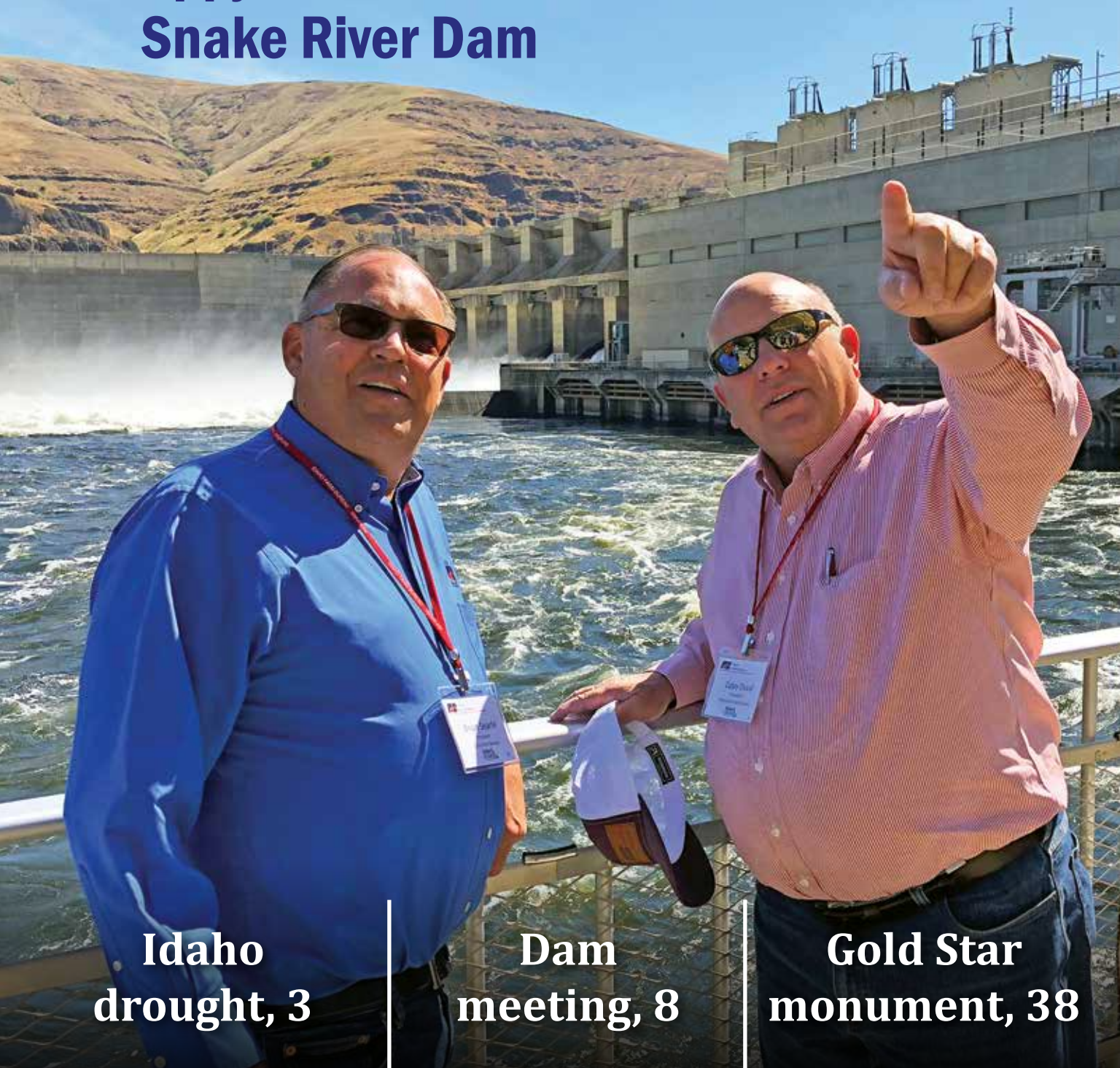


# GEM STATE **Producer**

**Idaho Farm Bureau**

July 2021 • Volume 25 Issue 5

## Zippy Duvall Tours Snake River Dam



**Idaho  
drought, 3**

**Dam  
meeting, 8**

**Gold Star  
monument, 38**

## Ensuring a fair cattle market



For every \$1 Americans spend on food, just 14.3 cents goes to farmers.

As the first link in our food supply chain, farmers and ranchers don't get to set the price of their products and assume incredible risk with every planting and each herd of animals.

We take great pride in caring for our animals and spend countless hours making sure they are healthy and safe. Our livelihoods depend on it, so when it comes time to sell them, farmers and ranchers deserve a fair deal.

Many farmers and ranchers can recall years

when they fell short of breaking even because of low prices for their products, but we do our best to push forward hoping the next year is better.

However, after years of feeling like the market squeezes small and medium-sized farms out of operation, some cattle producers aren't optimistic the future will be better unless action is taken.

Even before the pandemic, farmers and ranchers watched as the price for their cattle fell while the price of beef leaving processing facilities increased.

See **DUVALL**, page 6

## The President's Desk

By **Bryan Searle**  
President Idaho Farm Bureau Federation

### Organizations combine efforts to oppose dam removal



Opposition to a bold but disastrous proposal that would result in the removal of the four lower Snake River dams has been building for several months.

Since it was released in February, Idaho Farm Bureau Federation, grain organizations and other regional farm groups have adamantly opposed a \$33.5 billion proposal by Rep. Mike Simpson, R-Idaho, that calls for removing the dams in his effort to help endangered salmon.

Each of these groups against that plan have had their own ideas on how to oppose it. But now, af-

ter meeting for two days in Lewiston and discussing the proposal in-depth, those groups are now coming together as one voice with an overall plan to stop it from moving forward.

One of the main voices leading that effort will be Georgia farmer Zippy Duvall, president of American Farm Bureau Federation, who joined us along with other national ag industry leaders in Lewiston June 15-16 for the event.

AFBF represents farmers and ranchers from county Farm Bureaus across the United States and

See **SEARLE**, page 7

## Inside Farm Bureau

By **Zak Miller**  
CEO Idaho Farm Bureau Federation

### Farm Bureau protects voices of Idaho farmers and ranchers



One of the most American things we can ever do is speak our minds. It is a primary tenet of our liberty and the fundamental basis of the culture of our nation.

Many parents use the phrase "use your words" as they teach their children, young and not so young, to articulate their feelings and desires. As we consider the greatness of the United States, it is our liberty that allows us to use our voices to share our opinions.

This fundamental liberty – speaking our minds freely – is so ingrained in what makes us citizens

of the USA. If you were told you were not allowed to speak, there would be outrage — the Bill of Rights guarantees this right.

Not being allowed to speak our minds is an un-American thought to even consider.

As black and white as our ability to share our voice may be on the surface, we live in a world of gray. While we are guaranteed the right to have and share our opinions, we are not promised there will be no repercussions from lifting our voices.

See **MILLER**, page 6

**IFBF Officers**

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

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Dan Garner..... Clifton  
Austin Tubbs ..... Malad  
Fred Burmester..... Downey  
Scott Steele..... Idaho Falls  
Stephanie Mickelsen..... 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  
Melissa Durrant ..... Meridian

**STAFF**

Executive Assistant ..... Cara Dyer  
Director of Operations..... Justin Patten  
Operations Assistant ..... Peggy Moore  
Assistant Treasurer ..... Tyler Moore  
Director of Member Relations..... Brody Miller  
Dist. I Regional Manager ..... Ott Clark  
Dist. II Regional Manager ..... Camron Hammond  
Dist. III Regional Manager ..... Zack Lanier  
Dist. IV Regional Manager ..... Naomi Dalley  
Dist. V Regional Manager ..... Bob Smathers  
Dir. of Governmental Affairs..... Russ Hendricks  
Energy/Natural Resources..... Braden Jensen  
Governmental Affairs Representative ..... Chyla Wilson  
Director of Information ..... Joel Benson  
Project Specialist ..... Kristy Lindauer  
Publications Editor/Media Contact ..... Sean Ellis  
Broadcast Services Manager ..... Jake Putnam  
Videographer ..... Michaela Andrus  
Member Benefits Manager..... Betty Inskeep

Printed by: Adams Publishing Group, Pocatello, ID

**GEM STATE PRODUCER**

USPS #015-024, is published monthly except February, May, August and November by the IDAHO FARM BUREAU FEDERATION, 275 Tierra Vista Drive, Pocatello, ID 83201.

POSTMASTER send changes of address to:  
GEM STATE PRODUCER

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

Subscription rate: \$6.00 per year included in Farm Bureau dues.

**MAGAZINE CONTACTS:**

Idaho Farm Bureau Federation  
EDITOR (208) 239-4292 • ADS (208) 239-4384  
E-MAIL: seanellis@idahofb.org  
ADS: advertising@idahofb.org  
web: www.idahofb.org



Photo by Sean Ellis

Farmers in many parts of the state are facing significant challenges due to drought conditions. Here, an irrigation ditch runs along a farm field near Blackfoot.

# Drought shaping growing season for Idaho farmers

By John O'Connell  
*Intermountain Farm and Ranch*

Cory Kress keeps careful, year-round records of all the moisture that falls on his dry-land farm in Southeast Idaho's Rockland Valley.

Lately that's been an easy job, as he hasn't had much precipitation to track. During the past year, Kress' farm has received 5.6 inches of moisture, counting snowpack.

"I should be at 15.3 inches," Kress said. "I think even the Sahara is 6 or 7 inches."

Much of Idaho has been gripped by unrelenting drought and unseasonable heat, threatening irrigators' water supplies and shriveling crops raised on dry-land farms, which rely exclusively on natural precipitation.

Cattlemen have also been hard hit, facing poor pasture conditions and the prospect of feeding expensive hay to livestock that will likely have to be moved prematurely from their range.

"It's bad. The cattlemen are probably in the worst shape," Kress said. "I talked to a friend. His aunt sold off 400 head. They've got no place to put them."

The U.S. Drought Monitor for June 21 listed about a third of Idaho as being in severe drought — including a small band in the far southeast corner, a portion of the northern panhandle and a diagonal swath through the central mountains from the southwest corner to Clark County in the east.

See **DROUGHT**, page 37

**COVER: American Farm Bureau Federation President Zippy Duvall, right, and Idaho Farm Bureau Federation President Bryan Searle discuss the importance of the four lower Snake River dams June 16 in front of Lower Granite Dam. See story on page 8. (Photo by Sean Ellis)**



Photo by Sean Ellis

Potatoes are planted in a Bingham County field May 10. Recently released U.S. Census Bureau data shows the total value of Idaho farm product exports during the first quarter of 2021 increased 1 percent compared with the same period in 2020.

# Idaho farm export value rose slightly during first quarter

By Sean Ellis

*Idaho Farm Bureau Federation*

POCATELLO – The total value of Idaho farm product exports increased 1 percent during the first three months of 2021, while nationwide, the value increased by 24 percent.

“The U.S. growth was led by corn and soybeans, which are not typically produced for export in Idaho, though exported cereal grains from Idaho increased by more than 17%” during the first quarter, Doug Robison, the Idaho president of Northwest Farm Credit

Services, told Idaho Farm Bureau Federation.

In Idaho, live animals, meat and related categories experienced strong export value growth during the first quarter of 2021 at a combined 23 percent, which helped offset decreases in dairy and potato export value, Robison said.

According to recently released U.S. Census Bureau data that is calculated by the Idaho State Department of Agriculture, the total value of agricultural product exports from Idaho during the first three months of 2021 was \$260 million, up 1 percent from the same period

in 2020.

Canada remained the top destination for Idaho ag exports during the first quarter, as that nation purchased \$80 million worth of farm products from the Gem State, a 13 percent increase over the first quarter of 2020.

Mexico ranked No. 2 in that category and purchased \$54 million worth of Idaho farm exports during the first quarter, an 8 percent decrease from last year during the same period.

China moved up one position to the No. 3 spot, having purchased \$16 million worth of Idaho farm products during the

first three months of 2021, a 58 percent increase over the same period in 2020.

Robison said a recent 30-day halt of beef exports from Argentina will potentially result in further increases of export activity to China from Idaho.

“Argentina provides up to a quarter of China’s beef imports,” he said. “Idaho’s increases in live animal and meat exports during the first quarter were most likely supported by Chinese purchases that could see further increases during the second quarter.”

The Netherlands purchased \$14 million worth of Idaho ag products during the first quarter, 7 percent more than it did during the same period last year.

Japan purchased \$13.8 million worth of Idaho farm products during the first quarter, a 3 percent increase compared with 2020, and a total of \$13.7 million worth of Idaho farm products were sold to South Korea from January-March, a 23 percent decrease from last year.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture on May 26 projected that U.S. farm

exports will hit a record \$164 billion during fiscal year 2021, which ends Sept. 30. That would be up 8 percent over the previous record of \$152 billion set in fiscal 2014.

If realized, that \$164 billion total would be an increase of \$28 billion, or 21 percent, over the fiscal 2020 total.

According to USDA, key drivers of the expected surge in export value this year include a record outlook for China, reduced foreign competition, record export volumes and values for a number of key agricultural products and sharply higher commodity prices.

USDA forecasts China will import \$35 billion worth of U.S. farm exports this fiscal year, which would be an 18 percent increase over the previous record of \$29.6 billion set in fiscal 2014. This increase is expected to be led by Chinese demand for soybeans and corn.

“USDA projects that total exports of bulk (agricultural) commodities and meat will reach record levels for both volume and value in FY 2021,” the de-

partment’s May 26 report states.

The Census Bureau export data is released quarterly and is based on what state a commodity is exported from, so it doesn’t capture all of Idaho’s farm product exports. For example, it doesn’t capture the wheat from Idaho that is exported out of Portland.

But it does show trends and from a percentage standpoint, matches closely with USDA data that is released annually in the fall. The USDA data captures more of the state’s farm exports but it is not as timely as the Census Bureau data.

The Census Bureau data shows Idaho’s record for total ag export value was \$1.02 billion, set in 2014. According to the Census Bureau, the total value of Idaho farm product exports during 2020 was \$927 million, up from \$899 million in 2019.

The USDA Idaho ag export data for 2020 will be released this fall. That data shows Idaho’s record for total farm export value was \$2.29 billion, set in 2013. ■



Distributed by RMT Inc.



After 5 years of field testing BioEnsure® was commercialized in 2017 with sales reaching

**2017: 220,000 Acres**  
**2018: 900,000 Acres**  
**2019: 1,500,000 Acres**  
**2020: 2,000,000 Acres**

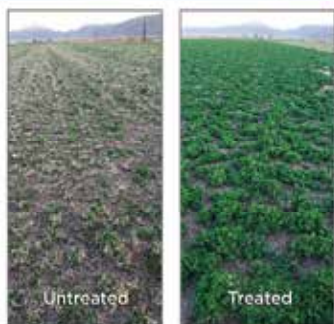


Treated Untreated

## Increases Crop Yields up to +25%

Yield & quality after only one Application with the synergy of both

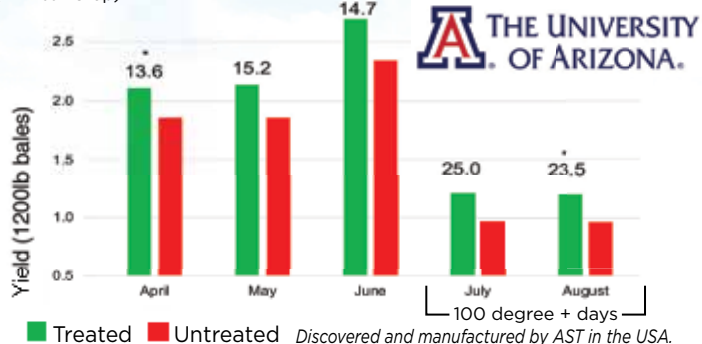
**BioEnsure® + BioTango™**



- Allows plants to tolerate drought, temperature, and salt stress
- Increases nutrient availability to plants
- Increases crop yields up to 25%
- Protects fertilization when plants are heat stressed
- Increases plant nutrient use efficiency
- Increases in yield quality

These two adjacent plots visually show a very clear difference in growth, including early season emergence and cold tolerance from the plot that was treated with [BioEnsure® + BioTango™].

Alfalfa Response to Foliar Application of BioEnsure® + BioTango™ (2<sup>nd</sup> Year Crop)



## Increases Crop Yields Up To 25%

Cost per acre \$15.00 • One application per year

CONTACT: Dave : 707-373-2200 | dave@bioensure.com

# MILLER

*Continued from page 2*

The mother's admonition of, "If you can't say something nice, don't say anything at all," should be basic common sense.

But there are times when saying nothing to maintain social niceties is not an option. There are times when people or policy or both are on the wrong track, and we must raise our voice to defend what is true.

This is when the shades of gray creep in.

Our country fought a war to gain independence so that all men may share their voice in matters that are important to them. However, every voice that speaks up takes the risk of backlash when others hear words they disagree with.

People who are willing to speak up and demand their voices be heard can be called patriot, leader, hero, martyr, extremist, etc. It can be dangerous to make your voice heard. Speaking up can be a path that is rocky and dangerous, which is why we

celebrate mountain climbers more than hill climbers.

As important and lonely as an individual's voice may be, there are ways to share the burden, magnify the load, and protect oneself from the full force of opposition to one's views. Farm Bureau and groups like it exist to protect individuals and magnify their voices.

Here are a few real-world examples of how the Farm Bureau protects and magnifies a voice at the same time.

Ranchers experiencing wolf depredation may feel that sharing their personal experiences could put a target on their back for retaliation by extreme environmental groups. Farm Bureau collects those ranchers' experiences and uses them in testimony to encourage new laws regarding wolf management.

Another example is farmers who see the removal of the Snake River dams as destructive to their viability but rent land

from landlords who support the concept. Again, Farm Bureau can collectively represent those farmers who oppose dam removal by actively opposing it.

Farm Bureau can stand as a voice for those who have much to lose if their personal feelings are exposed.

Please do not misinterpret the value of the Farm Bureau. No group can carry a message with the same strength as an individual voice can.

Advocacy groups work best when they can serve as a megaphone. They also defend leaders when they face extreme danger to their livelihoods if they share their voice as an individual.

Indeed, we are blessed to live in a land where we can speak out mind freely and we can have groups and organizations that can help us do that.

Like with champion teams, individuals create the team, and the team works because of the individuals. ■

# DUVALL

*Continued from page 2*

When one of the largest beef processing facilities in the country was knocked out of commission by a fire, cattle prices cratered while wholesale beef prices went up 12% in seven days.

During the pandemic, the same trends were amplified and the effect was more widespread. Wholesale beef prices went up 25% in just seven days while the price paid to farmers dropped.

There was rightfully an outcry from ranchers across the country who were frustrated with the ongoing problems in cattle marketing.

In April of 2020, the American Farm Bureau formed a working group to research the causes of the volatility in the cattle markets, consider policy options to address these issues and provide guidance to our members as they started the policymaking process.

The group discussed establishing triggered-style, mandatory minimum pricing on a region-by-region basis; the need

to better address risk management tools for smaller producers; helping small processing facilities play a larger role in our national food supply; and strengthening the Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration.

Last month, I met with the leaders of other organizations representing cattle producers to see if we could agree on priorities to foster a more fair and transparent marketplace.

The groups represented often have very different ideas about the best path forward, so I was pleased we could sit down together for the good of producers across the country.

Farm Bureau is fully engaged because this is an important issue and producers deserve to have confidence they are being treated fairly in the cattle marketplace.

We talked about some key issues, such as the consolidation of the meat processing industry, the lack of price transparency and discovery, oversight, and the country's meat processing capacity.

After a productive discussion, we discovered that we agree on three big items: expediting the renewal of USDA's Livestock Mandatory Reporting and the creation of a contract library; encouraging investment in new independent, local and regional processing facilities; and calling on the Department of Justice to issue an update on its investigation into livestock markets and potential manipulation.

As we departed the meeting, we agreed to continue discussions. By working together, we can leverage the power of our collective voice to further elevate the issue and ensure a fair and transparent marketplace for livestock producers.

At Farm Bureau, we have the pleasure of representing all types of agriculture operating on farms and ranches of all sizes.

In this case, we're standing up for small and medium-sized livestock operators who might otherwise have a difficult time making their voices heard. And we're proud to do it. ■

having our own grassroots organization actively help lead efforts to stop the dams from being breached is a major development.

Like Idaho Farm Bureau Federation, AFBF has had a policy opposing dam breaching for many years.

But now, for the first time, its leader, Duvall, has had an up-close look at why the dams are so important to agriculture in Idaho and the Pacific Northwest and why breaching them would cause significant harm to farmers, as well as other industries and businesses in the PNW.

Without those dams, our ability in this region of the country to ship wheat and other products worldwide would be devastated.

After touring Lower Granite Dam with other state, regional and national farm industry leaders, Duvall said he is convinced a lot is being done to try to improve salmon populations and he better understands why removing the dams would be a really bad idea.

“It just doesn’t make sense to think about tearing out those dams,” he said at a press conference following the two-day event in Lewiston.

Duvall told meeting participants he is now much better prepared to explain the issue to key players in Congress and at federal agencies and to advocate for keeping the dams in place.

[See story on the dam tour event on page 8.]

Duvall isn’t the only one who now has a much more intimate understanding of the role the dams play in the PNW’s agricultural landscape and what is being done to help improve salmon survival.

Billions of dollars have been invested in efforts to help increase salmon survival on the Columbia-Snake River system and the results so far have been mind-blowing and very successful.

Improved salmon bypass systems at the dams, barging the fish to help them on their trek through the river system, and a very friendly fish ladder are a few of the methods that have proved to be successful in helping improve salmon populations.

Leaders of other important national farm organizations, such as the National Association of Wheat Growers, as well as major grain businesses that support the region’s agricultural industry, joined Duvall on the tour.

NAWG CEO Chandler Goule told tour participants his organization will work closely with other groups to formulate a strategy to oppose the dam removal proposal.

“Your concerns have been heard on the Snake River” dam issue, he said. “This is an extremely important battle.”

The two-day event was hosted by IFBF and Idaho Grain Producers Association.

Idaho Farm Bureau Federation thanks everyone who helped make the event possible and those who participated in it.

Kudos to those who took two days out of their busy schedules to come to Lewiston and visit Lower Granite Dam and discuss the issue extensively so they can better advocate for keeping the dams.

A lot of information was presented during the event and a lot of serious, frank discussions took place.

For example, there was a lot of discussion about ocean condi-

tions being the real reason that salmon numbers are down. These salmon spend two-thirds of their life in the ocean.

Another big factor is protected orcas, which hang out at the mouth of the river and harvest many of the salmon. While we toured Lower Granite Dam, we watched Idaho Fish and Game Department staff inspect the salmon and we saw scars on over half of them. IFGD staff explained that those scars came from trying to escape the predators. Those were the lucky ones.

Open fishing by the tribes on the river is another major contributor to the reduction in salmon numbers.

These are some of the big factors in decreased salmon populations we need to be addressing, not breaching the dams.

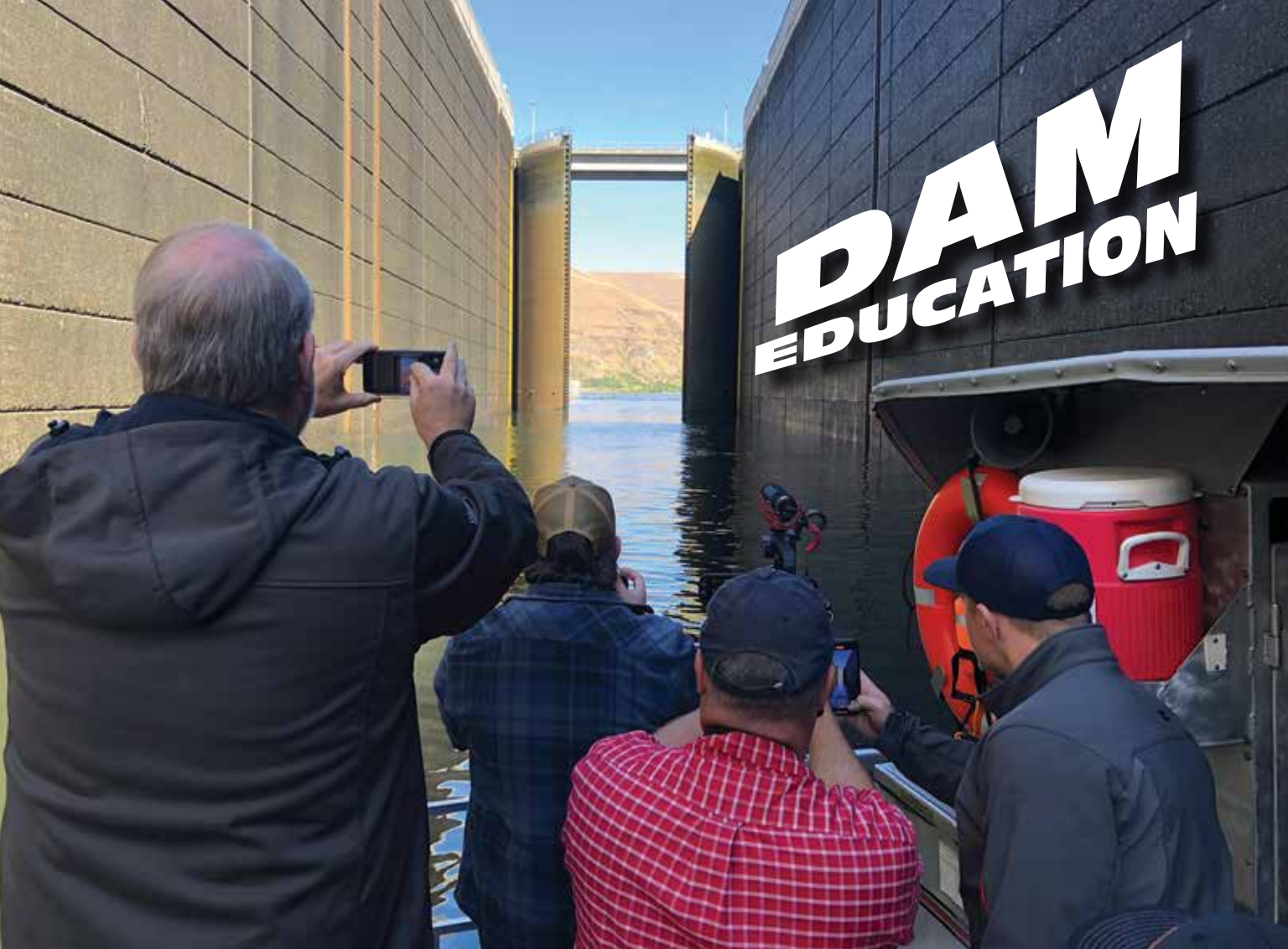
The overall result of the dam tour event is that many key players in the state, regional and national farm industries who will fight to keep the dams in place now have a detailed understanding of the issue.

That can only be a good thing in this important battle to save the dams because removing them would be a major body blow to farmers throughout the Pacific Northwest and beyond who ship their commodities down the Columbia-Snake River system to the West Coast so they can be exported around the world.

Let it be clear that IFBF and other farm groups absolutely support efforts to help improve populations of endangered salmon.

But also let it be crystal clear that dam breaching is a non-starter for the agricultural industry and we will, together, fight with all our strength to make sure that doesn’t happen. ■

The advertisement features a gold star with '1961' and '2021' on either side, and '60 YEARS' in the center. Below the star is the Idaho Farm Bureau Financial Services logo. A red banner at the bottom of the star contains five office addresses: 275 Tierra Vista Drive, Pocatello, ID 83205 (208.232.7914); 4122 E. Cleveland Blvd., Caldwell, ID 83605 (208.455.1255); 2732 Kimberly Road, Twin Falls, ID 83301 (208.735.1215); 806 E. Polston, Suite A, Post Falls, ID 83854 (208.618.2200); and 1250 S. Allante Ave., Boise, ID 83709 (208.947.2319). The main text reads 'Celebrating 60 Years WITH LOW-INTEREST RATE LOANS.' Below this, it says 'To celebrate our 60th anniversary in 2021, we've reduced interest rates on all new (and many other) loan products.' The products listed are 'CARS | MOTORCYCLES | BOATS | ATVS HOME IMPROVEMENTS MORE!'. A woman is shown smiling and holding a fan of cash. The text 'Ask us today how we can help!' is written in a large, stylized font. At the bottom, it says 'Apply online at www.idfbfs.com'.



# DAM EDUCATION

Photos by Sean Ellis

Participants of a June 15-16 dam tour event take pictures of a lock opening at the Lower Granite Dam, one of four lower Snake River dams that have been targeted for removal by some groups over the years. American Farm Bureau Federation President Zippy Duvall and other state, local and national ag industry leaders attended the event.

## Zippy Duvall learns about dams during Idaho event

By Sean Ellis  
*Idaho Farm Bureau Federation*

LEWISTON – Now that American Farm Bureau Federation President Zippy Duvall has seen one of the lower four Snake River dams in person, he will be better able to

defend them at the national level. That's the message Duvall, a poultry, cattle and hay producer from Georgia, delivered following a two-day event that brought dozens of farm industry leaders together in Lewiston to talk about the importance of the dams, which have been targeted by

some groups for removal over the years. Most recently, a \$33.5 billion proposal introduced in February by Rep. Mike Simpson, R-Idaho, calls for the lower four Snake River dams to be removed in an effort the congressman believes will help recover populations of endangered salmon.





**During a tour of Lower Granite Dam on the Snake River June 16, state, regional and national agriculture industry leaders viewed a fish ladder, which helps endangered salmon make their trek through the Columbia-Snake River system.**

Participants of the dam tour event said removing the dams would be a disaster for agriculture and other businesses and industries in the Pacific Northwest, with no guarantee that it would help improve salmon survival.

Besides producing a significant amount of cheap and environmentally friendly hydroelectric power for the region, the lower four Snake River dams are also part of a system on the Columbia and Snake rivers that allows wheat and barley farmers, as well as producers of other commodities, to export their product to the world by barge.

Removing the lower four Snake River dams would make the Columbia-Snake River system unnavigable for barges that move those commodities.

The highlight of the dam tour event, which was held June 15-16 and hosted by Idaho Farm Bureau Federation and Idaho Grain Producers Association, was a tour of Lower Granite Dam.

Following that tour, Duvall told reporters during a press conference at the Port of

Lewiston he now better understands why farm groups in Idaho and around the Pacific Northwest adamantly oppose removing the dam system, which allows wheat, barley, corn, soybeans and other commodities to be shipped by barge to Portland for export.

"It just doesn't make sense to think about tearing out those dams," he said.

Before touring the dam, Duvall said, he had no idea what a salmon ladder looked like. He also saw first-hand other efforts meant to help boost salmon populations, including fish slides and barges that carry salmon up and down the river.

"What is being done here is not harmful; it's actually helpful," he said about the dams. "I saw great work being done by very smart people to make sure we protect the salmon."

He said he had to experience seeing the dam system up close for himself and now that he has, he has a much better understanding of what is being done to help salmon, as well as why the river system is so important to agriculture.

Duvall said AFBF, which represents

farmers across the United States, will do "everything we can to make sure everybody knows the resources that we have out here" in the dams. "I've learned so much and will be able to express it to ... people."

Duvall was joined by leaders of other national farm groups, as well as representatives of major grain companies that depend on the Columbia-Snake River barging system to get their products to the West Coast for export.

During the press conference, Chandler Goule, CEO of the National Association of Wheat Growers, pointed out that removing the dams would make the lower part of the Snake River completely unnavigable for barges.

That would result in a lot more truck and train traffic, which would not only increase costs for grain producers and shippers but also result in more carbon emissions, he said.

"I don't see the upside to (Simpson's) proposal at all," he said.

Goule later told industry leaders NAWG

would work with them and others to put together a strategy to oppose dam breaching and make sure members of Congress understand the importance of the dam system.

“Your concerns have been heard on the Snake River” dam issue, he said. “We will be sure to carry that (message) back to D.C. This is an extremely important battle.”

Alex McGregor, chairman of the McGregor Co., which serves farmers in Idaho, Oregon and Washington, said Simpson’s proposal doesn’t make sense from an economic or environmental standpoint “and we shouldn’t give an inch on it.”

“There is nothing that beats river transportation,” he said. “It is the safest, most economical way to go.”

When it comes to helping salmon populations, McGregor added, “We can do a heck of a lot better than a draconian solution that harms everyone.”

Idaho Water Users Association Executive Director Paul Arrington told event participants that the dams provide major benefits to not only farmers, but everyone in the region. That includes power generation, flood control, recreational opportunities and tourism, in addition to allowing farm commodities to be barged to the West Coast for export.

The entire river system “has really provided significant economic benefit to the state of Idaho,” he said.

About half of the wheat produced in Idaho is barged down the Columbia-Snake River system to the West Coast to be exported.

About 4,500 farm families in Idaho grow wheat and barley and the river system allows them to be competitive globally by allowing their commodity to be barged to Portland for export, said IGPA President Stacey Satterlee.

“Barging has been good to Idaho growers,” she said. “I don’t think we can overstate how significant



**During a tour of Lower Granite Dam on the Snake River June 16, a fish biologist discusses some of the efforts being undertaken to help endangered salmon survive their trek up and down the river system. The dam tour included state, regional and national agriculture industry leaders.**



**During a tour of Lower Granite Dam on the Snake River June 16, state, regional and national agriculture industry leaders tour a barge that moves endangered salmon up and down the Columbia-Snake River system. a fish biologist discusses some of the efforts being undertaken to help endangered salmon survive their trek up and down the river system.**

barging is to” Idaho’s wheat industry.

Satterlee said if the dams were removed, it would result in transportation and storage costs for the region’s grain farmers increasing by 50-100 percent.

“There is not a viable alternative to barging that exists” for the region’s grain farmers, she said.

Wheat is grown in 42 of Idaho’s 44 counties and is an important part of many farmers’ crop rotations and as a result, removing the dams would have a negative impact on the state’s entire agriculture industry, said IFBF President Bryan Searle, who farms in Shelley.

A proposal to remove the dams “should be seen as a threat to all of agriculture,” he said.

Jeff Van Pevnage, president and CEO of Columbia Grain International, which is based in Portland, said his company opposes efforts to remove the dams.

Columbia Grain and its network of more than 8,000 farmers rely on the Columbia-Snake River system to export wheat around the world, he said.

The river system ranks No. 1 in the U.S. for wheat exports and No. 2 for corn and soybean exports and is also critical to other West Coast export markets, including wood and automobiles, he added.

Pevnage said the river system generated 50 million tons of international trade and at least \$21 billion in cargo value in 2016 and supports 40,000 local jobs.

“The Columbia-Snake River system has successfully served our communities for over 80 years, providing our region with clean power, jobs, efficient transportation, irrigation, flood control, and more,” he said.

He said Columbia Grain “supports maintaining a healthy Idaho salmon population but does not believe removing the dams is the correct course of action and will have severe, detrimental effects to the agriculture industry, including increased infrastructure costs, transportation costs, a huge compromise in efficiency and capacity, and farmers paying more and making less at the end of day.”

If the dams are removed, the overall cost of handling, transporting and exporting wheat would rise substantially, Pevnage said.

Following the dam tour, more than 100



**Water exits a spillway at Lower Granite Dam June 16. American Farm Bureau Federation President Zippy Duvall and other state, local and national ag industry leaders met in Lewiston June 15-16 to learn about the important role the lower four Snake River dams play for farmers in Idaho and the region.**

farmers, industry representatives and others attended a dinner where tour participants brought them up to speed on what happened during the event.

Michael Seyfert, president and CEO of the National Grain and Feed Association, told tour participants, “The science is with you. The facts are on your side. I think you can win this.”

Searle said it is up to everyone involved in agriculture in the region to continue to educate people about why the dams are so important and why removing them would devastate agriculture in the region.

“We’ll keep those dams and we’ll fight every day to do it,” he said. “Let’s go forward and let’s rally the troops. We have to continue to tell our story.”

Speaking of Simpson’s dam removal proposal, IGPA President Jamie Kress, a wheat farmer from Rockland, said wheat industry leaders will work together with other ag organizations to “see that this concept does not gain legs and move forward. I can tell you ... Idaho Grain will continue to keep up this fight.”

During the dam tour event, participants were shown a short video of Simpson

explaining and defending his proposal.

Detailed information on the congressman’s plan can be found on his website.

Idaho salmon travel 900 miles over eight dams to reach the ocean, then later in their lives, they come back the same way to lay eggs and die.

Simpson has said that if the dams are not removed, endangered salmon will go extinct. Dam removal opponents dispute that claim and say that ocean conditions are the biggest factor in salmon survival.

Dam removal supporters “are trying to solve an ocean issue in a freshwater environment right now,” said Port of Lewiston Manager Dave Doeringsfeld.

During the two-day dam tour event, participants emphasized that while they oppose Simpson’s plan, they will continue to work with the congressman on future issues.

“Congressman Simpson is a good friend of agriculture ... but we think he is wrong on this idea,” Duvall said.

“Are we upset about the proposal? Absolutely,” Searle said. “But although we disagree with Congressman Simpson’s proposal, we’re friends with him today.” ■



Photo by Sean Ellis

American Farm Bureau Federation President Zippy Duvall visits a hop farm near Parma June 14. Duvall visited with a couple hundred producers June 14-16 during his visit to Idaho.

# American Farm Bureau leader meets with farmers in Idaho

By Sean Ellis

*Idaho Farm Bureau Federation*

During his visit to Idaho to learn about the importance of dams, American Farm Bureau Federation President Zippy Duvall met with a couple hundred farmers and ranchers along the way and reminded them that they are what makes the organi-

zation run.

Duvall, a poultry, cattle and hay producer from Georgia, met with Farm Bureau members and other producers in Parma, Caldwell, Grangeville, Lewiston and Ontario, Ore., from June 14-16.

During his stops, he brought Farm Bureau members up to speed on several major issues AFBF is working on, in-

cluding taxes, climate change, broadband availability and labor.

The availability of farm labor is a particularly tough challenge and one that is on the minds of farmers and ranchers across the nation, Duvall said.

“Everywhere I go, that’s the first thing on everybody’s mind,” he said during one of his stops. “As I’ve traveled across Amer-



Photo by Joel Benson

**American Farm Bureau Federation President Zippy Duvall speaks to Farm Bureau members and other producers June 14 in Caldwell. Duvall visited with a couple hundred producers June 14-16 during his visit to Idaho, which culminated with him and other ag leaders visiting Lower Granite Dam on the lower Snake River.**

ica, labor is the biggest issue we face in agriculture.”

Duvall fielded several questions on the current labor situation and immigration reform.

“Labor is so hard to come by,” he said. “The labor situation probably concerns me more than anything across the board. We’ve beat our heads on that issue for 20 years. We’re working hard on it. I’d love to find a solution to it.”

When it comes to the catchphrase, “sustainable agriculture,” Duvall said that “farmers have been sustainable forever and we ought to own that word.”

Duvall has visited Farm Bureau producers in all 50 states and he said Idaho is one of the states he has most wanted to return to.

He said he is interested in learning more about the issues farmers and ranchers in the Western U.S. face so he can better represent them on a national level.

Shelby Hagenauer, a member of the AFBF congressional relations team that specializes in Western issues, joined Duvall in Idaho.

“I come out here to learn about your issues so I can represent you correctly,” Duvall said.

Idaho Farm Bureau Federation President Bryan Searle, who, along with several IFBF staff, accompanied Duvall during his visit to Idaho, thanked the AFBF leader for taking the time to visit the state and learn about the issues its producers face.

“(Duvall) has taken Western issues seriously and we appreciate that,” Searle said.

Duvall reminded Farm Bureau members that they are part of a special organization that plays an important role defending and promoting the nation’s agricultural industry. He also told them that grassroots members like them are what make the organization effective.

“Farm Bureau is a special organization (and) the most important part of the organization is sitting right in front of me,” he said. “You are the most important piece of this organization.”

“Thank you for what you’ve done in the past and for what you are going to do in the future,” Duvall said. “We need our grassroots to be more active today than they have ever been.”

Duvall said one of his main missions as AFBF president is to make sure “the grassroots recognizes the value they really have in Farm Bureau. (The county Farm Bureaus) are the ones that really get things done.”

Searle echoed those thoughts.

“The strength of Farm Bureau comes from you,” he told Farm Bureau members in Meridian. “You are American Farm Bureau. What you do is critical. Thank you for all you do.” ■



Photo by Sean Ellis

Members of Idaho's wheat and barley industries attend the Big Dam Meeting, which was held in McCall June 1-2 to discuss a proposal that would result in the removal of the four lower Snake River dams. The dams allow for a large amount of wheat, barley and other agricultural commodities to be barged down the river to port for export to other countries.

# Big Dam Meeting includes both sides of salmon recovery issue

By Sean Ellis

*Idaho Farm Bureau Federation*

MCCALL – A proposal that would result in the removal of the four lower Snake River dams was discussed openly and passionately by supporters and opponents of the plan during an event known as the

Big Dam Meeting.

The meeting, held June 1-2 in McCall, was hosted by the Idaho Grain Producers Association, which represents wheat and barley growers in Idaho and is opposed to dam breaching.

About 125 grain growers from around the state attended the event and they over-

whelmingly opposed a \$33.5 billion proposal by Rep. Mike Simpson, R-Idaho, that would result in the removal of the dams, which allow a large amount of wheat, barley and other agricultural commodities to be barged to the West Coast for export.

Removing the dams would make the Columbia-Snake River system unnavigable

for barges.

Simpson was invited to speak at the event and he defended his proposal while being challenged by dam removal opponents.

Some members of a panel discussion also argued in support of removing the dams as a way to help recover populations of endangered salmon.

IGPA and other farm groups, including Idaho Farm Bureau Federation, have long opposed efforts by environmental groups and others to breach the dams.

Dam breaching supporters claim it's the only way to prevent Idaho salmon runs from going extinct.

The questions and conversation during the Big Dam Meeting were respectful but sometimes pointed.

IGPA Executive Director Stacey Satterlee said the organization thought it was important to invite supporters of Simpson's plan as well as opponents to the meeting.

"If we just invited our side, we're essentially talking into an echo chamber," she said. "We would be doing everyone a disservice by only having our side of the conversation represented. It is a complex conversation. There is not an easy answer and everybody needs to hear what those other positions are within the broader conversation to really understand what the full picture is."

"Genesee" Joe Anderson, a North Idaho farmer and member of the Idaho Wheat Commission, agreed and told IFBF the meeting resulted in a lot of farmers at least being exposed to the contrary viewpoints of people who support dam breaching.

But, he added, "I don't know that anybody's mind was really changed there."

At least both sides now have a clear understanding of where everybody else stands, said North Idaho farmer and IWC member Bill Flory.

"Everybody understands where everybody else stands and where they are coming from. That's extremely important," he said.

During the meeting, dam removal opponents emphasized how important the dams are not only to agriculture, but to all of the Pacific Northwest

About 10 percent of the nation's wheat exports and 50 percent of Idaho's wheat



Photo by Sean Ellis

**Rep. Mike Simpson, R-Idaho, speaks about salmon recovery and dam removal during the Big Dam Meeting, which was held in McCall June 1-2 to discuss a \$33.5 billion proposal by the congressman that would result in the removal of the four lower Snake River dams.**

production is moved to port by barge through the lower four Snake River dams.

The river system also provides for the efficient transportation of fuel, fertilizer and machinery back up the river, which reduces freight costs to businesses and residents in the region.

Those hydroelectric dams also produce a significant amount of power and are an integral part of a hydroelectric system that allows people and businesses in the Pacific Northwest to enjoy some of the lowest power rates in the nation.

As meeting attendants learned, the question of how to recover endangered salmon populations is a very complex one.

"This issue is arguably the most complex natural resource issue in the Pacific Northwest and maybe the entire country," Satterlee told meeting participants.

Issues that affect salmon populations include harvest, hatcheries, habitat and hydropower, said Jim Fredericks, deputy director of the Idaho Department of Fish and Game.

"It's a very, very complex issue," he said.

The issue is like peeling an onion, said Will Hart, executive director of the Idaho

Consumer-Owned Utilities Association. "There's just layer after layer and layer."

During his presentation, Simpson, who has faced significant heat and opposition since his proposal was released earlier this year, said he has heard from some people who claim he has abandoned Idaho agriculture.

He defended his record supporting Idaho agriculture during his 23 years in office and read off a long list of legislation that he has authored or co-signed that supported the ag industry.

"I think Congressman Simpson had a good point that he has supported agriculture throughout his career and we're still friends," Anderson said. "But we have a differing of opinion on this issue."

During the meeting, Satterlee emphasized how dam breaching would impact all of Idaho's wheat growers, not just those in North Idaho who depend heavily on the river system to barge their wheat to port.

About 50 percent of Idaho's wheat is exported, most of it by barge down the Columbia-Snake River system, she said. If the dams are removed and it's no longer economically feasible to barge, that wheat

has to find a new home.

“It’s going to flood your market,” she said to wheat farmers in southern and eastern Idaho. “That’s a real direct (impact). Everybody stands to be impacted by this.”

Satterlee pointed to a recent study that projected dam breaching would result in the loss of about 1,100 wheat farms.

Flory told IFBF that dam removal could result in wheat farmers in the region sustaining a \$1 per bushel loss on their wheat.

“That’s better than our profit margin,” he said. “The impact of dam breaching would be major.”

But Simpson and some members of a panel that debated the issue defended dam breaching as the only way to recover endangered salmon populations.

The congressman, whose plan proposes to compensate industries, including the grain industry, that would be impacted by dam breaching, said the salmon will go extinct unless the dams are removed.

Bonneville Power Administration spends \$750 million every year on salmon recovery and “the one thing they are not doing is recovering salmon,” Simpson said. “The only way we are going to recover salmon is by removing those dams. The science is overwhelming” on that. “If something isn’t done, Idaho’s salmon runs will go extinct.”

Justin Hayes, executive director of the Idaho Conservation League, said no plan that doesn’t include dam breaching will succeed in recovering salmon populations.

“The situation is real dire,” he said. “Restoring salmon is how we

will end the salmon wars.”

Hayes added, “These dams will be coming out in all of our lifetimes,” a claim that was disputed by others who opposed dam removal.

The discussion on dam removal and how to make sure those impacted by it are compensated is a discussion that needed to happen, Simpson said.

The one thing he wants to avoid, he said, is a judge determining the fate of the dams with those impacted by it getting nothing.

“We knew when we released this, we were kicking a hornet’s nest but it was a hornet’s nest that needed to be kicked,” he said.

The congressman said Idaho salmon travel 900 miles over eight dams to reach the ocean, then later in their lives, they come back the same way to lay eggs and die.

“That’s a lifecycle only God can create,” he said. “Maybe we shouldn’t mess with it.”

Simpson said if a solution isn’t found, the endless salmon lawsuits, filed by environmental and other groups against the operation of the dams, will continue.

His proposal aims to end those lawsuits and calls for a 30-year moratorium on lawsuits targeting the operation of the dams.

Dam breaching opponents disagreed with the assertion that the dams will definitely be breached and they also had serious doubts any type of litigation moratorium would be followed.

“I do not think there will be 30 years of litigation set aside as the concept proposes,” Flory said. “One district court judge will change that.”

“There’s no trust that a litigation moratorium will work,” said Paul Arrington, executive director of the Idaho Water Users Association.

One of the main points discussed during the two-day event was the impact that ocean conditions have on salmon populations.

Dam breaching opponents argued that ocean conditions, more than anything, impact salmon numbers and removing the dams would be a moot point and result in economic hardship to many PNW residents and industries for no reason.

Even those opposed to dam breaching said they supported recovering salmon populations but they said removing the dams is not the way to do it.

“The Port of Lewiston is pro salmon recovery and anti-dam breaching,” said Port of Lewiston Manager Dave Doeringsfeld.

He said the ocean is the biggest factor by far affecting salmon populations and he questioned whether the economic pain that would result from dam removal would be worth an incremental improvement in salmon survival.

“I don’t think that is enough to justify the economic impacts that would result from removing those dams,” Doeringsfeld said.

Gov. Brad Little, a Republican rancher from Emmett, also spoke during the event and he reiterated his opposition to dam breaching.

“Everybody knows where I stand on the issue of the dams on the lower Snake,” he said. ■

## LOW INTEREST LOANS FOR IDAHO SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION

2.50% - 3.25%  
Terms 7-15 Years  
Up to \$600,000

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



[swc.idaho.gov](http://swc.idaho.gov)

(208) 332-1790





I don't want to leave  
my family to cover:

- Mortgage debt
- Monthly expenses
- Funeral costs
- Kids' college tuition

## I know you say I need **life insurance**, but **do I really?**

Yes! While the reasons for having life insurance vary from person to person, coverage is a smart move no matter what stage of life you're in. Talk to your agent about the many ways life insurance can help protect you and your loved ones.

 **FARM BUREAU  
FINANCIAL SERVICES**

It's your future. Let's protect it.®



Photo by Sean Ellis

Dry conditions on Idaho rangeland have resulted in many ranchers having to adjust their grazing plans this year.

# Idaho range, pasture behind due to dry conditions

By John O'Connell

*Intermountain Farm and Ranch*

McCammon rancher Jim Guthrie's cattle are normally grazing private pasture by mid-April, but he's had to feed them hay for an extra month due to cool, dry and windy weather stymieing grass growth.

Pasture and range conditions were historically poor throughout the state this spring. Consequently, many of the state's ranchers have been forced to adjust grazing plans and sustain their cattle on feed for longer than anticipated, cutting into their profit margins.

Furthermore, some ranchers have slaughtered more of their least productive

livestock, contributing to declining prices for fed cattle.

"It's as bad as I've seen it for some time — the cold and the wind and the drought conditions," Guthrie said. "We're pretty nervous about that. Everybody I talk to is totally frustrated because nothing is growing."

Several in the industry have noticed a glut of "grass" calves — older calves that are ready to be turned out to graze — and a reduction in calf prices as fewer ranchers have the feed to grow their herds.

It also doesn't help that feed prices have strengthened, with corn selling for more than \$7 per bushel and feeder-grade alfalfa fetching \$175 to \$180 per ton.

"One of the keys to making any money in this business is your spring and fall pasture," said Blackfoot area rancher Slade Butler, who serves on the board of the Eastern Idaho Grazing Association. "Hay is \$180. When you've got to feed that, you watch your bottom line disappear."

Butler said pasture has been in short supply in recent years. The grass in the hills near his ranch is no more than an inch tall. His cattle are already grazing, but absent a wet June and July, he may have to pull his cattle off of their summer range early.

"I know some ranchers who (poor grazing conditions) is really hurting them. They're not sure what they're going to do,"

Butler said.

According to the USDA National Agricultural Statistics Service crop progress report for the week ending May 9, 70 percent of Idaho's pasture and range land varied from "very poor" to "fair," while just 30 percent was considered "good" or "excellent."

Furthermore, 41 percent of topsoil in the state was either "short" or "very short" of soil moisture.

"I drove across East Idaho last week and the fields along the freeway were just bare," said Gretchen Hyde, executive director of the Idaho Rangeland Resources Commission.

Hyde, of Emmett, has noticed her local sale barn has been having a tough time selling grass calves. She said irrigated pastures are also behind pace due to the cold weather, and even cheatgrass isn't growing.

In fact, she knows of some targeted grazing studies evaluating the use of cattle to control cheatgrass that had to be canceled due to the lack of growth of the invasive weed.

"I do see a lot of people looking for places to take their cattle, and they're not staying in places where they're normally able to leave them for periods of time," Hyde said.

Richard Savage, who ranches in the Spencer area of East Idaho, near the Montana border, normally turns his cattle out on his pastures in mid-May, but he'll likely delay grazing until early June this season.

"(Grass is) trying to grow but then you hit it and graze it and it really looks tough," Savage said. "We're still really praying for a rainstorm."

The federal Bureau of Land Management anticipated such challenges back in February, based on the thin snowpack, and the outlook has further deteriorated with a dry spring, explained Chris Robbins, rangeland management specialist for the Idaho BLM office.

Robbins said the agency's Upper Snake Field Office in Idaho Falls sent permittees a letter about the drought conditions, encouraging them to consider voluntarily reducing grazing numbers and their duration on grazing allotments.

Robbins said inadequate water availability could further complicate matters for

ranchers who use public lands.

Robbins said the BLM should have a clearer picture of the situation by early summer, and he's optimistic mandatory cuts to grazing permits won't be necessary.

Parts of Blaine and Custer counties have been hardest hit and are currently listed as being in extreme drought.

"Our permittees in Idaho are very proactive and very good to work with," Robbins said.

In the Rockland area of Southeast Idaho, ranchers who usually have cattle grazing the desert by April 15 are still feeding hay to their livestock and praying for rain, explained rancher James Udy.

"Usually by May 10 we have really good grass," Udy said. "There's not much there."

The first two weeks of May brought nighttime lows well below freezing to his area. Udy said ranchers in his community face a tough choice.

"Do you buy hay or sell cows?" Udy asked. "Most guys are going to sell cows."

Idaho Cattle Association Executive Vice President Cameron Mulrony said ranchers throughout the state have been turning their livestock out on range a week to 10 days late, allowing more time for grass to grow.

Mulrony said water-deprived grass on south-facing slopes has been heading earlier than normal.

"At least in the part of the state where I live, when we did get moisture it was followed by enough wind that plants weren't able to take advantage of all the moisture," Mulrony said. "... Water fixes everything."

If not for the drought, Idaho ranchers would be enjoying an exceptional year, according to University of Idaho Extension economist Ben Eborn.

"Beef exports were record high in March. Consumers are feeling good and restaurants are starting to open up and people have money," Eborn said. "Last year should have been the bottom of the price cycle."

But the expected market improvement never materialized. Instead, Eborn explained, ranchers have been culling older livestock they can't feed and packing plants have reached capacity, placing downward pressure on returns to ranchers for fed cattle and calves.

"Normally, people are optimistic this time of year, but people are pessimistic because they don't have any feed," Eborn said. "Prices have gone sideways on calves since February — in the \$1.35 to \$1.45 per pound range for feeder cattle. Calf prices are normally really good this time of year. I saw at a sale the other day \$1.40 to \$1.50 per pound for grass calves."

The double-whammy for Guthrie is that the drought is also threatening his irrigation supply.

The director of the Idaho Department of Water Resources recently agreed to a request by irrigators with the Surface Water Coalition that surface water rights in the Portneuf River Basin be regulated this season in conjunction with Snake River water rights.

The request, based on a forecast of just 80 percent of average runoff into the Upper Snake River, could lead to a basin-wide delivery call this season and possible curtailment of junior Portneuf River water rights holders, such as Guthrie.

Guthrie noted that farmers and ranchers within the Portneuf Basin will be bound by terms of a 2015 settlement agreement between the coalition and groundwater users, though Portneuf surface irrigators weren't a party to the discussions.

"I'm hoping the water board will take a measured, reasonable approach to solving the problem rather than just dropping a hammer in the mix with things not growing," Guthrie said.

It's also been a tough spring for Idaho sheepherders.

Henry Etcheverry spent the first few weeks of May grazing several bands of sheep on BLM land in the deserts north of Aberdeen and in the agency's Burley district.

The range has offered slim pickings in terms of forage, and he's had to cover a lot of ground for his sheep to find enough to eat.

"This is the second driest, toughest spring I have seen in my time, which started in 1972 when I graduated college," Etcheverry said, adding spring grazing conditions were worse only in 1977. "This is very, very serious." ■

# Idaho Farm Bureau

For detailed information go to: [www.idahofbstore.com](http://www.idahofbstore.com)

## THEME PARKS



## RENTAL CARS



## OIL CHANGE



## TRANSPORT



## HOTELS



## WINTER SKIING



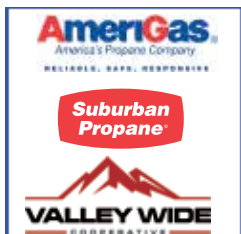
## INSURANCE



## SUPPLIES



## PROPANE



## MOVIE TICKETS



## HEALTH / MEDICAL



## VEHICLES



## AGRICULTURE



## MACHINERY



## LIFE FLIGHT



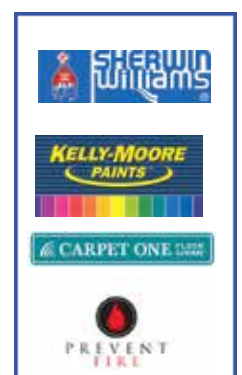
## IDENTIFY THEFT



## SMART HOME TECHNOLOGY



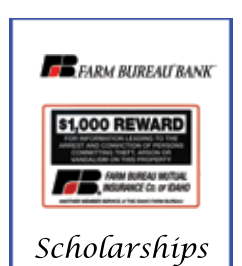
## HOUSEHOLD



## APPAREL



## FINANCIAL



Scholarships

## FOOD STORAGE



## SEED



# Member Benefits

(208) 239-4279

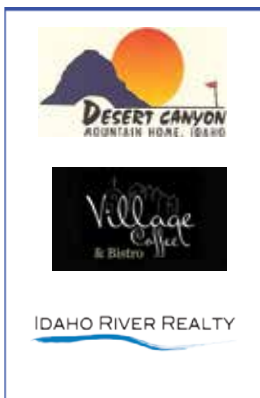
## CENTRAL IDAHO



## EASTERN IDAHO



## SOUTHWEST IDAHO



## SOUTHCENTRAL IDAHO



## NORTH IDAHO





# Be prepared for **WILDFIRE**

**By Audra Cochran**  
*University of Idaho*

Last year, the Inland Northwest saw plenty of fires late in the fire season. This year, we have seen an early kick-off to fire season, thanks to the driest March and April on recent record.

Many professionals around the state are concerned that we may be in for an extreme fire season this year, and rightfully so.

Most of the Western United States is experiencing some level of drought, and weather models are not forecasting much rainfall for the foreseeable future.

For home and landowners, this can be concerning, especially as we head into the typically drier months of the year. Now more than most years, it is important that home and landowners are prepared for wildfires.

There are multiple agencies and non-profit organizations across Idaho and the Pacific Northwest that are willing to help you prepare your home and land to reduce fire risk. They



provide workshops, literature, and other educational resources, and some agencies offer site visits to help you plan a fire-ready landscape.

These resources are often offered to homeowners at no cost. Some agencies even have cost-sharing programs available that will help



Photos by Audra Cochran

**A view of the charred landscape after the 2020 Clover Fire burned through the area. OPPOSITE PAGE: Firefighters battle the 2020 Clover Fire as it moves toward another home.**

landowners with the cost of fuel removal on their property.

If you are interested in learning more about these available resources, I would recommend reaching out to your local fire district or University of Idaho Extension professionals.

Another organization that works to combine all these agency efforts into one organization is Idaho Firewise (<https://idahofirewise.org/>).

It is a non-profit organization that works to mitigate fire risk in the wildland urban interface (WUI) by promoting wildland fire education to all Idahoans and visitors to our state.

The group aims to create a culture of wildfire preparedness by providing educational resources to home and landowners on how to make their landscape and homes less vulnerable to wildfires; how to create an emergency evacuation plan; how to prevent wildfires; and how to understand fire behavior and ecology.

In general, here are some tools that you can utilize to protect yourself and your household from possible fire danger.

### Creating a fire-resistant home

Aside from new roofing and siding, there are improvements that can be done around your home that can make it less vulnerable to wildfires.

- Cleaning your gutters, roofs, eaves, and decking of debris to help remove ignition sources.



**Defensible space zones.**

**Defensible space zones as shown on the Idaho Firewise website.**

- Upgrading outside vent covers to metal to help eliminate embers from entering attic and crawl spaces.
- Adding clear signage to your house, gate, and roadway to aid emergency responders in finding your residence quickly.

### Creating fire-resistant landscapes

Creating a defensible space around your home can give you an advantage at protecting your home in the event of a wildfire. A defensible space is an area that is landscaped and maintained to help keep brush and other debris clear and reduce the overall fuel load for fires.

Idaho Firewise recommends having a 100-foot defensible space, broken into three zones:

- Zone 1 – Immediate Zone: your buildings and the first 5 feet surrounding them. Eliminate ignition sources by using fire-resistant landscaping materials.
- Zone 2 – Intermediate Zone: 5 to 30 feet. Maintain a well-groomed greenbelt by keeping plants watered and green, and grass mowed.
- Zone 3 – Extended Zone: 30 to 100 feet. Keep natural vegetation pruned and groomed, to promote natural vegetation growth and reduce hazard materials.

### Creating an emergency evacuation plan

It may seem simple, but having a good emergency evacuation plan can help keep you and your family safe in the event of an evacuation.

- Make sure everyone knows the plan. Create the plan as a family and select practical locations around the home that everyone can easily access for emergency bags, lists, etc.
- Know where you are going. Have an established emergency contact and location where you can stay if evacuation orders are issued.
- Know how you are getting there. Plan two escape routes: the most direct route out of your property, and a backup route in case the first one is impassible.
- Know what you are taking. Prepare an emergency kit with all the essentials you and your family will need (prescriptions, change of clothes, toiletries, phone chargers, flashlights, cash). It is also important to make a list of items you want to take and have them readily accessible. These may be items such as personal identification, important documents, debit cards and cash, cell phones, photos, an inventory of household goods, etc.

### Doing your part to prevent wildfires

Many of us grew up repeating Smokey Bear's mantra of "only you can prevent wildfires." As you are working around your home or enjoying outdoor recreational activities this fire season, heed that message and follow a few simple guides.

- Pay attention to issued fire warnings. Check with your local fire districts to know what, if any, warnings are in place before you head out.
- Avoid burning of any kind.
- Avoid target shooting.
- Only use a campfire in designated sites and make sure it completely out (cool to the touch) before you leave.
- Use caution when recreating. Avoid driving or parking in tall, dry grass and stay on existing trails as much as possible.

There are a number of things you as a home and landowner can do to be prepared for wildfires, and several agencies that are willing to help you with your preparations. Whether you are brand new to living in the WUI or could use a Wildfire 101 refresher, I strongly encourage you take advantage of these resources.

To learn more, visit <https://www.uidaho.edu/extension/forestry> or reach out to me, and I will help get you more information.

As this fire season continues, I hope this article can serve as a reminder to help you in your preparations. Fires strike up unpredictably and a few preparations may be the difference in keeping your family, home, and property safe in the event of a wildfire.

*Audra Cochran is a University of Idaho Extension forestry educator and is a member of the Idaho Firewise board. She can be reached at [audrac@uidaho.edu](mailto:audrac@uidaho.edu). ■*



Photo by Audra Cochran  
Firefighters and air support work on a fire line as the 2020 Whitetail Fire moves up the hill, threatening a home.



WATCH HERE



SCAN ME

# MAKING DEW IN THE DESERT

*The Bales Hay journey with the all-new DewPoint 331*



Subscribe today!



Visit [StaheliWest.com](http://StaheliWest.com)

Staheli West, Inc.  
Cedar City, Utah

Call us today: 435-586-8002

## Your referral, like Summer'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](http://idahofarmbureauinsurance.com/refer-a-friend-get-a-gift) for complete rules and restrictions. Above left:

Summer Morgan, the winner of our fourth quarter Refer A Friend, Get A Gift \$500 drawing, with agent Trudy Crawford.

# Grant could help introduce new technology to chipping industry

By Bill Schaefer

For Idaho Farm Bureau Federation

Idaho may be the big dog in the North American potato industry but there's always room for growth.

Looking to advance Idaho's footprint in the potato processing industry, the Idaho Department of Commerce recently awarded an Idaho Global Entrepreneurial Mission grant of \$291,770 to Boise State University, which will partner with Food Physics, based in Boise, to help develop technology that could benefit the potato chip and snack food industries.

The technology is already used in the French fry industry but the grant money will be used to try to refine the process so it can be used economically in the potato chipping and snack food industries.

IGEM grants serve as a bridge for university researchers to collaborate with Idaho private sector businesses to enhance, cultivate and potentially establish new economic opportunities in the state.

This particular IGEM grant was awarded Feb. 23 to Boise State University researcher Owen McDougal and Food Physics to research and advance development of something known as "pulsed electric field" technology to reduce sugars and amino acids in potatoes, ultimately resulting in a potential reduction of acrylamide in the production of potato chips.

Acrylamide is a chemical that can form in some starchy foods, including French fries and potato chips, when they are cooked at high temperatures. Some groups have warned the chemical is potentially dangerous to human health.

Food Physics, in conjunction with a company based in Germany, is the exclusive licensee of PEF technology systems for North America, Ireland and



Photo courtesy of Food Physics  
**Potatoes come out of a machine after going through a "pulsed electric field" process. A Boise State University researcher and Boise-based company have received a grant that will help them try to refine an existing technology that could help the potato chipping industry.**



Photo courtesy of Food Physics  
**This is the front end of a machine that puts potatoes through a “pulse electric field” process that could benefit the potato chipping industry.**

the United Kingdom. Jim Gratzek is the technical director and Carl Krueger is the head of engineering for Food Physics in Boise.

PEF technology exposes vegetable cell walls to short, micro-second bursts of electricity as it passes through a water bath. The pulse electrical field creates a permeability and tissue softening of the cell wall, resulting in leakage of cell juice and a loss of reducing sugars and amino acids in the course of the process.

The technology was first discovered in the late 1950s by German engineers and today it is considered to be the industry standard in French fry production throughout the world.

The adoption of this new technology by French fry producers over the past decade has resulted in notable advances in less use of water, energy and frying oil, along with complementary savings costs.

Evidence of PEF’s cost-savings potential can be found in a 2014 report from Simplot Australia. The document cites a significant global savings of water and energy using PEF technology in

the company’s potato manufacturing process.

According to the report, “the conventional method of potato cutting involves a step where the potatoes may be submerged in hot water in excess of (122 degrees Fahrenheit) for more than 40 minutes.”

The report stated that the use of PEF technology was able to replace this pre-heating step. PEF advantages cited by the report included reduced energy and water costs along with better cutting quality, higher yield and no negative impact on potato texture.

The IGEM grant will be used by McDougal, a BSU professor and chairman of the university’s Chemistry and Biochemistry Department, and Food Physics to research the impact of pulse electric field technology in potato processing production with an emphasis on chipping potatoes and other root vegetables.

McDougal said the funding will be used to hire people to aid in the research.

“We’ll be able to hire a Ph.D. scientist that will be able to work between Food

Physics and Boise State,” he said. “(The position) will be an integral liaison to bridge the scientific gap between the private industry and the academic environment.”

For Food Physics, the grant is an opportunity for the company to market a technology to the potato chip and snack food industry that has become the industry standard for French fry producers.

“The luxury that this grant provides us is to kind of go deep for a company that frankly doesn’t have the financial fire power yet to go that deep,” Gratzek said.

Gratzek is cautious when discussing the impact PEF has on reducing the amount of acrylamide in fried foods. He presents PEF as a “technique, when applied with other things,” that can result in lower acrylamide levels.

“Not that PEF drops acrylamide but PEF changes, say, the leaching phenomenon into water (and) it also changes the frying rates, both of which will lead to lower acrylamides,” he said.

“Sugar, temperature, time, moisture level, those are all the inputs for how

See CHIPS, page 29



Photo courtesy of Darcy Sexson

Katie Colyer, shown here, travels the country with cattle auction sale support and her photography/videography business.

# A crystal clear focus on the cattle industry

**By Sarah Skaar**

*For Idaho Farm Bureau Federation*

BOISE — Fifteen years ago, Idaho agri-businesswoman Katie Colyer merged her interests in cattle and photography into a career that takes her to 80 to 90 cattle sales and ranches per year.

She's been on the sale podium or behind the scenes at most of the premier cattle events across the country, and many in Eastern Idaho.

Based in Boise, she provides internet and live-video streaming auction sale support for a major international company,

and she meets the demand for professional photography and videography with her own business, Crystal Clear Creations.

"I really enjoy seeing different ranch operations and visiting new places," Colyer says. "It's always interesting."

In an increasingly digital and interconnected world, cattle sellers and buyers rely on professional service providers to help them with promotions and customer access points.

It's a natural fit for Colyer, who grew up on her family's registered Hereford and Angus ranch near Bruneau and showed championship cattle at the national level.

She was an officer and intern in national breed associations before attending the University of Idaho and Kansas State University, then spent eight years with the Idaho Cattle Association.

She joined LiveAuction.TV in 2007, broadcasting production sales over the internet for the division of Superior Livestock Auctions.

Her schedule can be grueling. Colyer spends long days away from home, fluctuating with the time of year and contracts.

In late spring, she's often in the southeast, including Alabama and Georgia, then to Oklahoma, Kentucky and Illinois for fall

female sales, followed by weeks at major winter stock show events and bull sales in the spring.

She takes care of a monthly embryo sale, and several on-line semen and select female sales. She keeps two bags packed and ready all the time — one with her auction broadcast equipment, and another containing her photo/video cameras and gear.

Add a laptop computer and a plane ticket or tank of gas and she's away again.

Working live and video auctions involves setting up each lot in the computer system with animal name, pedigree, pictures, and clips. She live-streams the sale in real time and takes bids and communicates with bidders and the auctioneer.

Colyer works some cattle sales that are entirely virtual — no live cattle at all.

She explains, "Most are live sales but some of these consignment sales lack the manpower or facilities to bring cattle into a ring. Or they draw from such a huge area it's not practical. They are entirely internet. Some sellers and some buyers like it, some don't, but everyone has had to adjust,

especially in 2020."

She also produces marketing material for print and digital platforms with her photo and video business.

"Most of my photography and videography is for production or consignment sales, or for breeders who need pictures for a catalog or clips for their website," she says.

Colyer has worked with many sales, committees and ranchers for a decade or more. She understands their program and knows their staff, cattle and facilities.

"The goal is to give the buyer an honest idea of the animal, and to accurately represent the seller's product," she says, drawing on her personal experience with cattle evaluation and selection. "If it's show cattle, they've had a crew there clipping and getting them ready. But usually it's one individual at a time to video, through the corral. We need a good background that's not distracting and corrals or pens where buyers will be able to see the animal move. Usually the ranch has everything set up, but sometimes they've never done it before and I have to help them."

She's developed a system for keeping

track of the thousands of head of cattle she shoots every year, and for keeping the process moving efficiently at a ranch location.

It takes extra time, but she usually videos and photographs both sides of Herefords and breeds with distinct coloration so buyers can see markings.

Back at the motel or her home office, she downloads raw data to her computer and spends hours selecting the best shots and editing video to about 45 seconds to one minute for each animal.

Most of Colyer's work has been with Hereford, Angus, Red Angus, Charlois and other beef breeds, but she's also shot and worked sales of dairy cattle, horses and club calves.

She's taken photos at the Eastern Idaho State Fair and Western Idaho State Fair market animal sales, and at the industry's top breed consignment events.

"In 2020, I picked up some new sales and did some county fair sales on the internet because live events were canceled," Colyer says. "I really enjoy helping people market their cattle. It's challenging and I get to work in the cattle industry. It's a good fit for me." ■

## CHIPS

*Continued from page 27*

much acrylamide you get at the end of a frying process," Gratzek said.

The reduction of solids in the form of reducing sugars and amino acids allows potato processors to replace or reduce the amount of hot water blanching or pre-heating in French fry and chip production, he said.

"If blanching is used to soften alone, (PEF) can eliminate the blanching process," said Gratzek.

Another cost-saving advantage of the technology is the reduction in the wear of the cutting blades used in the fry and chip making process. The PEF technology softens the cell walls, making potatoes easier to cut.

Krueger said that a common thread of concern among food manufacturers when considering new technology is what is known in the food industry as

"mouth feel."

Mouth feel is a term used to convey that quality unique to a specific brand. Whether it's the secret formula or secret sauce, companies are extremely protective of their brand identity and preserving customer loyalty.

"We actually ran into that with a large food-service customer who didn't want their product to change because we were changing technology," said Krueger.

He said Food Physics was able to prove that the PEF process would produce the exact same French fry that company always produced.

Gratzek believes that advances in PEF technology will help mainstream its acceptance in the chip and snack industry in the future but he also recognizes that the food industry is not always quick to accept innovations.

"Technology adoption in industry, especially the food industry, is typically

pretty slow," he said. "It has to solve a significant problem, bring significant value in terms of new product (or) new innovation, or it has to save a lot of money."

Gratzek thinks that one of the reasons PEF technology might be adopted faster in the future is because Food Physics has developed the knowledge and application techniques that have in the past been proprietary information kept in-house by the chip manufacturers.

"I think that this grant is especially helpful for us in that it will allow us to do the research in Boise and Boise State such that we can with great specificity solve the issues that the customers have," Gratzek said.

"If they want less oil, we'll help them with that; if they want to keep the oil but (achieve) lower, better frying rates, we'll be able to help them with that," he said. ■

# Nearly 300 farm groups urge Senate action on ag labor reform

National Potato Council press release

WASHINGTON, D.C. — 288 agricultural organizations representing the geographic and commodity diversity of our nation's farmers on June 8 urged immediate Senate action to develop and pass legislation addressing agricultural labor reform.

The call came in a letter addressed to Senate leadership and distributed to all senators.

"America's farmers have faced an onslaught of challenges: the COVID-19 pandemic, catastrophic weather events, retaliatory tariffs in our top export markets, and falling commodity prices and farm income just to name a few," the groups state in the letter. "However, the domestic labor shortage remains one of their greatest challenges, impacting farmers today and jeopardizing the future of American agriculture. We must address this workforce crisis threatening farms across the United States so our producers can continue to feed, clothe, and fuel our nation."

The letter notes both the uncertainty current farmworkers across the country face and the struggle agricultural employers continue to have in filling open jobs. The groups also highlight the longstanding problems with the current H-2A guest worker visa program for agriculture, including cost concerns and the fact that producers with year-round labor needs do not have access to the program.

"Without immediate action by the Senate, the federal government's outdated policies and broken immigration system will force many farmers to consider whether they can continue in labor-intensive agriculture," the letter concludes. "As representatives of agricultural organizations throughout the United States, we stand ready to help you develop and pass legislation to fully address the needs



Photo by Sean Ellis

**Farm workers prune trees in an orchard near Fruitland in this Idaho Farm Bureau Federation file photo. Nearly 300 agricultural groups from around the nation have signed a letter urging U.S. senators to immediately develop and pass legislation that addresses agricultural labor reform.**

of American farmers by stabilizing the current workforce, addressing enormous costs to use the H-2A program, and enabling year-round producers to access the H-2A program."

The letter was organized by the Agriculture Workforce Coalition, which brings together organizations representing the diverse needs of agricultural employers across the country.

AWC serves as the unified voice of agriculture in the effort to ensure that America's farmers, ranchers and growers have access to a stable and secure workforce.

In addition to the letter, the following members of the AWC Steering Committee added their calls for Senate action:

Zippy Duvall, president, American Farm Bureau Federation: "Changes to our immigration system and guest worker program are long overdue. Workforce shortages and unpredictable wages limit farmers' ability to grow their businesses and creates uncertainty in an already difficult economic environment. We urge Congress to modernize our current guest-worker program and provide a means to enable our existing workforce to continue working in agriculture to ensure family farms can continue to meet the demands of our growing nation. We stand ready to work with lawmakers on these important reforms."

Mike Joyner, president, Florida Fruit &

Vegetable Association: “Many lessons were learned throughout the pandemic, but few more important than the need for U.S. farmers to feed U.S. families. Without access to a stable, legal workforce, Florida farmers will not be able to plant and harvest their crops and help put nutritious food on the tables of American consumers. A bipartisan approach in the Senate to address the agricultural workforce challenges impacting farmers across the U.S. is critical and urgently needed. We strongly encourage the Senate to take swift action in solving this workforce crisis and look forward to working with leaders throughout the legislative process to help preserve American farmers’ ability to grow food.”

Chuck Conner, president and CEO, National Council of Farmer Cooperatives: “Farmers and ranchers across the country face a labor crisis that threatens their ability to feed, clothe and fuel the world. The letter sent to the Senate late yesterday shows the breadth of support for immigration reform and that this issue is not one specific to only a few commodities or regions of the country. We urge the Senate to take up ag labor reform without delay and look forward to working with key leaders as a package is developed and debated.”

Rob Larew, president, National Farmers Union: “Our farm labor system should be functional for farmers and compassionate toward farm workers, and it should provide some certainty for both parties – but currently, it accomplishes none of the above. While we are encouraged by recent promises that these problems will be fixed, we can’t wait for action any longer. Congress must quickly address the flaws outlined in our letter and ensure that farmers’ and workers’ needs are being met.”

Jim Mulhern, president and CEO, National Milk Producers Federation: “American agriculture’s labor crisis only intensifies each year, and farmers and farmworkers can no longer be asked to endure it. The situation is especially severe for dairy producers, who cannot supplement their domestic workforce with guest workers. The status quo isn’t viable; Congress must act. Ag workforce reform legislation is ripening, with a bipartisan measure already passed in the House and bipartisan immigration reform talks currently occurring in the Senate. The Senate now must move its own ag labor reform measure, and we call on the Senate to act before this rare window of opportunity closes. We must seize this rare opportunity to address the crisis and support farmers and farmworkers so they can continue feeding America and the world.”

RJ Andrus, Idaho potato grower and vice president of legislative and government affairs, National Potato Council: “America’s potato growers remain committed to passing legislation to address the labor crisis faced by U.S. food producers. We sincerely appreciate the efforts of Sen. Mike Crapo, R-Idaho, and Sen. Michael Bennet, D-Colo., in taking on this challenge of developing a bill that secures our country and supports U.S. agriculture and America’s essential farm workers.”

Tom Stenzel, president and CEO, United Fresh Produce Association: “United Fresh Produce Association has long advocated for reforms to our immigration system to ensure that we

See **LABOR**, page 33



## Where to begin.

Are you a young or beginning producer with dreams of a successful future in agriculture?

You’ve come to the right place. Our AgVision program provides financing for producers age 35 or younger, or who have less than 10 years in the business. Qualified applicants have less restrictive loan underwriting standards, a mentor and an abundance of educational resources.

Ready to build a life in agriculture? We’re ready to help.

208.552.2300 | [northwestfcs.com](http://northwestfcs.com)

Equal Housing Lender  
This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Here to Help You Grow®



Wheat is harvested in Latah County in this Idaho Farm Bureau Federation file photo.

File photo

# Latah County a great place to grow dryland crops

By Sean Ellis

*Idaho Farm Bureau Federation*

MOSCOW — With deep, fertile soils and consistent rainfall, Latah County produces an abundant supply of several crops, including soft white wheat, garbanzo beans, peas and lentils.

Normally,

This year could be a little different as the county has been hit hard by drought conditions. That's bad news in a dryland area where crops are grown without irrigation.

Normally, the region gets an ample amount of rainfall, "so we can put up

100-plus-bushel wheat with no irrigation," says Latah County Farm Bureau President Zane Garner, who runs a small cow-calf operation.

Winter moisture was good but the lack of rainfall and unusually high early season temperatures are threatening to have a major negative impact on this year's harvest, says Craig Fleener, who grows garbanzo beans, lentils and wheat.

"Agronomically, the big challenge we face this year" is the lack of normal rainfall, he says. "We're looking at half a crop potentially, depending on what happens in the next couple of weeks."

This year is one of the driest in memo-

ry in the area but it is a blip year when it comes to rainfall and the county's farmers can normally depend on an adequate supply of rainfall. That makes Latah County a great place to grow crops, especially wheat, Garner says.

"Wheat is and always has been king in Latah County," he says. "Wheat is the big money crop in this county."

According to the most recent Census of Agriculture, there were 92,720 acres of wheat grown in Latah County in 2017. Garbanzo beans were second at 44,531 acres, followed by hay (40,878 acres), lentils (10,722 acres) and barley (6,028 acres).



There were a small amount of cattle and calves – 2,451 according to the 2017 Census.

“We run cows out here in farm country and it works out OK for us,” Garner says.

Garbanzos, also known as chickpeas, are one of the main rotation crops out of wheat in Latah County because they fix nitrogen levels in the soil.

“Chickpeas are probably the most consistent rotation out of wheat in this area,” Garner says.

There were 1,041 farms in Latah County during the 2017 Census of Agriculture year but the average size of 336 acres was smaller than the state average of 468 acres.

According to the Census of Agriculture, there are 507 farms in the county less than 50 acres in size and 132 farms greater than 500 acres in size, including 95 bigger than 1,000 acres.

“There are some big farms here ... but it’s predominantly smaller, family-owned stuff,” Garner says.

Latah County is home to the eastern portion of the Palouse, a picturesque region dotted with lush, rolling hills with nutrient-rich soils.

Latah County is home to Idaho’s land-grant university, the University of Idaho. Washington State University, that state’s land-grant university, is located just eight miles from the U of I, making the region unique in having two land-grant universities located so close to each other.

Garner and Fleener, who is also a



Photo by Bob Smathers

**With fertile soil and an ample supply of rainfall, Latah County is a great place to grow several types of crops in a dryland setting.**

member of the Latah County Farm Bureau board of directors, said the main focus of the county’s Farm Bureau organization is youth.

“It has been one of our main focuses; trying to get more young people involved in agriculture,” Fleener says. “Getting young people involved in agriculture is really important for Farm Bureau and agriculture in general.”

According to the Census of Agriculture, 681 of the county’s 1,877 total producers in 2017 were over the age of 65 and only

145 were younger than 35.

Besides providing money for scholarships, LCFB also provides stipends to every school’s ag program in the county, Garner says.

“We put most of our efforts into supporting youth in any avenue we can,” he says. “The bulk of our board is on the older side (and) developing our youth and providing them opportunities to get ag experience and the desire to come back to agriculture is of the utmost importance to everybody here.” ■

## LABOR

*Continued from page 31*

have the workforce to feed our nation, and the world. We have made great progress in the House of Representatives by passing bipartisan reforms and I believe it is imperative that the Senate take up this issue and pass these long overdue reforms in the same manner.”

Jim Bair, president and CEO, USApple: “Each year growers face pressure from operating loans, weather, pests and

razor-thin margins. They shouldn’t have to worry about leaving apples on the trees because they couldn’t get workers to harvest them. But that’s exactly what happens, and it’s threatening the future of the apple industry. We’re calling on Congress to act and for the Senate to reach a bipartisan agreement that can be signed into law.”

Dave Puglia, president and CEO, Western Growers: “The Senate can end the labor crisis on America’s farms. Our

farmers cannot afford another year of inaction. The House passed the Farm Workforce Modernization Act earlier this year, carefully negotiated bipartisan legislation that would provide stability to the existing farm workforce and a greatly improved and predictable guest worker program. We call on senators of both parties to seize the moment, take up the issue in good faith, and make the modifications and compromises needed to pass the Senate.” ■

# Stick to your marketing plan

It's now halfway through the calendar year and if you are like most of us, you are wondering just where the months have gone.

It feels like the time between the beginning of spring work and the end of fall work is getting shorter and more hectic with each passing year.

Even with all that has gone on and all that is currently happening with the hotter-than-hot temperatures and the lack of water, we are able to still say that "life is good."

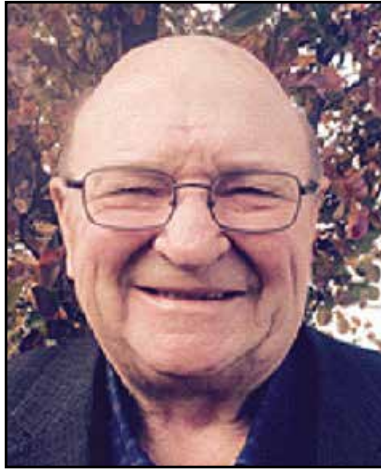
For the most part, we are all positive thinkers. If not, we wouldn't plant our crops or continue to have calves.

Producing our commodities definitely has its challenges and you face those challenges head-on each year as they change and at times become larger than the years before.

For the most part, the prices you are receiving for your commodities right now are higher than the previous year. However, so are your input costs. When was the last time you remember having higher prices for your commodities produced and lower diesel and fertilizer prices?

Things change and change is good and bad all at the same time. Maybe I shouldn't say that change is good and bad but rather change is good when we embrace it and continue to move forward.

It doesn't matter whether you are a farmer or a rancher, you are all producers. You continually look for ways to



increase production or streamline your operation to give yourself the opportunity to be profitable.

Even though I say you are all producers, that doesn't mean that I feel all of you are the same. Your operations are all unique and we all know that when it comes to produc-

tion and marketing, it is never "one size fits all."

How you market your commodities has changed over the past decades, especially just the past few years. Marketing is just as vital to your operation as production, yet at times it doesn't receive the same respect. I know that production is first and foremost, as it should be, but marketing should be a close second.

Now, marketing isn't getting better at picking the high in the market; it is, however, getting more comfortable studying the market trends and managing your price risk in that market.

I know it seems as though this is all I talk about but remember, marketing is what I do.

One hay producer was telling me that he always contracts and delivers his hay as close to cutting as possible, which gives him his cash flow through the fall when his income from the grain begins. This is what works for his operation.

This year, the basis for soft white wheat has exploded, to say the least. The Portland market is concerned about the possibility of their protein levels being

too high for the export market.

They are currently bidding a high enough basis to pull soft white out of southeastern Idaho in an attempt to contract wheat that historically is lower protein.

Producers need to look at this market and the time frame and not let this high basis disappear. The basis has strengthened about 80 cents over the past six to eight weeks.

Don't get caught up in feeling it has nowhere to go but higher. Remember, this strength is based on higher protein soft white in the Pacific Northwest.

Even with markets that are trading out of the norm, it will be important to stick to your marketing plan. Let's make some adjustments without changing everything altogether.

Remember the logic behind your current plan. It was produced and based on seasonal market moves, specific price points (these could be adjusted now with the market strength) and logistics as well as selling when someone wants to buy (contracting a time frame for delivery).

To put this in a nutshell, the only thing that has changed in your marketing plan is the level at which you are selling.

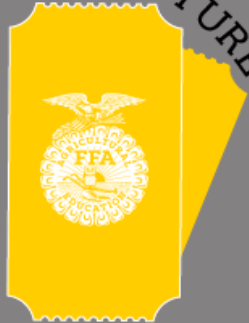
I once had a very successful producer tell me that when he was a young man, he simply told himself, "I can hire someone to drive my tractor; I need to get better at marketing."

Have confidence in your marketing decisions and remember, make it fun and keep it simple.

*Clark Johnston is a grain marketing specialist and owner of JC Management Co. of Ogden, Utah. He can be reached at [clark@jcmanagement.net](mailto:clark@jcmanagement.net). ■*



GROWING STRONG FUTURES



Idaho FFA Foundation  
**SCHOLARSHIP RAFFLE**

VISIT

[www.growidahoffa.org/  
scholarship-raffle/](http://www.growidahoffa.org/scholarship-raffle/)

TO PREORDER YOUR  
TICKETS FOR THIS

**2021 CAN AM  
MAVERICK**

with Custom Sprayer!

Thank you to  
our Grand Prize  
sponsors!



# Classifieds

## FARMING / EQUIPMENT

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

Waterwheel pumping system no electricity required. Your water source with 3 to 5 ft of drop. Pump will lift 600 ft with unlimited distance. Irrigation or domestic use to 6000 gal per day. Sagle Id. 208-255-4581.

## MISCELLANEOUS

Country Stove S210 Performer with electric fan/blower,

cooktop. You Haul. \$1,000 or best offer. Juliaetta, Id. 208-669-2744.

## TRAILERS/ CAMPER

1995 Bigfoot slide in camper with solar panels, radio, and tv. The camper is in excellent condition and has always been stored inside. Pristine interior and custom-built steps. Genesee, Id 208-285-1584.

## REAL ESTATE/ACREAGE

Two bed one bath home for sale. Full basement, two car garage, 8x10 shed, walking distance to K-12 schools, handicap ramp, hardwood floors. Built in 1950 with only

one owner. 980 sq ft. Buyer pays all costs, no inspections. \$250,000 Mountain Home, Id 208-599-2559

## WANTED

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 cookware, 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

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.

## Deadline dates

Ads must be received by **July 14** for the August Quarterly.

## Free Classified ads for Idaho Farm Bureau Members

Send to [knlindauer@idahofb.org](mailto:knlindauer@idahofb.org)

## 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.

Mail ad copy to:  
FARM BUREAU QUARTERLY  
P.O. Box 4848, Pocatello, ID 83205-4848  
or email Kristy at [knlindauer@idahofb.org](mailto:knlindauer@idahofb.org)

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Membership No. \_\_\_\_\_

Ad Copy \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

# DROUGHT

*Continued from page 3*

Most of the state was listed in moderate drought; a sliver along the panhandle's western edge and a circle covering parts of Blaine, Custer, Butte and Camas counties was classified as being in extreme drought.

A smaller bullseye by the border of Blaine and Custer counties had deteriorated to exceptional drought.

Kress said the growing conditions are as bad as he's ever experienced.

He's hopeful that he'll harvest half of his normal yields on fall wheat planted on fallow ground. He'll need some timely rain to salvage a safflower crop. The June heat has stymied his mustard, canola and pea acres.

"There are places where we're not even going to make a head on continuous crop ground," Kress said. "... The irony of all this is prices are decent for the first time in about 10 years."

Idaho barley farmers enjoyed record yields in 2020. It's clear to Idaho Barley Commission Executive Director Laura Wilder this season will be much different, due to the hot and dry weather.

As part of the budgeting process for fiscal year 2022, Wilder said the IBC board recently estimated the state's barley production will drop from 55 million harvested bushels last season to 48 million bushels this season.

"Growers in dry-land areas are reporting some fields may be a total loss, and some growers in other regions of the state are faced with water shortages that may affect their barley crop," Wilder said, adding the hot and dry weather could potentially pose quality concerns as well.

Hans Hayden farms dry land near Rockland in the Arbon Valley. Amid the June heat, the low temperature dropped suddenly below freezing on one night, adding frost damage to Hayden's list of concerns.

He's pleased to see fields of both winter and spring wheat heading now. He expects his yields will be between a third and half of his average.

"Some of it is doing better than I expected. Other (crops) are just drying up," Hayden said. "(Crops) that are not wheat are just really struggling."

John McNabb, who farms dry land between Pocatello and Inkom, said stress is causing his spring grain to head a bit early. He practices no-till farming, which

he believes has helped him increase his soil organic matter and better hold moisture.

"On our wheat, our dry farm is holding OK right now but we do need some rain soon on it," McNabb said. "... I have confidence that we'll be OK. I'm not expecting a bumper crop, but I have faith we'll be OK."

Meteorologists, however, see little relief in sight.

National Weather Service meteorologist John Hinsberger said the extended outlook for the next three months calls for a continuation of below-normal precipitation and above-normal temperatures.

A June 20 report by USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service found that statewide, only 31% of pasture was considered to be in good condition or better.

More than half of Idaho's barley and spring wheat acres were listed as being very poor to fair in quality, and 72% of the spring wheat crop was classified as very poor to fair.

"The spring crop is going to be tough, particularly on dry-land acres," said Cathy Wilson, director of research collaboration with the Idaho Wheat Commission. "The irrigated guys are going to be OK as long as they don't get any calls on their water."

Wilson said a dry-land farmer in Caribou County recently told her his area hasn't received rain in two months. Wilson said that farmer expects to have a crop but yields should be down dramatically.

Wilson said farmers throughout the Pacific Northwest are concerned the heat stress will elevate soft white wheat protein levels above standards, resulting in widespread payment reductions.

She anticipates low-protein wheat will be drawn from the domestic market and used to blend down protein levels in export wheat.

The sudden shift toward drought conditions caught many farmers who use irrigation off guard, explained Tony Olenichak, water master for Water District 1, which covers the Upper Snake River Basin.

Olenichak explained that April 1 is typically the peak date for snowpack and usually offers farmers a good indicator of the water year to come.

On that date this season, snowpack was only slightly below normal and reservoir carryover was decent. Irrigators had every reason to expect reservoirs would fill and they'd have full storage allocations, Olenichak said.

Instead, the weather turned dry, irrigation demand peaked early and junior reservoirs didn't fill. Some canal companies, especially those with junior storage rights

in Palisades Reservoir, were granted just 3% to 4% of their normal storage allocations.

Olenichak said canal companies that depend on natural river flows, including some in the Rigby and Ririe areas, also face the likelihood of shutting off before crops have finished.

"I've heard some canals certainly don't have a full supply of water this year and they're going to throttle back now and allow users to divert half of their water so they can save some toward the end of the year," Olenichak said, adding other canal companies have sent notice to members of plans to shut off by mid-August.

Along the Portneuf River, which is flowing at half of its usual volume for this time of year, many irrigators have been given notice that their water rights may be curtailed under a water call filed years ago by the Surface Water Coalition.

The Upper Snake Reservoir system is faring far better than the Wood River system, where Magic Reservoir is nearly depleted of water.

The Upper Snake system is currently filled to about 72% of capacity. American Falls Reservoir, however, has already been drained to 44% of capacity and should dip below 10% before the season's end, Olenichak said.

There won't be much rental water available at the end of the season for farmers who run out of water, he added.

"Because we had such good carryover from the end of last year, I think most people (who farm with irrigation) will get through this year just fine," Olenichak said. "Certainly, some out there will lose their crop."

For farmers with an ample irrigation supply, such as Doug Finnacle, of Pingree, the 2021 season has mostly been business as usual.

"To this point, there hasn't been an issue," Finnacle said. "I believe in general the crops are good. Everything now — the spuds, the beets, the hay — everything has caught up and is doing well on irrigated ground."

Olenichak's greatest concern is about what will happen if the dry weather continues through the coming winter and into next season.

That would make it tough for irrigators with junior rights, including well irrigators throughout the Eastern Snake Plain, to secure mitigation water needed to avert sweeping water calls.

"If we have a repeat of the (sparse) snowpack and dryness, next year is going to be the big crop loss," Olenichak said. ■



Photo by Sean Ellis

During a solemn ceremony May 28, the Idaho Gold Star Families Memorial Monument was dedicated in Pocatello.

# Idaho dedicates state's first Gold Star families memorial

By Sean Ellis

*Idaho Farm Bureau Federation*

POCATELLO – Several hundred people showed up May 28 to dedicate the Idaho Gold Star Families Memorial Monument.

Gold Star families are those that have lost a loved one who was serving in the U.S. military during a conflict.

Located off of Olympus Drive in Pocatello,

the Idaho Gold Star Families Memorial Monument is the first of its kind in the state.

“Let it be a reminder that freedom is bought with the greatest cost,” Maj. John Martinez, a chaplain with the Idaho Army National Guard, said during the solemn dedication ceremony. “This place has now become hallowed ground.”

Idaho Farm Bureau representatives were

among those that participated in the dedication ceremony, which included members of Gold Star families from across the state.

Speaking to the Gold Star families in attendance, Rebecca Webb, chairwoman of the Idaho Gold Star Families Memorial Monument and a Gold Star mother, said, “All these people (here today) are sending you a strong message: They have not forgotten the sacrifice of your loved ones and they

have not forgotten you.”

Webb and other committee members worked with Hershel “Woody” Williams, the last surviving U.S. Marine from World War II to wear the Medal of Honor, to bring the memorial to Idaho.

Williams co-founded the Hershel “Woody” Williams Medal of Honor Foundation, a non-profit organization that seeks to place a Gold Star memorial in every state.

Chad Graham, Williams’ grandson and CEO of the foundation, told the Gold Star families in attendance that the Idaho memorial serves “as a stark reminder that freedom is not free. This monument belongs to you and this community will be the caretaker.”

Williams said the monument is not about him. “This is about those families that gave more than any of us.”

He said the monument will be a lasting tribute to those who gave their lives defending the nation “so that their sacrifice will not and cannot be forgotten.”

As many youngsters visit the monument, Williams said, it may dawn on them for the first time that “the privileges of being an American living in a free country were earned by these families and by those who made the ultimate sacrifice.”

After the monument was unveiled, Gold Star family members who attended the dedication ceremony laid flowers at the base of it and a 21-gun salute was sounded.

Brig. Gen. Farin Schwartz, assistant adjutant general of the Idaho Army National Guard, said he was impressed at how phenomenal a representation the monument “is to our fallen loved ones. It’s just beyond description.”

Idaho Farm Bureau Federation, Bannock County Farm Bureau and Farm Bureau Mutual Insurance Co. of Idaho were among the businesses and individuals that supported the monument financially.

Idaho Farm Bureau Federation Bryan Searle, a farmer from Shelley, said IFBF supports the nation’s military members and families wholeheartedly and helping support the memorial is a small token of appreciation to those who have borne the ultimate cost of defending the nation.

“There are no words to express the debt every one of us owes these Gold Star fam-

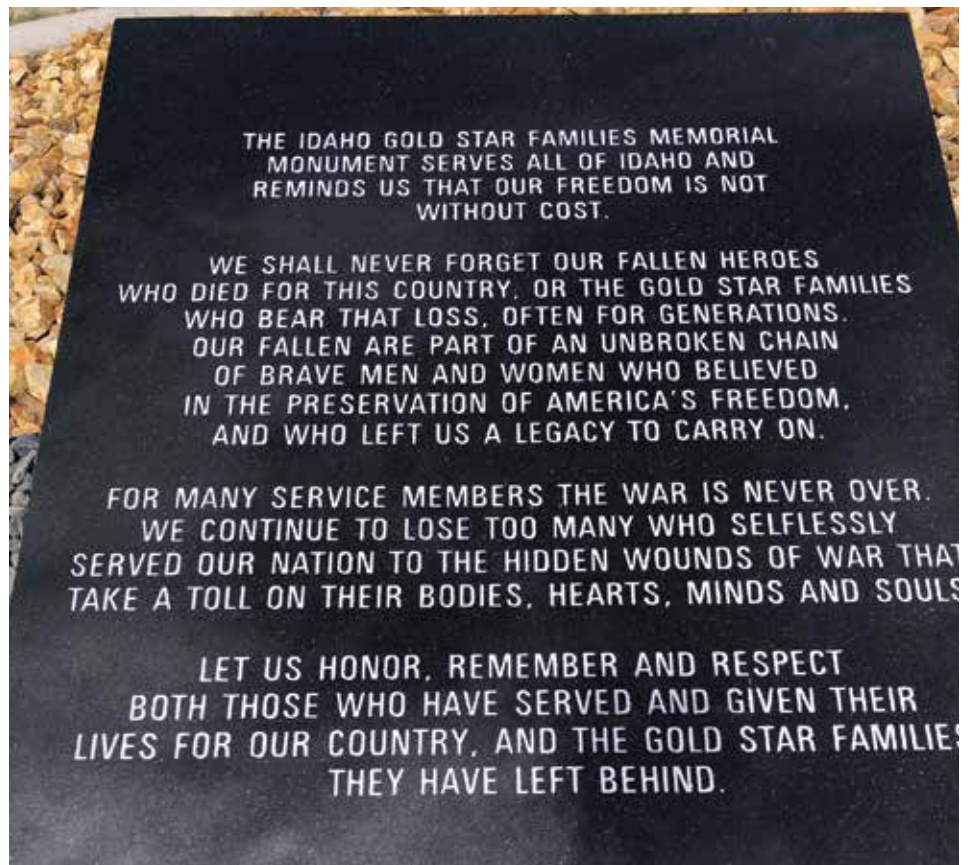


Photo by Sean Ellis

**Gold Star families – those who have lost a loved one who died while serving in the military during a conflict – make their way to the Idaho Gold Star Families Memorial Monument, which was dedicated May 28 in Pocatello.**

ilies and their loved ones who sacrificed their lives while defending this nation,” he said. “We hope this memorial helps provide some solace to Gold Star family members and stands as an honor to those who paid the highest price for freedom.”

“The Farm Bureau organization as a

whole stands for and believes in everything that our military has fought and sacrificed for throughout the history of our organization,” said FBMIC CEO Todd Argall. “Freedom, liberty, all of these core values of our country, are aligned with the core values of Farm Bureau.” ■

# MEMBER DISCOUNTS

PAGES 20 & 21

**IFB** Idaho  
Farm Bureau  
P.O. Box 4848  
Pocatello, ID 83205-4848



*Find discount partners inside this magazine!*

## **New benefits added quarterly**

Companies such as hotel, rental cars, movie theaters, and theme parks offer discounts and packages to Idaho Farm Bureau members. In recent years, more small town businesses have also started offering discounts. See pages 20-21

Details also available at [idahofbstore.com](http://idahofbstore.com)

**IFB** Idaho Farm Bureau