

Gem State Producer

IFB® IDAHO FARM BUREAU

December 2016 • Volume 20, Issue 8



Landowners Challenge
Power Project Route

Gov. Candidates
Speak at County
Banquet

Thanksgiving Dinner
Price Survey

Farmers and Ranchers Make their Voices Heard

Beyond the Fencerows



By Zippy Duvall
AFBF President

As the dust settles on a long election season, now is the time for the real work of addressing the critical issues facing America's rural communities. Our elections are decided by those who show up, and that's just what rural Americans did. As we move

forward, we expect the new administration and Congress to support the rural Americans who supported them. Farmers, ranchers and rural business owners deserve a seat at the table when it comes to shaping policy that impacts our livelihoods and our way of life.

I'm proud of how seriously our grassroots members take their

civic responsibility. That duty doesn't just fall on Election Day. We must hold our elected leaders accountable to make good on their promises to agriculture and rural America. The communities of America's heartland aren't just stops on a campaign tour: they are the backbone of our economy.

President-elect Trump has prom-

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“Normal” People Matter



By Bryan Searle
President Idaho Farm Bureau Federation

It's been a great first year - both a pleasure and a privilege to serve as president of the Idaho Farm Bureau. I've met a lot of new people

and learned a lot about agriculture, policy making and the management of natural resources across this country.

As an organization we've made progress toward our goals but we still have room for improvement. At this time I want to issue another challenge to our membership. At the risk of starting to sound like a broken record, we all need to be more active both in the policy development process and in working together to support our policies

once they are adopted.

During our last state board meeting, one of our board members, Senator Mark Harris from Bear Lake County, made a comment that resonated. He said “normal people” matter when it comes to testifying in front of legislative committees. What he meant was legislators are bombarded with messages from dozens, maybe hundreds of special interest groups during every session. To him, it's refreshing when a farmer,

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Regulatory Reform Must Become a Reality



By Rick Keller
CEO Idaho Farm Bureau Federation

Regulatory reform is what drove many farmers and ranchers to vote for President-elect Donald Trump. Farmers and ranchers across the country are uniquely affected by federal laws and the

regulations based on those laws.

While farm bill programs such as crop insurance and conservation programs are most readily recognizable as affecting agriculture, producers confront numerous other regulatory challenges. A list that is by no means exclusive includes lending and credit requirements; interpretations of the tax code; health care provisions; energy policy; labor and immigration laws, environmental statutes ranging from air and water quality concerns to

designations of critical habitat and other land uses. For farmers and ranchers, regulations don't just impact their livelihood. Unlike nearly any other economic enterprise, a farm is not simply a business; it's often a family's home.

When a government regulation affects the ability of a farmer to use his or her land, that regulatory impact hits home – not just figuratively but literally. This happens because the farm is

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Printed by: Owyhee Publishing, Homedale, 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.

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Landowner Groups Seek Different Power Line Route

By John Thompson

A regulatory change in sage grouse management plans offers a glimmer of hope for some southern Idaho landowners in the path of a massive power transmission project.

Last spring the U.S. Department of Interior announced it would not list sage grouse under the Endangered Species Act. At that time sage grouse were managed by interim guidelines that prohibited infrastructure development in sage grouse habitat. However, new management guidelines adopted by the U.S. Bureau of Land Management (BLM) contain habitat maps that do allow infrastructure development.

In adopting the new management plan that contains the habitat maps, BLM agreed to reconsider portions of the route, according to an attorney representing landowners in the case.

The Gateway West Transmission Project, proposed by Rocky Mountain Power and Idaho Power, is a 500 kilovolt line that runs from central Wyoming to Idaho's western border near Melba. The previously approved route through Cassia and Power counties crosses about 75 percent private land and 25 percent public or Bureau of Land Management (BLM) property. Overall, the project crosses about 70 percent private land in its 1,000-mile proposed path.

Two landowner groups, Move It, from Cassia County and Guardians of Agricultural Land Inc. (GOAL), in Power County, represented by Pocatello attorney Doug Balfour, recently filed a complaint with BLM asking the agency to honor its commitment to revisit the route through Power and Cassia counties and consider a route favored by landowners that is about 20 miles longer, does not interrupt working agricultural land and reduces the amount of private land encroachment to about a 50/50 split, Balfour said.

"BLM said they couldn't adopt our original proposal because the interim guidelines for sage grouse don't allow infrastructure development in sage grouse habitat areas," Balfour said. "But they also put in the decision that they would revisit the issue if the ongoing sage grouse plans came up with habitat maps that would allow development."

He added that the new plan creates three different tiers of sage grouse habitat and infrastructure development is allowed in two of the three habitat tiers.

"Our proposed route does not go through what the BLM has defined as prime sage grouse habitat," he said. "So now we believe that BLM should honor their commitment and revisit the issue giving consideration to our proposed route."

Balfour also represents the Power and Cassia County commissions who also oppose the project's path and support a route that passes mainly through public land rather than private land.

In a previous interview with the Idaho Farm Bureau, BLM Project Manager Walt George, said his agency can only choose where the route begins and terminates on public land. Decisions on where to cross private land are up to the two utility companies, the effected landowners and county officials. George has since retired.

Cover: Bear Lake County Farm Bureau Board Member John Peterson brings in the last of the straw bales in preparation for winter.

Photo by Jim Parker

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GATEWAY WEST

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Power lines crossing range land are less troublesome for landowners to deal with than when they cross row-crop farms where they can disrupt radio signals, aerial application of chemicals and cause many other problems. *Photo by Steve Ritter*

BLM Spokesperson Heather Feeney in Boise, said the agency closed the protest period for segments 8 and 9 on November 7. Segments 8 and 9 are the last two segments in Idaho and are at the west end of the transmission line ending near Melba. Feeney said the protest letters are received by BLM in Washington D.C. and they go through an initial process to determine if they were received prior to the deadline and if the applicants have standing to protest.

Feeney said the agency is working diligently to approve segments 8 and 9 by the end of the year. She did not know the disposition of the protest from the Idaho landowners.

Feeney declined to confirm the following statement, but it's likely that since the protest letter from Balfour is specific to segment 7 of the project, it probably will not receive standing.

Rocky Mountain Power spokesperson Margaret Oler, said ultimately the route is determined by where the permits are au-

thorized. "We can put forth reasons why we think one route is better than another but ultimately it's based on where the permit is granted," she said.

Rocky Mountain Power has not yet identified a cost per mile estimate for the project, she said. "The exact location of the route, engineering, final design and other mitigating factors specified in the final documents are all part of the cost and those things have not yet been identified or completed," she said.

Oler added that the complaint filed by Balfour is between the landowner groups and the BLM. The two utility companies are not involved in that particular dispute. She said construction on the project is expected to begin in 2019 and conclude in 2024.

An internet search revealed a transmission line cost calculator put together by Black and Veatch, a global engineering firm with offices in several western states. The document is located at https://www.wecc.biz/Reliability/1210_BV_WECC_Trans-CostReport_Final.pdf. The company pro-

vided the following description: "After developing the capital cost estimates for transmission and substations described in Section 4.0, Black & Veatch created a cost calculator which incorporated all of the cost estimates for transmission and substations cost components into a single, user-friendly Excel-based tool. The cost calculator is simple but flexible, and can be used to estimate the costs of any hypothetical transmission project and associated substations within the WECC region. The calculator employs the cost formulas for transmission and substations to calculate total project costs (for the entire line length and on a per-mile basis), and is automated to the extent possible to allow for quick estimates."

The work published by Black and Veatch estimates the cost of the 500 kv single circuit power transmission line at \$1.8 to \$2 million per mile. The study was published in 2012 and does not include substation or other costs.

Gubernatorial Candidates Speak at FB Meeting

By Jake Putnam

Emmett—Just as the historic 2016 election was drawing to a close, two candidates seeking Idaho's top post in the next election cycle began their campaigns in Gem County.

Lt. Gov. Brad Little and fellow gubernatorial candidate Russ Fulcher spoke during the annual banquet held by Gem County Farm Bureau on November 12th.

In a packed house the two candidates mixed easily with Farm Bureau members. The pair are old friends from their years serving together in the Idaho Senate.

Fulcher is the former Majority Caucus Chairman of the Idaho Senate. Prior to a decade of service in Idaho's 22nd Legislative District, Fulcher spent 20 years traveling the world for several of Idaho's major tech companies and grew up on a dairy farm outside of Meridian. He received both his Bachelor's and Master's degree in Business Administration at Boise State University.

"The Farm Bureau community has had a big influence on me," Fulcher said. "I had three documents in the upper drawers of my Senate desk, the New Testament, copies of the U.S. and Idaho Constitutions and I had the Farm Bureau policy book. I'm not patronizing you, I had the policy book."

Little grew up in Emmett and was appointed Lieutenant Governor in January of 2009 by Governor Butch Otter. Prior to the appointment he served as Majority Caucus Chairman and represented Idaho Legislative Districts 8 and 11. Little was raised on his family's ranch in Emmett and attended Emmett High School. He graduated in 1976 with a bachelor's degree in agri-business from the University of Idaho.

"I'm optimistic but we have to start worrying about small communities like this," Lt. Gov. Little said. "Our kids and grandkids for whatever reason have left home and need an opportunity to come home and be where they want to be. We need to continue providing the infrastructure, but most importantly we need to give them skills. Whether it's K-12, technical education or higher education we

need facilities and have a talent pool with plans to move forward."

Fulcher said agriculture has been a central part of his life.

"My roots are also in the agriculture industry and the first 24 years of my life were on a dairy farm in Meridian," he said. "That was long before there were all those houses there. Then the next 24 years I bounced around the planet working in the tech industry. Folks, in terms of change I'm telling you we live in the most interesting time in the history of this nation."

Lt. Gov. Little agreed saying that the high cost of business in neighboring states means opportunity for the Gem State.

"In California the average factory operating costs average some \$43 million a year, the same plant in Idaho costs \$34 million a year. The difference in operation costs over the lifetime of the plant is a \$100 million dollars. That's why we're having more and more companies moving here. Why here? They know if they've got the money to build a plant, Idaho is the place to build. They can get it done faster and regulations are easier to maneuver. Idaho has a lot to offer and the attitude between state and local government is conducive to getting the plants up. We need to get them into these small communities because it helps us and them," said Little.

The Presidential elections sent shockwaves through the nation and both candidates offered insight to an appreciative crowd.

"I for one was not shocked by the elections and I'm actually excited by it," said Fulcher. "It's not because it was a big referendum about Trump. Instead I think it was a referendum on the existing leadership of this nation. This nation was heading the wrong way. The people of America stood up for the first time in decades saying socialization of healthcare is wrong, federalization of the education system is wrong and prioritizing the relationship of Islamic nations versus our allies is wrong. Most importantly, allowing the United States of America to get \$20 trillion dollars in debt is wrong. We must be mindful that over a

third of our operating budget comes through federal channels and they're broke."

Lt. Gov. Little also told the crowd he didn't see last November's Trump victory coming.

"I was pretty surprised," he said. "I had great hopes traveling around Idaho but kept hearing negative things. I talked with people after the election about rocking the cradle of the federal government. There's a window of opportunity to make changes. The one agency you can change the fastest in a new administration is the Department of Justice. If we would have had a different Department of Justice they wouldn't have put those two Oregon ranchers in prison on a terrorism charge. It never would have happened, they started a backfire to protect their property. That's one of the first places where changes will take place."

Fulcher said the new political climate means new optimism in rural Idaho.

"I'm hopeful this Republican administration will get things done. We'll have a House and Senate and even Governors across the nation and now it's time to reverse the tide. We can address the national debt, healthcare, federalization of education and so much more. I'm encouraged because Idaho is in prime position to help lead some of the changes. We empower people and it's not that difficult. We need more control in peoples' hands than federal hands," said Fulcher.

Lt. Gov. Little says in this instance, change is good.

"We now look for change in all the other agencies and I'm confident that it'll happen rapidly. The USDA, Commerce and BLM will start naming state directors and that takes time. Rules and regulations will change, but slowly. But, we've made progress with the Forest Service. We're getting some of that management back to the state, but we'll have to put that plan on steroids to get sawmills like Emmett back online," said Little.

DUVALL

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ised a pro-farmer administration, and Farm Bureau will hold him to that. America's farmers and ranchers have made great strides in our sustainability thanks to hard work and innovation. We need our elected leaders to recognize the value of tools like economies of scale and biotechnology, and then to lead the way in setting policies that promote science and common sense.

We need regulatory and tax reforms that address the unique challenges of agriculture. Farmers and ranchers take great care to preserve their land and protect their businesses for future generations, but regulatory overreach, like EPA's Waters of the U.S. rule, threatens to stamp out our ability to produce. We need to

protect natural resources, but that work is done best by the people who know the land, not bureaucrats thousands of miles away. And we need to ensure our farm and ranch families can pass their operations on to the next generation, without having to sell assets that are critical to the farm just to pay the tax bill.

Too many problems still hang in political limbo. Agriculture faces a real labor crisis, but we can have meaningful reform only if we come together to address the need for both a workable visa system and a secure border.

"American farmers are the best in the world at growing food and other products that people need to flourish," President-elect Trump said. We couldn't

agree more. We will work with his administration and Congress on issues like the farm bill, energy and trade to boost American agriculture and increase access to American-grown food, fuel and fiber.

Our elected leaders come at these issues with different points of view, but they all have one thing in common. Each ran on a platform to make America better and improve this country for all of us. That same unity of purpose drives us at Farm Bureau. We can learn from each other as we respect our differences. No matter what we raise or how we do it, we must work together to protect our farms and strengthen our rural communities.

SEARLE

Continued from page 2

rancher, carpenter, plumber or really anyone from the private sector takes the time to travel to Boise, gather the courage to step up to the microphone and explain the benefits or drawbacks they see in a particular piece of legislation. Further, what Senator Harris means is lobbyists are professionals and most do an excellent job of supporting their employer's point of view. But as a state senator he has to pick through those statements and try to decipher how the legislation might affect his constituents. Whereas with a "normal" person, they're firsthand experts, working every day to earn a living and find his or her piece of the American dream, and although their message typically isn't as refined, it's genuine.

I would like to commend Senator Harris as he leaves the Idaho Farm Bureau Board of Directors. It's been a pleasure serving on the Board with him. He is one of those people who doesn't say a lot but when he speaks, people listen. He was

appointed to the Idaho Senate about a year ago and was elected by his constituents this year. He serves a geographically diverse district of both urban and rural areas stretching from Teton County south to Bear Lake County. I would like to recognize his service to the Idaho Farm Bureau and wish him well in future endeavors.

As we set our priorities for the next legislative session and the political drama begins to unfold, I want all of you to understand that your opinions matter and we as the largest general farm organization in Idaho rely on your voices to help convey important messages about the importance of agriculture to our state's economy. We need to use our organization to make our voices heard on core issues like private property rights, the management of natural resources, taxes, and many others.

We will be sending out Action Alerts

during the legislative session. If you haven't participated in this process, make sure to pass along your email addresses to dashton@idahofb.org and check your email daily. Action Alerts inform our members about issues and ask members to send a message to their legislators. It's one of the best ways to communicate with legislators during the busy session. You can also telephone or use regular mail to communicate with legislators. Also watch for our weekly Capital Reflections newsletter to stay informed. You can also follow the Idaho Farm Bureau on Facebook, or on our website at www.idahofb.org.

Remember that our political system is run by the people who show up. Farmers and ranchers make up only 2 percent of our nation's population. That means we have to show up and make our voices heard both in Boise and in Washington D.C.

KELLER

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home and may have been passed down in the family for generations. If it cost the farmer money, he or she will face an abiding truth – farmers, far more often than not, are price takers, and not price makers. Lacking the ability to pass costs on to consumers, farmers are often forced to absorb increased regulatory costs.

Regulations have a direct impact on America's farms and ranches. When a new or revised federal regulation takes effect, more than likely it will affect how a grower can manage his or her land – what crops to grow, or where or how to grow them, how to manage them before or after harvest, how to house, feed or care for livestock under their care, and – most significantly – how to make sure that farming operations

are sustainable and productive for their children, the extended family, and future generations.

We believe a fair, transparent, open and updated regulatory process will benefit not just farmers and ranchers; it will reinvigorate public respect for the important and critical role regulations must and do play while benefiting taxpayers, environmentalists, small businessmen and women and people in all walks of life.

Prior to his election, Donald Trump told Farm Bureau, "Our nation's regulatory system is completely broken. Terrible rules are written by unelected, unaccountable bureaucrats who often know nothing about the people they are regulating." His solution included: "As

President, I will work with Congress to reform our regulatory system. We will reduce the power of government bureaucrats, and increase the freedom of our nation's farmers to be as productive as possible. We will increase transparency and accountability in the regulatory process. Rational cost-benefit tests will be used to ensure that any regulation is justified before it is adopted. Unjustified regulations that are bad for American farmers and consumers will be changed or repealed. There will be no more sue and settle deals with extreme environmentalists."

Farm Bureau is working with President-elect Trump, who promised Farm Bureau a 'seat at the table' and with Congress in seeing that meaningful regulatory reform becomes a reality.

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Why We Fight Over Western Lands

By Shawn Regan

The recent acquittal of Ammon Bundy and six others in the trial over the armed occupation of the Malheur Wildlife Refuge in Oregon has once again elevated federal land issues to the national stage, and many questions remain. But despite all the media attention on the trial, many have overlooked the underlying issues that make federal lands so contentious in the first place.

If you've followed the news about western lands at all recently, you've likely heard of the Bundy family. Cliven Bundy's ranch in Nevada was the site of a 2014 standoff with the federal government over grazing rights to public lands, and earlier this year two of Bundy's sons led the 41-day occupation of the wildlife refuge in Oregon — a dispute that ended with the death of one of the occupiers and the arrest of several others on federal conspiracy charges.

But why are some ranchers so upset with the federal government? Much of it is the result of federal land policies that encourage conflict instead of cooperation. So let's take a step back to understand how federal grazing policy works, and why it's the source of so much conflict in the American West.

How the West Was Settled

The federal government owns a lot of land. Nearly half of the entire western United States is controlled by federal land agencies. And in some states, more land is owned by the

feds than the state or residents themselves: Oregon is 53 percent federal land, Idaho is 62 percent, Utah is 65 percent, and Nevada is 85 percent federal property.

Some of this is federal property because it was set aside as a national park or forest reserve. But much of it remains in federal ownership for another simple reason: It was never settled by

homesteaders. To understand how public-land grazing works today, we have to understand how this homestead process worked.

In the late 19th and early 20th centuries, U.S. land policies encouraged settlers to venture westward, where they found vast rangelands on which to graze their livestock. But there was one problem: The Home-

stead Act limited settlers to 160-acre claims, which were too small given the dry conditions of the western range. Settlers needed much more land if they were to eke out a living and "prove up" their homestead claims. Yet throughout the homestead era, the federal government never issued land claims large enough to support livestock grazing in the arid West.

FIGURE 1:
FEDERAL AND STATE LANDS IN THE WESTERN UNITED STATES

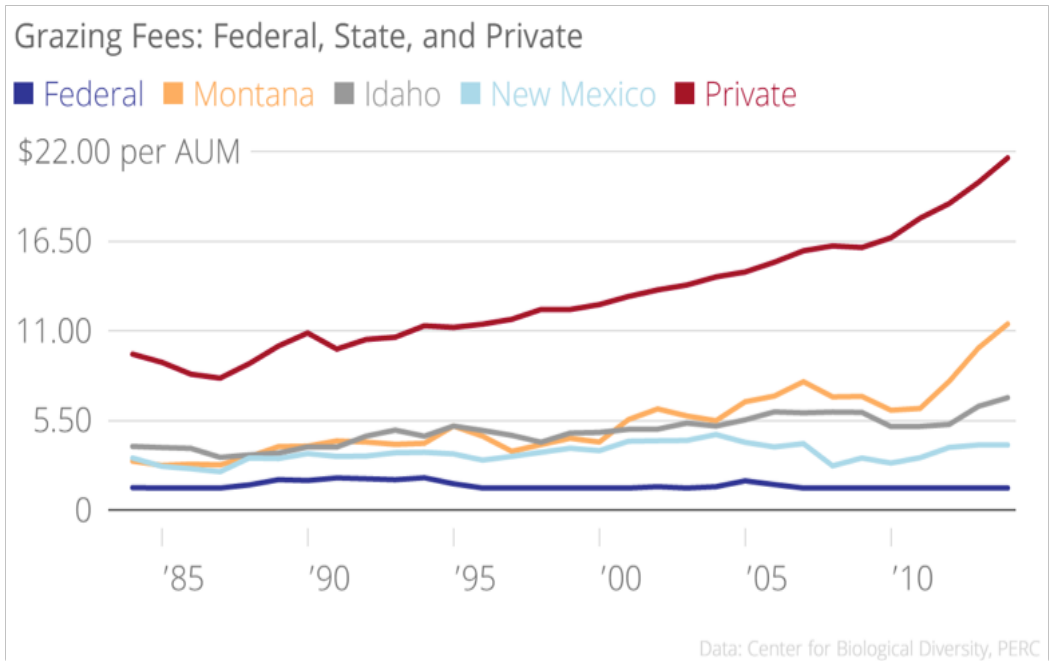


With such small homestead claims, ranchers were forced to rely on nearby public lands to sustain their livestock operations. The use of this unclaimed public domain for grazing was later formalized into law to control and prevent overgrazing. In 1934, the Taylor Grazing Act gave the federal government the authority to create grazing districts on unclaimed public lands, issue permits, and charge fees. This essentially is the federal grazing system we have today.

But here is where it gets complicated: The government required that grazing permits could only be held by ranchers who owned specific “base properties,” or private properties that the government deems qualified for public-land grazing privileges. Even today, grazing permits are tied to private properties, and they cannot be held by those who do not hold such qualifying properties.

This means that a grazing permit can have a significant effect on the value of a rancher’s property. When these properties are bought and sold — as most of them have at some point — the new owner pays for the grazing permit, which is capitalized into the value of the base property.

The value of these grazing permits can be significant. In many parts of the West, ranchers own very little private land, with most of their property value tied up in their ability to graze livestock on public grazing allotments. For instance, Cliven Bundy’s ranch in Nevada — the site of the high-profile standoff in 2014 — is just 160 acres of private land. Before



he stopped paying grazing fees and lost his grazing privileges, Bundy’s property had a grazing permit attached to it that gave him the ability to run livestock on a nearby 158,000-acre allotment.

What’s more, in many ways public grazing permits function like a form of private property. They are bought and sold along with ranches. Banks collateralize loans on the basis of permit values. And the government even taxes the value of grazing permits in capital gains and estate taxes.

Pay to Graze

What about the grazing fees paid by ranchers? Some have claimed that ranchers receive large subsidies to graze livestock on public lands in the form of below-market grazing fees, which raises the question: Why would ranchers revolt against the same government that grants them such a big handout?

The reality, it turns out, is more

complicated. It is true that ranchers pay very little to graze livestock on federal lands (in 2016, only \$2.11 per “animal unit month,” or the amount of forage it takes to feed one cow and one calf for a month). That is far less than what it costs to run livestock on state or private lands. But grazing fees are only part of the story. Because of the base-property requirement for federal-land grazing, most ranchers paid the market value of their federal grazing privileges up front when they bought their ranch. This is not the case with private or state grazing leases.

In addition, grazing fees on public and private lands refer to very different things. When other factors are considered — such as the costs of building and maintaining fences, supplying water, and providing other infrastructure on public lands (which are often already included on private rangelands) — public-land grazing is not much cheaper for ranchers

than private alternatives. In fact, it can even be more expensive in some cases.

There is, however, one group that gets a bad deal from public-land grazing: U.S. taxpayers. The Bureau of Land Management and U.S. Forest Service spent \$143.6 million on grazing management in 2014 but collected just \$18.5 million in grazing fees — a loss of \$125 million. And in our own study at PERC, we found that the feds lost about 90 cents out of every dollar it spent on grazing management between 2009 and 2013.

All of this goes a long way toward explaining why these issues remain so contentious, and why many ranchers today are angry about regulations or legal actions that undermine their traditional public-land uses. Ranchers have been gradually losing grazing privileges as federal land policies have shifted toward conservation

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WESTERN LANDS

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and recreation instead of grazing, timber harvesting, and energy development. Today, the BLM authorizes just half the amount of grazing it did in 1954.

When ranchers' grazing privileges are reduced, it affects their livelihoods and the values of their private property. This, in part, is the issue in Oregon and elsewhere across the West, where various groups are calling for local control of federal lands. Ranchers feel threatened by federal regulations and the environmental groups who use them as the basis for litigation to take away their grazing privileges, often without compensation.

A Way Out?

So what can be done? There are no simple solutions. The reality is that the current system encourages conflict, not peaceful negotiation. The rights that de-

termine who gets to do what on public lands are poorly defined, and public-land use decisions are more likely to be settled by politics or litigation than by mutual cooperation or direct exchange, such as a "buyouts" of ranchers' grazing permits. The result is a system of federal land management that is strangled by what one former Forest Service chief described as a "Gordian knot" of litigation and regulation.

One possible solution is to create clearer property rights to grazing on public lands and then simply let groups trade. Environmental groups could then buy out ranchers' grazing permits. This already happens to a limited extent, but the transaction costs are high due to regulatory barriers that prevent grazing permits from being used for conservation purposes.

In recent years, several envi-

ronmental groups have advocated grazing-permit buyouts as a practical and peaceable conservation strategy. Others say the federal government should buy out ranchers' grazing permits itself. Since public-land grazing loses so much taxpayer money, the argument goes, it would pay to have the government simply purchase ranchers' permits and retire them. (It's worth noting that the government apparently offered to buy out Cliven Bundy's grazing privileges in the early 1990s, but he refused.)

Still, others insist that ranchers never had formal "grazing rights" to begin with. The federal government refers only to "grazing privileges" rather than formal rights, and courts have generally held that they can be revoked at any time. This fact has been used by the government and some environmental groups to justify grazing permit reductions without

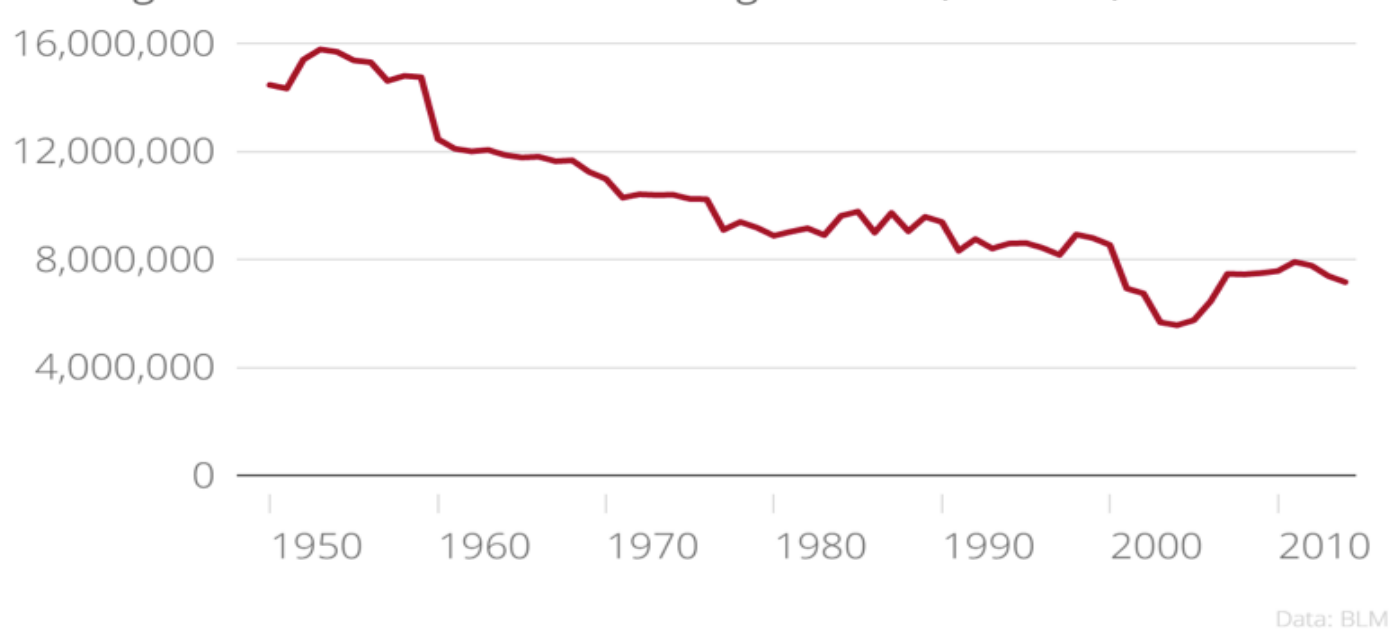
compensation.

The bottom line is this: We fight over western lands because it is unclear who has which rights. Land-use decisions are often made in the political arena or in the courts rather than negotiated locally between competing groups — and that is a recipe for conflict.

As long as these rights are unclear, the fights will continue. Until we find ways to clarify grazing rights and encourage more negotiation instead of conflict, we are likely to witness even more fighting over western lands in the future, regardless of what happens to the Bundy family.

Shawn Regan is a research fellow at the [Property and Environment Research Center \(PERC\)](#) in Bozeman, Montana, and the author of the recent report ["Managing Conflicts over Western Rangelands."](#)

Grazing Authorized within BLM Grazing Districts (in AUMs)



USDA Deregulates Biotech Spud

The USDA has deregulated the Ranger Russet and Atlantic varieties of the second generation of Innate® biotech potatoes. These varieties join the Innate® second generation Russet Burbank potato which was deregulated last year.

The second generation of Innate potatoes contains four beneficial traits of relevance to potato growers, processors and consumers: 1.) Reduced bruising and black spots; 2.) Reduced asparagine; 3.) Protection against the late blight pathogen; and, 4.) Enhanced cold storage capability. These traits were achieved by adding only genes from wild and cultivated potatoes.

Research shows that Innate second generation potatoes will further contribute to reducing waste associated with bruise, blight

and storage losses by reducing waste at multiple stages of the value chain, including in-field, during storage, processing, and in foodservice. That research suggests that these traits will translate to less land, water and pesticide applications to produce these potatoes.

Academics consulted by Simplot, for instance, estimate that the Innate late blight protection trait can result in a 50 percent reduction in fungicide applications annually to control late blight disease, cause of the Irish Potato Famine in the mid-19th century. Lower asparagine means that accumulation levels of acrylamide can be reduced by up to 90 percent or more when these potatoes are cooked at high temperatures. In addition, lower reducing sugars

enable cold storage at 38°F for more than 6 months without the build-up of sugars which improves quality.

“The introduction of late blight resistance in Innate varieties is a game changer, one that has the potential to dramatically reduce the environmental impact of potato growing by reducing pesticide use,” said Neil Gudmestad, University Distinguished Professor & Endowed Chair of Potato Pathology, North Dakota State University.

Simplot is looking forward to the completion of the EPA registration and FDA consultation before these additional varieties of second generation of Innate® potatoes are initially introduced into the marketplace.



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Butte County voters recently approved a plan to change the name of Craters of the Moon National Monument.
Farm Bureau file photo

Butte County Voters Approve Craters Change to National Park

By John Thompson

Voters in Butte County approve of the effort to change Craters of the Moon National Monument to national park status according to an advisory vote taken on November 8.

The Change the Name Coalition, led by local business and political leaders has worked for two years lobbying to create a national park in the desolate region about 15 miles southwest of Arco. County voters approved the concept by a 715 to 529 margin. There are 1,501 registered voters

in Butte County.

Butte County Commissioner Rose Bernal, a local business owner and one of the Coalition's leaders, said voter turnout was among the best ever for the county and the results reflect what the Coalition members expected.

"The Coalition is really excited about the results and we hope we can move forward and serve the best interests of everybody in our community," Bernal said. "We held three meetings in the County and did our best to get all the questions answered. We

feel like we did a good job in getting the word out."

The Change the Name Coalition believes swapping the word "Monument" for "Park" will bring needed tourism dollars to the communities of Arco and Carey, and in turn help shore up the economy of the entire region. It's important to note that there are two existing monuments, and a national preserve within the existing Craters of the Moon complex. They include the original 54,000-acre National Park Service-administered Craters of the Moon Monument established in 1924 by Presi-

dent Calvin Coolidge, where no hunting or grazing are permitted; a National Park Service-administered preserve, where hunting is allowed and a Bureau of Land Management-administered monument where both hunting and grazing are allowed.

Commissioners from nine bordering and nearby counties have passed resolutions in support of the effort. The cities of Arco, Mackay and Carey have also adopted resolutions in support.

The Idaho Farm Bureau remains opposed to the effort citing concerns that unforeseen changes at the federal level could be detrimental to agriculture. Highway 20 passes through the Monument and is an important farm to market road connecting critical alfalfa producing counties in the Upper Valley with Magic Valley dairies. Livestock producers in the area have also voiced concern about losing access to grazing allotments if additional federal oversight is invited.

At least one National Park – Yellowstone – has special restrictions on truckloads of

agricultural commodities passing through. Montana State Highway 191 passes through the northwest corner of Yellowstone Park. Park officials allow only certified weed-free alfalfa and loads must be tarped.

“We don’t want to restrict the economy of Butte and the other surrounding counties,” said Idaho Farm Bureau President Bryan Searle. “But we have serious concerns about how the legislation could get amended at the federal level and how those changes might hurt Idaho agriculture.”

With the backing of Butte County voters, the Coalition will soon begin work on a bill to present to the Idaho Legislature in early 2017. Bernal confirmed that the bill will be directed at changing the name of the original 54,000 acre monument. The Coalition doesn’t intend to advocate for changes to the other portions of the Craters complex.

Bernal said the stamp of approval from Butte County voters means the Coalition can begin the search for a legislator to sponsor the bill. Merrill Beyeler, from Lemhi County, sponsored the original bill

that was introduced and passed the State Senate during the 2015 legislative session. Beyeler lost in the primary election last May. The 2015 bill was tabled by the State House of Representatives. Bernal expects Sen. Jeff Siddoway, R-Terretton will carry the legislation in the Senate again next year.

“We wanted to wait for guidance from our constituents before we moved ahead with the legislation,” said Bernal. “If the county voters didn’t want me to go forward with it I wouldn’t. We are now working to find another legislator to sponsor it in the House.”

An average of 200,000 people visit Craters of the Moon annually. Based on data from other national monuments that were upgraded to parks, name change supporters believe visitor numbers will increase by up to 30 percent if their efforts come to fruition. Statistics compiled by Craters National Monument officials show the attraction provides 112 jobs and \$6.6 million to the local economy annually.



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County Happenings



Leon Huber, left, recently received a \$500 check from agent Dale Zimney, right. Farm Bureau Mutual Insurance of Idaho sponsors a customer referral program for members who refer friends and relatives. The names of those who provide the necessary information to provide a quote are put into a drawing. For more information contact an agent.

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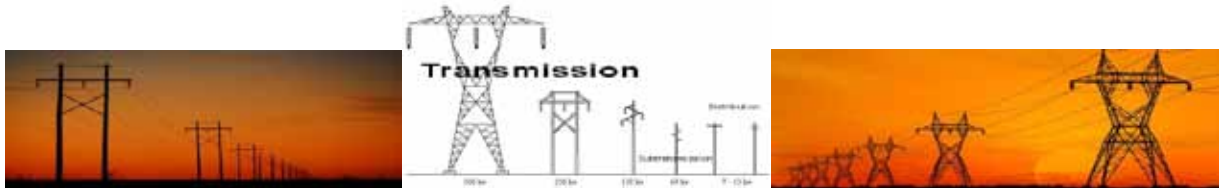
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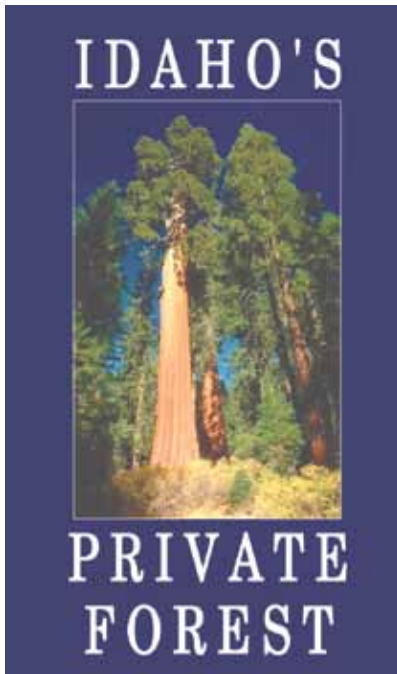
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U.S. Capitol Christmas Tree Comes from Idaho



The 80 foot-tall Englemann Spruce was harvested near McCall using a cross cut saw to honor traditional methods. *Photo courtesy U.S. Capitol Christmas Tree Facebook page.*

By Yvonne Barkley

For the past 52 years, a Christmas tree has graced the West Lawn of the U.S. Capitol for the holiday season. It all began back in 1964 when a live Christmas tree was planted on the West Lawn of the U.S. Capitol. Even though this first tree didn't survive past its third season, the idea behind it stuck. Since 1970, the U.S. Forest Service has selected and delivered a tree to represent the country as the U.S. Capitol Christmas Tree in Washington D.C. This year, the Payette National Forest, in partnership with the nonprofit organization, Choose Outdoors, is providing and delivering this special gift from Idaho to Washington, D.C.

The U.S. Capitol Christmas Tree is no ordinary specimen. This year, the tree-hunting work was delegated to smokejumpers from the Forest Service's McCall Smokejumper Base - believed to be a first for these elite wildland firefighters. The mission? To find one perfect tree among the 2.3 million acres that make up the Payette National Forest. The tree must be between 60-85 feet tall, have rich green foliage, good needle retention and have that quintessential cylindrical in shape we all associate with the perfect Christmas tree. And it had to be located in an area accessible to a crane,

semi-truck and trailer.

After several months of diligent searching the mission was accomplished. The chosen tree is an 80-foot tall Engelmann spruce that is 25-feet across at the base and weighs in at 12,500 pounds. The tree was harvested on November 2 near the Little Ski Hill near McCall, using a cross cut saw to honor traditional skills. Lifted onto a trailer by a crane, the chosen one was gently placed into a specially constructed cradle and covered with a tarp with a window at the end so people can see the tree. The shining red truck and trailer have been decorated with the U.S. Capitol Tree logo, as well as sponsor logos and signatures from thousands of well-wishers that have come to each stop to see this special tree. Each evening, USDA Forest Service and Choose Outdoors employees water the tree using a special bladder that holds 60 gallons of water. The tree usually takes up between 15-20 gallons per day, depending on the weather.

In addition to the U.S. Capitol Christ-

mas tree, Idaho is sending 70 companion Christmas trees that will be placed in federal offices across Washington D.C. Grown by Forever Green Tree Farm and The Sandpoint Ranch, both located in north Idaho, these companion trees are travelling separating to our Nation's Capitol.

Once the tree is in position, the U.S. Capitol Christmas Tree, as well as the 70 companion trees, are decorated with over 18,000 hand-made ornaments. The Payette National Forest worked with local artists and organizations to develop prototypes, incorporating state symbols, landscapes, wildlife, and symbols of the many heritages and cultures of Idaho into their designs. From classrooms to nursing homes, Winter Carnivals to County Fairs, Idahoans from every corner of the state used these prototypes as inspiration to create their own personal contributions.

“The People’s Tree”

What makes this tree “The People’s Tree” is the extraordinary effort and support it



A crane was used to place the tree in a specially made cradle on a flatbed trailer.

Photo Courtesy of U.S. Capitol Christmas Tree Facebook page.

receives as it travels across the country and the connections it builds between people. Accompanied by ambassadors from the Payette National Forest and Choose Outdoors for the journey to the U.S. Capitol, the tree will travel approximately 4,000 miles and make stops in 27 communities in eight states before reaching its final destination late in November.

Tradition dictates that one youth from the state providing the tree serve as the Tree Lighting Helper who, along with the Speaker of the House and other officials, formally illuminates the tree during this year's December 6th ceremony on the West Lawn of the U.S. Capitol.

This fall, Senator Mike Crapo sponsored a statewide, multimedia contest open to Idaho students in grades 1 through 6. Entries had to be original and capture this year's theme – "An Idaho Mountain Gem" – and also highlight the importance of our na-

tional forests. Isabella Gerard, a 5th grade student from Boise, was selected from over 200 contest participants.

Isabella's entry, a poem titled "Pristine Idaho Mountains," is based on personal experiences she has had while enjoying nature in the Payette National Forest.

The U.S. Capitol Christmas tree serves as a window through which the rest of the country can see the interconnectedness of the Idaho communities we call home and the natural landscapes that surround us. Our national forests not only provide clean water and air, wildlife habitat, outstanding scenic wonders, world-class recreational opportunities and economic opportunities, but also sustain and inspire us.

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

Pristine Idaho Mountains

by Isabella Gerard

"Idaho is blessed with beautiful mountains and immense forests.

In the winter the mountains and forests are covered with snow,

making the landscape look like never ending clouds with skyscrapers covered in snow.

Big tall trees.

Beautiful to look at.

Amazing to see.

Pristine mountains.

As I sit in the forest I find peace.

As the wind blows through the tall ponderosa pines I feel a sense of solitude and peacefulness.

To someone that has never been in an Idaho forest, it is hard to understand the size and beauty.

If only you could be here looking at these beautiful Idaho scenes."

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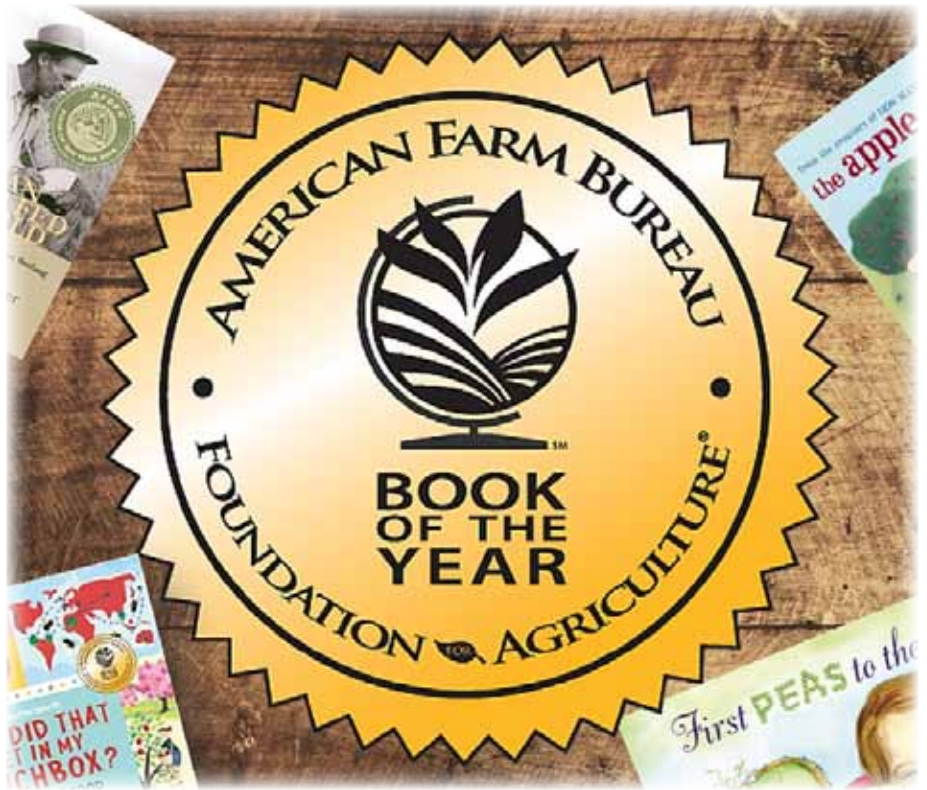
Foundation for Agriculture to announce new Book of the Year at Annual Convention

The American Farm Bureau Foundation for Agriculture will announce its tenth Book of the Year on Sunday, Jan. 8, at the AFBF Annual Convention & IDEAg Trade Show in Phoenix, Arizona. The winning book will be revealed at the annual Flapjacks with the Foundation breakfast, where attendees will receive a free copy of the book provided by Farm Bureau Bank.

The author of the new Book of the Year will be in attendance to accept the award at the 7:45 a.m. breakfast event. Following Flapjacks with the Foundation, the Book of the Year author will be signing books at the Farm Bureau Bank booth in the Trade Show from 11:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Copies of the book, educator guides and a new Ag Mag also will be available.

The Book of the Year award springs from the Foundation's effort to identify "accurate ag books," a collection of more than 400 books for children, teenagers and adults that accurately cover agricultural topics. In addition to their accuracy, Book of the Year selections are educational, reflect farmers' and ranchers' love for the land and what they do, create positive public perceptions about agriculture, inspire readers to learn more and touch their readers' lives as well as tell the farmer's story.

Previous Book of the Year selections are "First Peas to the Table" by Susan Grigsby, "The Apple Orchard Riddle" by Margaret McNamara, "The Beeman" by Laurie Krebs, "The Guardian Team:



On the Job with Rena and Roo" by Cat Urbigkit, "How Did that Get Into My Lunchbox? The Story of Food" by Chris Butterworth, "Seed Soil Sun: Earth's Recipe for Food" by Cris Peterson, "Soybeans in the Story of Agriculture" by Susan Anderson and JoAnne Buggey, "The Man Who Fed the World" by Leon Hesser and "The Tree Farmer" by Chuck Leavell.

Julie Tesch, the Foundation's executive director, said the tenth Book of the Year will continue the high standards of these previous selections.

"Whether in their approach to storytelling or teaching, or in their audience, all the Book of the Year selections do

a great job educating people about agriculture and how it touches everyone," Tesch said. "The next Book of the Year, which has already been selected but won't be announced until the Flapjacks with the Foundation event, will continue that tradition of introducing to readers something they probably didn't know about agriculture, in the book's distinctive way."

Flapjacks with the Foundation is an incredibly popular Annual Convention event. Tickets, which can be purchased through the Annual Convention registration system at annualconvention.fb.org, are \$36 per individual or \$340 for a table for 10.



Focus on Agriculture

Speaking a Little Louder to Food Companies

by Shiloh Perry

Food companies and retailers face tremendous pressure to respond to consumer expectations on issues like animal care, environmental protection and the healthfulness and safety of products. Farmers understand this because they too face tremendous pressure to meet the same consumer expectations. In fact, agriculture has always adapted in response to market preferences. The remarkable growth in organic agricultural production shows that farmers and ranchers will grow what consumers are willing to pay for, especially if it helps them be-

come more profitable.

Companies often make quick decisions to differentiate their brands and products without fully evaluating the impacts of their policy changes. Often they put out announcements about changing their production practices—changes that might not take effect for many years but provide an immediate halo effect—after sales fall or when trying to overcome a public relations crisis concerning their products or practices. This happens more and more these days now that agricultural policy is being made by unelected corporate executives as much as it is by

our unproductive Congress.

Of course companies listen to their customers, but they also need to think about their suppliers and the impact of their decisions. Too often the direction a company takes is based on misinformation and a broad misunderstanding of agriculture. The results: corporate sourcing standards that insist farmers and ranchers raise their crops and animals in ways that are less efficient, possibly less humane, and definitely less sustainable.

A recent example is Dannon's move to non-GMO feed for its dairy cows.

The company's efforts were part of a commitment to sustainability, but the impact was a broad-based move away from biotechnology—meaning lower crop yields, more tilling of the soil and more use of insecticides and stronger herbicides than the ones widely used by farmers today. This amounts to less sustainability, not more.

Farm Bureau and other agricultural groups tried to meet with Dannon to help the company's executives avoid making a mistake and understand why walking away from modern agricultural technology is not good for the company or its customers. We were turned down, so the groups sent Dannon a letter.

“Under the guise of providing consumers more choices,” the groups wrote, “your pledge would force farmers to abandon safe, sustainable farming practices that have enhanced farm

productivity over the last 20 years while greatly reducing the carbon footprint of American agriculture.”

Dannon is not the first or only company to make such announcements without fully evaluating the impacts. Too many companies have barreled forward, rather than listening to farmers and ranchers who could have helped them make better decisions.

Now agriculture is speaking up and explaining our narrative. The voice of agriculture is being heard. We are engaging with food companies to help them see all of the on-the-ground consequences. When they do not listen, as with Dannon, we call out their actions for what they are. Often their actions are simply based on “fear-based marketing.”

Farmers and ranchers have a great story to tell on sustainability. The technologies we use are tested and proven

safe and beneficial for farm productivity and the environment. The Field to Market survey shows the improvements farmers have achieved. From 1980 to 2011, U.S. rice production grew more than 50 percent, even as irrigation water used per acre dropped 25 percent. Cotton production had similar growth, while 46 percent less water for irrigation was used. The survey also shows similar results for soybeans and corn.

It is time for more food companies and their customers to hear about those results and learn about the true sustainability of modern agriculture.

When the Dannons of the corporate world do not listen, we turn up the volume.

Shiloh Perry is a communications assistant at the American Farm Bureau Federation.

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The Importance of a Marketing Plan

By Clark Johnston

As we approach the end of the 2016 calendar year it may be good to look back a few months and see where commodity prices were in July and where they are now. In doing so it is important to learn from your good marketing decisions as well as those that may not have been so good. When running through this type of exercise it is wise to leave certain statements out of our vocabulary. One such statement is “I will never do that again.” Each marketing year is different and if we close our minds to certain strategies we may not consider implementing a plan that just may work under different circumstances.

We have talked about having a marketing plan in place for your new crop long before spring work begins. Probably the best reason for having such a plan is you are now able to adjust your marketing according to a changing environment. If you aren't working with a plan you will probably end up chasing the market and making your decisions based on emotion.

At this time we know that we still have large stocks of both wheat and corn. This leaves very few opportunities for the market to experience large movements to the upside over the next few months. In order for a large rally to happen we would need to have the demand side of the market increase dramatically. Think for yourself just what would need to take place in order for the demand to increase.

With the large carry charges that are currently in the wheat market the odds are against prices being much better over the next few months. Price levels could very well remain in the current range unless we experience some type of crop failure with the 2017 crop. Now, we wouldn't want to

wish this on anyone but, we still need to decrease production. At this time in the southeast Idaho market there is at least one large processor of soft white that has contracted their needs through February and are currently looking to contract wheat from March forward. For each deferred month that they fill their needs the local demand is reduced and the odds of a long term local rally will not be in our favor. Look for quick spikes in the local market and be prepared to contract your commodities on these spikes.

It is important for us to keep an open mind when looking for alternative markets for our commodities. For example there was a niche market this year in where the moisture content of both soft white and hard red winter saw the moisture content as important as grade and protein. When I talk about moisture content I am not talking about wheat being dry enough but rather the wheat being too dry.

Remember this was just a niche market where the processor only needed a couple hundred thousand bushels of each class but they needed wheat with a minimum of 9 percent moisture. This wasn't as easy for them to originate as one might think. Just so you know, a hose doesn't work.

We have spent a great deal of time the past few months talking about locking in the futures side of your pricing equation. This should still be a main focus as we move forward. We should also keep thinking outside of the box and look for opportunities in alternative crops as well as niche markets and alternative ways to market commodities.

I will agree with you that some of these markets are a little more labor intense but, on the other hand let's not forget the bottom



Clark Johnston

line. The business in some of these smaller markets is based on not only the quality of the product but personal relationships as well. This gives us the opportunity to open new markets for the long haul.

At this time there are a number of programs in the market place that allow the public to see just where their food is being produced. These programs won't necessarily allow them to track the goods right back to a specific farm but rather to specific geographical areas.

The question from most producers is the matter of compensation for the extra paper work. The answer is, there probably won't be any. However, the time is at hand where certain processors may only purchase the commodities needed from producers that are using the program. Bottom line, if we aren't conforming to these markets we are simply limiting the markets we can sell into.

We wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

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

McGuire Selected as UI Idaho Agricultural Experiment Station Director

MOSCOW, Idaho — Animal scientist Mark McGuire will serve as director of the Idaho Agricultural Experiment Station at the University of Idaho, College of Agricultural and Life Sciences Dean Michael P. Parrella announced Monday.

McGuire, previously the college's animal and veterinary science department head, began serving as the experiment station's interim director in August 2015. McGuire will also serve as the college's associate dean for research.

The Idaho Agricultural Experiment Station was founded in 1892 and began operations on the university's Moscow campus six months before the first classes met. The station provides office, laboratory and field space for some 400 staff and faculty members who work on agricultural and environmental issues at nine research and extension centers across Idaho.

Now in his 21st year as a CALS faculty member, McGuire has spent his entire career as a professor and researcher at UI, rising through the ranks from assistant professor to professor. He served as animal and veterinary science department head before serving as interim experiment station director.

"I am excited about Dr. Mark McGuire becoming the director of the Idaho Agricultural Experiment Station and associate dean of research in the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences," Parrella said.

"Mark brings a stellar record of accomplishment in teaching, research, outreach and administration to the position, and he has a strong record of engagement with our research and extension centers. I look forward to working with Mark and the other associate deans and directors to move CALS forward.

"It is important to note that Mark has made these accomplishments during a career spent here, on the University of Idaho campus and within our college," Parrella said. "He understands our students, this college, this university and the state. I believe he fully appreciates the opportunities and the challenges facing Idaho agriculture."

"I am fully on board with Dean Parrella's vision to transform the college," McGuire said. "We have aging infrastructure at our research and extension centers statewide that we need to address. We will seek state, federal and private support to update our capabilities to help agriculture and Idaho."

A lactation physiologist, McGuire studied milk production and mastitis in dairy cattle through support from the U.S. Department of Agriculture, United Dairymen of Idaho and Idaho Dairymen's Association. He also received grants from the National Institutes of Health and the National Science Foundation for work on mastitis in women and the chemical and microbiological properties of human milk.



Mark McGuire

He served as a co-principal investigator on a NIH-funded Center of Biomedical Research Excellence, directed by former experiment station Director Greg Bohach in 2005, focused on infectious diseases. He is participating in a National Science Foundation INSPIRE grant led by his wife, Washington State University researcher Michelle "Shelley" McGuire, focused on understanding factors driving variation in milk microbiome and composition around the world. This includes bioinformatics or big data focused on the genomics of hu-

man milk composition.

Last week, Academic Press published a textbook expanding on that research that was edited by Shelley and Mark McGuire and their colleague Lars Bode of the University of California, San Diego.

"Prebiotics and Probiotics in Human Milk: Origins and Functions of Milk-Borne Oligosaccharides and Bacteria," summarizes a conference on the topic that the trio organized in Big Sky, Montana, of the Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology.



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2016-2017 Season



Look For Farm Bureau Discounts At:
www.idahofbstore.com

**Notice of Annual Meeting of
Farm Bureau Mutual
Insurance Co. of Idaho**

To all policyholders: The 2016 annual meeting for policyholders of Farm Bureau Mutual Insurance Co. of Idaho will be held on Friday, Feb. 3, 2017, at 10 a.m. at the company's home office at 275 Tierra Vista Drive in Pocatello, Idaho. You are invited to attend.

Rick D. Keller
Secretary

Notice of Stockholders Meetings
The following annual stockholders meetings will take place Friday, Feb. 3, 2017, at the Idaho Farm Bureau home office, 275 Tierra Vista Drive in Pocatello, Idaho. The board of directors for each company will be elected at these meetings.

10:45 a.m. - Farm Bureau Marketing Association of Idaho
11 a.m. - FB Development Corporation of Idaho

Rick D. Keller
Executive Vice President, CEO

Groups Ask Court to Overturn EPA Water Rule

WASHINGTON, D.C., - The American Farm Bureau Federation, along with dozens of agricultural, business and municipal entities, recently asked a federal court to vacate the EPA's and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' "Waters of the United States" rule. The brief filed in the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit lays out in detail the substance of the groups' allegations. It follows a year of litigation over which court had jurisdiction to hear challenges to the expansive and unlawful rule.

The coalition's brief explains how EPA flouted important procedural safeguards designed to ensure a fair and

thoughtful rulemaking process. EPA tactics included withholding key documents until after the public comment period had closed, ignoring and ridiculing critical public comments and issuing illegal "covert propaganda" in an effort to generate superficial public support for the rule.

"EPA set out to achieve a predetermined outcome and then manipulated the public notice-and-comment process to achieve that outcome," AFBF General Counsel Ellen Steen said. "It treated the rulemaking process like a game to be won instead of a deliberative process for developing lawful and reasonable regulations."

The brief also explains how the rule violates the limits of the Clean Water Act and the Constitution. Petitioners show how the rule relies on vague definitions that allow agency enforcers to regulate land features that look nothing like "navigable waters" and provides no fair notice to the public of what features are covered. In determining whether a low area where rainwater flows across a field is a "tributary," the brief explains: "Regulators can reach any outcome they please, and regulated entities cannot know the outcome until they are already exposed to criminal liability, including crushing fines." The brief asks that the rule be struck in its entirety.

Activity Helps Students Make the Farm-to-Food Connection

WASHINGTON, D.C., - "Thank an American Farmer or Rancher," a Thanksgiving-themed activity for pre-K to first-grade students, helps teachers explain where food comes from, courtesy of the American Farm Bureau Foundation for Agriculture (www.agfoundation.org/). Through this activity, teachers also ask students to write, draw or create thank you letters or cards for America's farmers.

A free lesson plan and a letter from a farmer, suggestions for books to read, class discussion ideas and more are available online (www.agfoundation.org/projects/thank-a-farmer-or-rancher).

"Most Americans have never been to a farm and didn't even grow up near one, but they are ready to learn more about where their food comes from,"

said American Farm Bureau Federation President Zippy Duvall. "Thank an American Farmer or Rancher" is a fun classroom activity that helps young learners make the connection between farms and ranches and the food they eat."

Classroom ideas include:

Complete a free sample lesson (http://www.agfoundation.org/files/Pumpkin_Lesson.pdf) from Farm a Month and read a free sample letter (www.agfoundation.org/files/Pumpkin_Letter.pdf) from a pumpkin farmer, followed by a discussion about farming in America.

Pull up a picture of a Thanksgiving Day plate or ask students to name common holiday foods such as turkey, cranberries, green beans, potatoes and stuffing, then discuss the agricultural

origins of each item.

Have students in groups research online to discover where ingredients such as pumpkins, butter, sugar and wheat come from. Give each group one ingredient; don't tell them what the final product is going to be. Have students present where their ingredient is from and then have the class as a whole guess what the recipe is for!

Invite a local farmer into your classroom to discuss how he or she produces food, fiber or energy.

Letters written by students as part of the activity will be given to real farmers and ranchers in January at AFBF's Annual Convention. Learn more here (www.agfoundation.org/projects/thank-a-farmer-or-rancher).

2016 American Farm Bureau Federation®

Classic Thanksgiving Dinner

for 10 People

TOTAL \$49.87

Down 24 cents, or less than 1% compared to a year ago.

Menu includes:
Turkey and stuffing
Rolls and sweet potatoes
Green peas
Fresh cranberries
Carrot and celery veggie tray
Pumpkin pie with whipped cream and milk and coffee

Thanksgiving Dinner Ticks Down to Less Than \$5 Per Person

WASHINGTON, D.C., - The American Farm Bureau Federation's 31st annual informal price survey of classic items found on the Thanksgiving Day dinner table indicates the average cost of this year's feast for 10 is \$49.87, a 24-cent decrease from last year's average of \$50.11.

The big ticket item - a 16-pound turkey - came in at a total of \$22.74 this year. That's roughly \$1.42 per pound, a decrease of 2 cents per pound, or a total of 30 cents per whole turkey, compared to 2015.

"Consumers will pay less than \$5

per person for a classic Thanksgiving dinner this year," AFBF Director of Market Intelligence Dr. John Newton said. "We have seen farm prices for many foods - including turkeys - fall from the higher levels of recent years. This translates into lower retail prices for a number of items as we prepare for Thanksgiving and confirms that U.S. consumers benefit from an abundant, high-quality and affordable food supply."

The AFBF survey shopping list includes turkey, bread stuffing, sweet potatoes, rolls with butter, peas, cranberries, a veggie tray, pumpkin pie with whipped

cream, and coffee and milk, all in quantities sufficient to serve a family of 10 with plenty for leftovers.

Foods showing the largest decreases this year in addition to turkey were pumpkin pie mix, milk and a veggie tray comprised of celery and carrots. A 30-ounce can of pumpkin pie mix was \$3.13; a gallon of milk, \$3.17; a one-pound veggie tray of celery and carrots, \$0.73; and a group of miscellaneous items including coffee and ingredients necessary to prepare the meal (butter, evaporated milk, onions, eggs, sugar and flour), \$2.81.

"Due to a significant expansion in global milk production, prices fell to the lowest levels since 2009, leading to lower retail milk and dairy product prices. Additionally, this year's pumpkin prices are slightly lower following the production decline and higher prices seen in 2015," Newton said.

Items that increased modestly in price were a dozen brown-and-serve rolls, \$2.46; two nine-inch

Year	Average
1986	\$28.74
1987	\$24.51
1988	\$26.61
1989	\$24.70
1990	\$28.85
1991	\$25.95
1992	\$26.39
1993	\$27.49
1994	\$28.40
1995	\$29.64
1996	\$31.66
1997	\$31.75
1998	\$33.09
1999	\$33.83
2000	\$32.37
2001	\$35.04
2002	\$34.56
2003	\$36.28
2004	\$35.68
2005	\$36.78
2006	\$38.10
2007	\$42.26
2008	\$44.61
2009	\$42.91
2010	\$43.47
2011	\$49.20
2012	\$49.48
2013	\$49.04
2014	\$49.41
2015	\$50.11
2016	\$49.87





pie shells, \$2.59; one pound of green peas, \$1.58; 12 ounces of fresh cranberries, \$2.39; a half-pint of whipping cream, \$2.00; a 14-ounce package of cubed bread stuffing, \$2.67; and a three-pound bag of fresh sweet potatoes, \$3.60.

The average price is down slightly from last year to \$49.87. After adjusting for inflation, the cost of a Thanksgiving dinner fell to \$20.66 - the lowest level since 2010.

Although the classic Thanksgiving meal priced by Farm Bureau is considered modest by some, “we’re fortunate to live here in America, where many people are able to enhance their holiday meals with another type of meat or additional side dishes or desserts,” Newton said.

The stable average price reported this year by Farm Bureau for a classic Thanksgiving dinner tracks closely with the government’s Consumer Price Index for food eaten at home. The most recent CPI report for food at home showed just over a 2-percent decline over the past year (available online at <http://www.bls.gov/news.release/cpi.nr0.htm>).

A total of 148 volunteer shoppers checked prices at grocery stores in 40 states for this year’s survey. Farm Bureau volunteer shoppers are asked to look for the best possible prices, without taking advantage of special promotional coupons or purchase deals, such as spending \$50 and receiving a free turkey.

Shoppers with an eye for bargains in all areas of the country should be able to purchase individual menu items at prices comparable to the Farm Bureau survey averages. Another option for busy families without a lot of time to cook is ready-to-eat Thanksgiving meals for up to 10 people, with all the trimmings, which are available at many supermarkets and take-out restaurants for around \$50 to \$75.

The AFBF Thanksgiving dinner survey was first conducted in 1986. While Farm Bureau does not make any scientific claims about the data, it is an informal gauge of price trends around the nation. Farm Bureau’s survey menu has remained unchanged since 1986 to allow for consistent price comparisons.

Item	2015 Price	2016 Price	Difference
16-pound turkey	23.04	22.74	-.30
Pumpkin pie mix, 30 oz.	3.20	3.13	-.07
Milk, 1 gallon whole	3.25	3.17	-.08
1-pound relish tray (carrots and celery)	.79	.73	-.06
Misc. ingredients	3.18	2.81	-.37
Rolls, 12	2.25	2.46	+.21
Pie shells (2)	2.47	2.59	+.12
Green peas, 1 lb.	1.52	1.58	+.06
Fresh cranberries, 12 oz.	2.29	2.39	+.10
Whipping cream, 1/2 pint	1.94	2.00	+.06
Cubed stuffing, 14 oz.	2.61	2.67	+.06
Sweet potatoes, 3 lbs.	3.57	3.60	+.03
TOTAL	50.11	49.87	-.24



New Farm Bureau Discount

Knott's

BERRY FARM

Adult Regular Price (Ages 12-61)

\$47 Online/\$65 Gate

Idaho Farm Bureau Online Price
\$39

Jr./Senior Regular Price

\$42

Idaho Farm Bureau Online Price
\$34

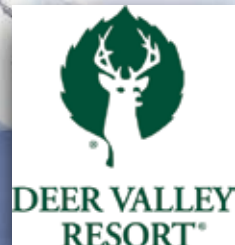
Instructions For Farm Bureau Members

Step 1: Go to www.knotts.com and select desired tickets.

Step 2: When selecting quantity of tickets look for "Promo Code" box at the top of the screen. Enter the discount code ifbf208.

Questions? Call (208) 239-4289

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Excludes Friday, Saturday, Holidays



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Excludes Friday, Saturday, Holidays

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Many years ago the Shoshone Indians camped near the warm waters of Watercress Springs, (current site of Main Lodge and Pool), prior to traveling over the mtn to Montpelier. The Hull family later settled upper Cub River Canyon.

In 2004, Denise Avery and her family transformed the Old Pete Hull Homestead and Deer Cliff Steakhouse into what is now called Cub River Guest Ranch (Lodge/Guest House). Over the past 12 years, visitors from all over the world have enjoyed our year-round accommodations, creating many cherished memories with families and friends, many returning year after year!

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Campfire Pits
Picnic Tables
Geothermal Pool
Hot Tub
Volleyball, Basketball
Tether Ball, Horseshoes

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Snow Skiing, Tubing at
Cherry Peak, Beaver Mtn
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Fun Park Adventure, Zoo

For reservations call (208) 852-2124

AFBF Election Results Statement

WASHINGTON, D.C., – “The American Farm Bureau Federation congratulates President-elect Trump on his election, as well as those candidates elected to serve during the 115th Congress,” said AFBF President Zippy Duvall. “The important issues facing American agriculture are not red or blue, but they are critical to the prosperity of rural America and our ability to protect our nation’s food supply. We urge our elected representatives to reach across the aisle and come together to resolve the challenges we face.

“Farmers and ranchers understand that their businesses and their families have too much at stake to take a back seat on Election Day, and rural Amer-

ica clearly made a difference in this election. Now it’s time for our newly elected leaders to turn up for rural America and keep their campaign promises by addressing the issues that matter to the people who sent them to Washington. Farm Bureau looks forward to working with the new administration and Congress on issues such as the farm bill, tax reform and a trade agenda focused on reducing barriers and expanding exports.

“America’s farmers and ranchers are working overtime to ensure our food supply is safe and sustainable. It’s time our elected leaders put that same diligence to work protecting U.S. agriculture by promoting innovation and ensuring we have an adequate work-

force. We need regulatory reform that boosts farm businesses rather than shutting them down. Farmers are concerned for the environment and are hopeful that the new administration will recognize agriculture’s strides in sustainability and protect our ability to produce.

“Elected officials come to Washington with different perspectives and ideas, but they share a common goal of wanting to make our nation better for all Americans. At Farm Bureau, we will continue to do our part to help identify opportunities for cooperation to improve the lives of rural communities, and all American farmers and ranchers.”

Farm Bureau Scores Big with Keynote Speakers

WASHINGTON, D.C., – Peyton and Archie Manning will keynote the 2017 AFBF Annual Convention & IDEAg Trade Show closing general session on Monday, Jan. 9 in Phoenix.

A future Hall of Fame quarterback, Peyton embodies what it means to be a professional athlete in this day and age, making a lasting impact both on and off the field. He has championed numerous charitable organizations and foundations to further his positive impact on the community, including the PeyBack Foundation, which he founded in an effort to help underprivileged youth in Colorado, Indiana, Louisiana and Tennessee. The two-time Super Bowl champ quarterbacked for the Indianapolis Colts and the Denver Broncos after completing his college career at the University of Tennessee.

“In some of his recent television com-

mercials, the NFL retiree seems to be embracing his football retirement, so we’re glad to be able to give him something additional to look forward to,” said AFBF President Zippy Duvall. “Peyton Manning is a model of success, with a strong work ethic and proven track record of helping others. We look forward to hearing from him about the importance of teamwork and a good game plan. We think the sports star will feel right at home with the superstars of American agriculture.”

A member of the College Football Hall of Fame, Archie enjoyed an impressive college football career at the University of Mississippi that included leading his team to the national championship game, finishing top-four in Heisman Trophy voting twice and twice being named to the All-SEC team. Drafted with the second overall pick in the

1971 NFL Draft, Archie continued his illustrious football career with the New Orleans Saints, Houston Oilers and Minnesota Vikings. Archie has continued to excel post-football, serving as a broadcaster, restaurateur, endorser, founder of the Manning Passing Academy and philanthropist. In everything he does, Archie remains grounded and true to his “hard work means everything” mentality.

“Our annual convention is like a reunion for agriculture and the Farm Bureau Family,” added Duvall, “so we’re excited that father and son Archie and Peyton will join us and share some of their family’s stories with us.”

Join us in Phoenix to hear Peyton and Archie Manning! Register today at <http://annualconvention.fb.org/>.

Innovative, Creative County Farm Bureau Programs Honored

WASHINGTON, D.C., – Thirty-four county Farm Bureaus nationwide were recognized by the American Farm Bureau Federation for innovative program ideas in this year's County Activities of Excellence Awards program. The winners will be highlighted during AFBF's 98th Annual Convention and IDEAg Trade Show, Jan. 6-11, 2017, in Phoenix.

The CAE program acknowledges and shares successful county Farm Bureau programs and activities. The awards are

based on county Farm Bureau membership. Counties compete for recognition in five different groups. Those groups are county Farm Bureaus with membership of less than 1,000 members, 1,001-3,000 members, 3,001-5,000 members, more than 5,001 members, and for collaborative multi-county activities regardless of membership size.

"It's a pleasure to recognize the outstanding efforts of grassroots Farm Bureau members who join at the county level," said

AFBF President Zippy Duvall. "Members are the heart and soul of Farm Bureau. It's encouraging to see the creative ways they reach out in their communities to share information about today's food and farming."

This year's CAE award winners come from 11 states: California, Illinois, Kansas, Kentucky, Michigan, Nebraska, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Texas and Virginia. The winners (listed by state and county Farm Bureau) are:

Less than 1,000 Members

Kansas

Ag Ambassador Program, Reno

New York

Farm to Fork A-Fair, Chenango

Ohio

Agriculture Experience Day, Jackson-

Vinton

Drive-It Yourself Ag Tours Galore, Lawrence

Pennsylvania

Agricultural Career Days, Blair

1,001-3,000 Members

California

Valley's Gold, Fresno

Illinois

Farm to Fork Gala, Knox

Kansas

Farm City Day, Allen

Ohio

Harvest for Hospice Farm to Plate, Tuscarawas

Virginia

Farming Leaders, Rockingham

3,001-5,000 Members

Michigan

Special Needs Livestock Show: 4-H Challenged Me, Lapeer

Ohio

Farm Bureau/Boy Scout - Agriculture and Natural Resource Merit Badge Day, Jefferson Benefit in the Barn, Symphony on the Farm, Delaware Ag Facts Ads, Medina

Texas

Responding to Livestock Calls - Information for First Responders, Cherokee

5,001+ Members

Illinois

Ag All Around Us, Winnebago-Boone

Illinois

Farm Bureau Goes to the Farmer's Market, DuPage

Kentucky

County Forestry Days, Harlan

Nebraska

Antique Tractor & Car Show, Lancaster

Ohio

Drones, A County Farm Bureau and Policy Development, Hamilton

Multi-County Collaborative

California

Ag Unite, Butte, Stanislaus and Tuolumne

Illinois

Barging Ahead for Stronger Economies, Marshall-Putnam, Peoria and Stark

New York

Grown in Our State, Broome, Chemung, Cortland, Delaware, Jefferson, Lewis, Madison, Oneida, Onondaga, Oswego and Schuyler

Ohio

Grain Bin Rescue Tubes, Ashland, Wayne and Holmes

For more information on the winning programs, contact Lindsay Calvert, AFBF director of leadership development, at (202) 406-3637 or lindsayc@fb.org

Idaho News Briefs

Value of Idaho's 2015 Agricultural Production Totals \$7.77 Billion

The value of Idaho's 2015 agricultural production was \$7.77 billion, down 12 percent from the previous year's revised value of \$8.83 billion. The value of Idaho's crop production in 2015 was \$3.02 billion, down 8 percent from 2014. The value of livestock production in 2015 totaled \$4.75 billion, down 15 percent from the previous year.

Much of the decrease in the total value of production can be attributed to the 26 percent decrease in the value of milk production. Despite the decline, milk remains the leading agricultural commodity in the state with a 2015 value of \$2.36 billion. This is the lowest value of milk production since 2010. Milk represented 30 percent of the 2015 total agricultural value compared with 36 percent in 2014. Cattle and calves remained in the second position and had value of production totaling \$1.69 billion in 2015, down 1 percent from 2014. Potatoes ranked third in 2015, moving up one position from the previous year. Potato value of production in 2015 was \$913 million, down 5 percent from the previous year. Hay value of production was \$815 million, down 15 percent from 2014, dropping one spot to fourth in the state ranking. Wheat rounded out the top five with a value of \$449 million, down 23 percent

from the previous year. These five commodities had a combined value of \$6.22 billion, or 80 percent of the 2015 value for all commodities (excluding government payments). The same five commodities in 2014 had a combined value of \$7.41 billion, or 84 percent of the total value. All of the top five commodities declined in value from 2014. Onions moved into the top ten in 2015, up from the eleventh rank in 2014. Trout, which held the tenth position in 2014, moved down one position in 2015.

There were commodities outside the top five that showed

significant increases in value from the previous year. Barley production, with a value of \$330 million in 2015, increased 25 percent from the previous year. Hop value, at \$30.8 million, reached a record high in 2015. This was up 64 percent from the previous year. The value of apples, at \$15.0 million, increased 71 percent from the previous year. Seven of the top ten commodities declined in value from the previous year. Other notable commodities outside the top ten that declined in value in 2015 were dry edible peas, down 18 percent to \$9.38 million; peaches, down 25 percent to \$6.25 million;

and canola, down 38 percent to \$6.05 million.

It should be noted that NASS periodically conducts a Census of Horticulture. The 2014 total value of horticultural specialty crops sold was \$67.4 million. This total value includes all floriculture, nursery, and Christmas tree production. For more information about this data that was released on December 14, 2015, you can access the complete 2014 Census of Horticultural Specialties at https://www.agcensus.usda.gov/Publications/2012/Online_Resources/Census_of_Horticulture_Specialties/

Discounts For Idaho Farm Bureau Members

SeaWorld ADVENTURE PARK

SAN DIEGO ZOO

www.idahofbstore.com

The advertisement features a blue background with a water droplet pattern. It includes the logos for SeaWorld Adventure Park and the San Diego Zoo. Below the logos are two images: one of a woman smiling next to a seal, and another of a cheetah. The website address is prominently displayed at the bottom.

National News Briefs

Working-Lands Conservation Opportunities

HARRISBURG, Pa., – Farm and Foreign Agricultural Services Deputy Under Secretary Alexis Taylor recently announced that the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) will offer a new Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) Grasslands practice specifically tailored for small-scale livestock grazing operations. Small livestock operations with 100 or fewer head of grazing dairy cows (or the equivalent) can submit applications to enroll up to 200 acres of grasslands per farm. USDA's goal is to enroll up to 200,000 acres.

“For 30 years, lands in the Conservation Reserve Program have contributed to soil and water protection and wildlife and pollinator habitat, while playing a significant role in mitigating climate change,” said Taylor. “CRP Grasslands recognizes the conservation value of well-managed, working grazing lands and pasturelands. This new opportunity for small livestock operations, like the dairy farms or small beef farms common in Pennsylvania, will help ensure that livestock operations of varying scales and across the country have an opportunity to achieve environmental and economic benefits. Small livestock operations are encouraged to contact their local Farm Service Agency office to learn more about this program.”

Taylor also announced that the current CRP Grassland ranking

period ended on Nov. 10, 2016. To date, the USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA) has received nearly 5,000 offers covering over 1 million acres for this CRP working-lands conservation program. These offers are predominantly larger acreage rangeland in Western states.

The new practice for small-scale livestock grazers aims, in part, to encourage greater diversity geographically and in types of livestock operation. This opportunity will close on Dec. 16, 2016. Offers selected this fiscal year will be enrolled into CRP Grasslands beginning Oct. 1, 2017.

Participants in CRP Grasslands establish or maintain long-term, resource-conserving grasses and other plant species to control soil erosion, improve water quality and develop wildlife habitat on marginally productive agricultural lands. CRP Grasslands participants can use the land for livestock production (e.g. grazing or producing hay), while following their conservation and grazing plans in order to maintain the cover. A goal of CRP Grasslands is to minimize conversion of grasslands either to row crops or to non-agricultural uses. Participants can receive annual payments of up to 75 percent of the grazing value of the land and up to 50 percent to fund cover or practices like cross-fencing to support rotational grazing or improving pasture cover to benefit pollinators or other wildlife.

USDA will select offers for enrollment based on six ranking

factors: (1) current and future use, (2) new farmer/rancher or underserved producer involvement, (3) maximum grassland preservation, (4) vegetative cover, (5) environmental factors and (6) pollinator habitat. Offers for the second ranking period also will be considered from producers who submitted offers for the first ranking period but were not accepted, as well as from new offers submitted through Dec. 16.

“Adding a working-lands conservation program to the toolbox is an exciting opportunity for the future of CRP,” said Taylor. “There also are ways that CRP Grasslands could be combined with other traditional CRP conservation practices, such as riparian buffers on the same farm, to create a package that can help keep small livestock operations in production. An example of such a package would be to dedicate the most sensitive land to conservation, while still maintaining the bulk of the area as working grasslands for livestock. USDA would provide cost-share assistance to help farmers install fencing and provide alternative water sources to livestock, as well as annual CRP payments to help the farm's bottom-line.”

In May, FSA accepted 101,000 acres in the grasslands program, with more than 70 percent of the acres having diverse native grasslands under threat of conversion, and more than 97 percent of the acres having a new, veteran or underserved farmer or rancher as a primary producer.

Small livestock operations or

other farming and ranching operations interested in participating in CRP Grasslands should contact their local FSA office. To find your local FSA office, visit <http://offices.usda.gov>. To learn more about FSA's conservation programs, visit www.fsa.usda.gov/conservation.

USDA works to strengthen and support American agriculture, an industry that supports one in 11 American jobs, provides American consumers with more than 80 percent of the food we consume, ensures that Americans spend less of their paychecks at the grocery store than most people in other countries, and supports markets for home-grown renewable energy and materials. Since 2009, USDA has provided \$5.6 billion in disaster relief to farmers and ranchers; expanded risk management tools with products like Whole Farm Revenue Protection; and helped farm businesses grow with \$36 billion in farm credit. The Department has engaged its resources to support a strong next generation of farmers and ranchers by improving access to land and capital; building new markets and market opportunities; and extending new conservation opportunities. USDA has developed new markets for rural-made products, including more than 2,700 biobased products through USDA's Bio-Preferred program; and invested \$64 billion in infrastructure and community facilities to help improve the quality of life in rural America. For more information, visit www.usda.gov/results.

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A \$90 room will be closer to

 **\$72**

A \$100 room will be closer to

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00209550

ADVANCED RESERVATIONS REQUIRED



FARM BUREAU COMMODITY REPORT

GRAIN PRICES	10/21/2016	11/18/2016	Trend
PORTLAND:			
White Wheat	4.74-4.79	4.68-5.03	- .06 to + .24
11% Winter	4.76-4.86	4.68-4.78	- .08
14% Spring	6.29-6.44	6.29-6.44	Steady
Oats cwt	225.00	225.00	Steady
OGDEN:			
White Wheat	3.84	3.88	+ .04
11% Winter	3.91	3.83	- .08
14% Spring	5.49	5.44	- .05
Barley	5.75	5.85	+ .10
BLACKFOOT/ IDAHO FALLS			
White Wheat	3.45	3.30	- .15
11.5% Winter	3.80	3.65	- .15
14% Spring	5.15	4.95	- .20
Hard White	4.00	4.75	+ .75
BURLEY:			
White Wheat	3.65	3.55	- .10
11% Winter	3.45	3.50	+ .05
14% Spring	5.10	5.10	Steady
Barley	5.00	5.00	Steady
MERIDIAN:			
White Wheat (cwt)	3.74	3.60	- .14
LEWISTON:			
White Wheat	4.45	4.45	Steady
H. Red Winter	4.81	4.73	- .08
Dark N. Spring	6.14	6.14	Steady
Barley	101.50	101.50	Steady
LIVESTOCK PRICES			
	10/21/2016	11/20/2016	Trend
FEEDER STEERS			
Under 500 lbs	105-145	120-174	+ 15 to + 29
500-700 lbs	90-130	95-152	+ 5 to + 22
700-900 lbs	87-118	90-124	+ 3 to + 6
Over 900 lbs	80-100	80-111	Steady to + 11
FEEDER HEIFERS			
Under 500 lbs	94-130	105-153	+ 11 to + 23
500-700 lbs	85-114	95-125	+ 10 to + 11
700-900 lbs	82-108	89-114	+ 7 to + 6
Over 900 lbs	76-95	76-86	Steady to - 9
HOLSTEIN STEERS			
Under 700 lbs	62-74	61-87	- 1 to + 13
Over 700 lbs	62-75	61-82	- 1 to + 7
COWS			
Utility/Commercial	48-66	40-66	- 8 to steady
Canner & Cutter	40-56	32-55	- 8 to - 1
Stock Cows	750-1150	600-1125	- 150 to - 25
BULLS			
Slaughter	49-83	44-80	- 5 to - 3
BEAN PRICES:			
Pinto	30.00	30.00	Steady
Small Red	28.00	27.00-28.00	-1 to Steady
Garbanzo	34.00-36.00	34.00-36.00	Steady

COMPILED BY THE IDAHO FARM BUREAU COMMODITY DIVISION

IDAHO HAY REPORT

November 18, 2016 • USDA Market News, Moses Lake, WA
 Compared to last Friday: All grades of Alfalfa steady in a light test. Trade remains slow with very light demand. Demand good from *California* buyers. Retail/feed store/horse not tested this week. All prices are dollars per ton and FOB the farm or ranch unless otherwise stated.

	Tons	Price	Wtd Avg	Comments
Alfalfa				
Mid Square				
Supreme	300	110.00-110.00	110.00	Bleached
	300	100.00-100.00	100.00	Rain Damage
Premium/Supreme	1600	140.00-140.00	140.00	Tarped
Premium	1000	110.00-110.00	110.00	Rain Damage
Utility	500	80.00-80.00	80.00	
Utility/Fair	1000	50.00-60.00	58.00	Rain Damage

Oat Mid Square
 Good 100 45.00-45.00 45.00

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

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

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

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

POTATOES & ONIONS

November 15, 2016

Potatoes

UPPER VALLEY, TWIN FALLS-BURLEY DISTRICT, IDAHO---Shipments 764-738-818 (includes exports of 2-2-3) ---Movement expected to remain about the same. Trading active. Prices bales higher, others generally unchanged. Russet Burbank U.S. One baled 10-5 pound film bags non size A mostly 6.00; 50-pound carton 40-80s mostly 6.50-7.00, 90-100s mostly 7.00; Norkotah U.S. One baled 10-5 pound film bags non size A mostly 6.00; 50-pound carton 40-50s mostly 5.00-5.50, 60-100s 6.00.

Onions - Dry

IDAHO AND MALHEUR COUNTY OREGON---330-328-380---Movement expected to remain about the same. Trading fairly active. Prices Yellow super colossal, colossal, Red jumbo and Whites higher, others generally unchanged. Yellow Spanish Hybrid U.S. One 50-pound sacks super colossal mostly 5.50, colossal mostly 4.50, jumbo mostly 3.50-4.00, medium mostly 5.00; White U.S. One 50-pound sacks jumbo 10.00-11.00, medium 9.00-10.00; Red Globe Type U.S. One 25-pound sacks jumbo mostly 6.00, medium 5.00.

5 YEAR GRAIN COMPARISON

Grain Prices	11/26/2012	11/22/2013	11/19/2014	11/17/2015	11/18/2016
Portland:					
White Wheat	No Bid	7.11	6.92	4.83-5.40	4.68-5.03
11% Winter	9.65-9.77	7.92-7.97	7.17-7.36	5.48-5.68	4.68-4.78
14% Spring	9.98	8.40	9.35	6.10-6.50	6.29-6.44
Corn	308-310.50	No Bid	265.00	265.00	255.00

Ogden:					
White Wheat	8.30	6.57	6.60	5.18	3.88
11% Winter	8.47	7.21	6.31	4.28	3.83
14 % Spring	8.97	7.54	7.49	5.40	5.44
Barley	12.00	7.30	5.55	6.98	5.85

Pocatello:					
White Wheat	8.00	6.25	6.25	4.95	3.30
11% Winter	7.92	7.03	6.82	4.00	3.65
14% Spring	8.43	7.00	7.12	5.00	4.95
Barley	11.83	No Bid	6.87	4.55	4.75

Burley:					
White Wheat	7.98	6.17	6.30	5.00	3.55
11% Winter	8.01	6.51	5.75	3.94	3.50
14% Spring	8.44	6.82	6.65	4.80	5.10
Barley	12.25	7.50	5.20	6.00	5.00

Meridian:					
White Wheat (cwt)	13.08	10.42	10.50	9.33	
(bushel)	7.85	6.25	6.30	5.60	3.60

Lewiston:					
White Wheat	8.50	6.94	6.60	5.10	4.45
Barley	241.50	141.50	141.50	131.50	101.50

Bean Prices:					
Pintos	35.00-38.00	40.00-42.00	40.00-42.00	22.00	30.00
Pinks	40.00-42.00	No Bid	No Bid	No Bid	27.00-28.00
Small Reds	40.00-42.00	No Bid	No Bid	33.00-35.00	34.00-36.00

MILK PRODUCTION

November 18, 2016

October Milk Production up 2.7 Percent

Milk production in the 23 major States during October totaled 16.5 billion pounds, up 2.7 percent from October 2015. September revised production, at 16.0 billion pounds, was up 2.3 percent from September 2015. The September revision represented a decrease of 6 million pounds or less than 0.1 percent from last month's preliminary production estimate.

Production per cow in the 23 major States averaged 1,903 pounds for October, 43 pounds above October 2015. This is the highest production per cow for the month of October since the 23 State series began in 2003.

The number of milk cows on farms in the 23 major States was 8.67 million head, 31,000 head more than October 2015, but 2,000 head less than September 2016.

October Milk Production in the United States up 2.5 Percent

Milk production in the United States during October totaled 17.6 billion pounds, up 2.5 percent from October 2015.

Production per cow in the United States averaged 1,880 pounds for October, 42 pounds above October 2015.

The number of milk cows on farms in the United States was 9.34 million head, 15,000 head more than October 2015, but 2,000 head less than September 2016.

5 YEAR LIVESTOCK COMPARISON

	11/22/2013	11/19/2014	11/17/2015	11/17/2015	11/18/2016
Feeder Steers					
Under 500 lbs.....	126-191	150-218	250-352	180-265	180-265
500-700 lbs.....	116-167	143-186	210-292	150-220	150-220
700-900 lbs.....	103-140	125-165	180-246	135-188	135-188
Over 900 lbs.....	91-116	100-148	160-212	100-149	100-149
Feeder Heifers					
Under 500 lbs.....	121-172	145-201	230-345	160-250	160-250
500-700 lbs.....	117-149	130-165	196-275	141-196	141-196
700-900 lbs.....	92-145	120-146	171-227	130-167	130-167
Over 900 lbs.....	80-116	100-127	150-212	107-142	107-142
Holstein Steers					
Under 700 lbs.....	75-105	80-118	150-230	102-150	102-150
Over 700 lbs.....	63-102	75-108	135-204	89-137	89-137
Cows					
Utility/Commercial.....	57-78	61-80	92-125	57-84	57-84
Canner & Cutter.....	45-70	50-69	80-110	51-76	51-76
Stock Cows.....	700-1500	1100-1675	1225-2275	975-1325	975-1325
Bulls – Slaughter					
.....	61-90	65-90	105-147	75-115	75-115

CATTLE ON FEED

November 18, 2016

United States Cattle on Feed Down 1 Percent

Cattle and calves on feed for the slaughter market in the United States for feedlots with capacity of 1,000 or more head totaled 10.7 million head on November 1, 2016. The inventory was 1 percent below November 1, 2015.

Placements in feedlots during October totaled 2.17 million head, 5 percent below 2015. Net placements were 2.11 million head. During October, placements of cattle and calves weighing less than 600 pounds were 610,000 head, 600-699 pounds were 525,000 head, 700-799 pounds were 471,000 head, and 800 pounds and greater were 565,000 head.

Marketings of fed cattle during October totaled 1.71 million head, 5 percent above 2015.

Other disappearance totaled 57,000 head during October, 24 percent below 2015.

CATTLE OUTLOOK

November 18, 2016

USDA's November cattle on feed report said October placements into large feed yards were down 5.0% and October marketing were up 4.6%, making the November 1 on-feed number 98.7% of a year ago. The pre-release trade forecast predicted October placements to be down 4.9%, marketings up 4.4%, and the November on-feed number 98.9% of last year.

The U.S. imported 107,559 live cattle during September. That was 7.5% greater than the month before, but 26.3% fewer than a year ago. Compared to September 2015, cattle imports from Canada were down 3.3% and imports from Mexico were down 45.6%.

Domestic retail meat demand was down 5.6% in September compared to a year earlier. Beef demand was down 7.6%, pork demand down 1.9%, and chicken demand was down 7.0%. Foreign demand on U.S. beef was up 17.3% compared to September 2015.

The average price of choice beef at retail during October was \$5.737 per pound. That is 13.1 cents lower than the month before, 49.4 cents lower than October 2015, and the lowest for any month since March 2014. The average grocery store price during October for all fresh beef was \$5.583 per pound.

Fed cattle prices were higher this week on very heavy sales volume. Through Thursday, the 5-area average price for slaughter steers sold on a live weight basis was \$107.92/cwt, up \$5.20 from last week's average, but down \$14.59 from a year ago. The 5-area dressed steer price averaged \$169.92/cwt, up \$10.92 from the week before, but down \$24.58 from a year ago.

Beef cutout value was lower this week. This morning, the choice boxed beef cutout value was \$183.29/cwt, down \$2.04 from the previous Friday. The select carcass cutout this morning was \$167.46/cwt, down 33 cents from last week.

This week's cattle slaughter totaled 629,000 head, up 3.1% from last week and up 10.2% from a year ago. Next week's slaughter will be lower due to Thanksgiving. The average steer dressed weight for the week ending on November 5 was 913 pounds, down 4 pounds from the week before, down 8 pounds from a year ago, and below the year-ago level for the 27th consecutive week.

Cattle prices were higher this week at the Oklahoma City auction. Feeder steer prices were steady to \$5 higher and stocker calves were \$2 to \$9 higher than last week. Prices for medium and large frame #1 steers by weight group were: 400-450# \$140-173, 450-500# \$144-\$167, 500-550# \$137-\$157, 550-600# \$130.25-\$142.50, 600-650# \$120-\$135.50, 650-700# \$119.50-\$131.25, 700-750# \$123-\$131.75, 750-800# \$120-\$132, 800-900# \$122.50-\$134.25, and 900-1000# \$115-\$129.25/cwt.

Cattle futures were higher this week. The December live cattle futures contract settled at \$108.32/cwt today, up \$2.72 for the week. February fed cattle settled at \$108.85/cwt, up \$2.55 from the previous Friday. April fed cattle futures settled at \$108.90/cwt. The January feeder cattle futures ended the week at \$124.97/cwt, up \$3.95 from a week earlier. March feeder cattle gained \$3.32 this week to settle at \$120.77/cwt.

University of Missouri

CLASSIFIEDS

Animals

Registered purebred Black Horned Icelandic Ram, born April 25th, 2016. Excellent quality breeding. History of twins and triplets. Viola, ID ask for Lee. Call 208-858-2103.

Farm Equipment

Five foot Howard 3 point rototiller, cracked gear box, for parts or to rebuild. \$200 or best offer. Wilder, Id 208-482-7020.

4430 John Deere tractor, 4 wheel drive, power shift. \$10,000. Good condition, St. Anthony, ID. 208-624-7796.

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

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

Hay

Hay for sale - 4x4x8 big bales. 1st and 3rd crop under shed and tested @174. Also, 2nd crop big bales. All priced from \$100-\$120 ton. Call 208-785-3434 or 208-680-6883.

Weed free Timothy hay. \$8/bale or \$200/ton - 25 bales per ton. Will load. Priest River, ID 208-448-2036.

Household

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

Miscellaneous

Used Woodmaster LT45 outdoor wood stove. Comes with pump and draft fan. We will help with install. Stove heats your home and hot water. Works in conjunction with existing furnace or without one. Please Call John 208-781-0691. Best heat ever!

Real Estate/Acreage

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

Real Estate/Acreage

Six commercial lots and building with city water and sewer on Main St. Hazelton, Id 208-731-4181.

Wanted

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

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

Wanted

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

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send to: dashton@idahofb.org

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