

# Gem State Producer



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**FB**® IDAHO FARM BUREAU

Wheat Commission  
Seeks to Build  
Grower Database

Controversy Builds  
over Bear River  
Water Flows

Owyhee Cattlemen  
Allowed Back on  
Range

## The Greatest Hardships Bring Out the Greatest Resolve in Rural America

## Beyond the Fencerows



By Zippy Duvall  
AFBF President

The New Year is a time for new beginnings, when we resolve to do better, try harder, and make more of a difference in the lives around us. It's a chance to renew the commitments we've made to help our neighbors and make our communities stronger.

This resolve is what led the American Farm Bureau Federation and National Farmers Union to team up to increase awareness of a heartbreaking crisis in our nation's rural communities—opioid abuse. According to a new survey we jointly commissioned with the firm Morning Consult, nearly half of rural Americans say

they've been affected by opioid abuse, and 74 percent of farmers and farm workers echo that sentiment. Too many of us have seen people we know struggle with addiction personally or with the pain of addiction in their families.

Our nation is facing an opioid epidemic. Rural Americans

See DUVALL, page 6

## Where Farm Bureau Hangs its Hat: The Policy Development Process



By Bryan Searle  
President Idaho Farm Bureau  
Federation

If you're a regular member of this organization but not involved in our grassroots policy development process, consider

this an invitation to lend your voice to this vital activity. As we have just finished our annual meeting in Idaho we have witnessed this amazing process once again. I have also just returned from Washington DC, where all the state presidents and American Farm Bureau Federation staff met to review and act on resolutions that passed within their state which will be presented to the House of Delegates in early January

during the AFBF convention. It is gratifying to see the strength of this process and the creation of strong, sound policy.

Regular members of the Idaho Farm Bureau, as designated by their county Farm Bureau, are "bona fide farmers and ranchers," as stated in our Memorandum of agreement between our counties, the state, and American Farm Bureau. They can bring their concerns to the

See SEARLE, page 7

## "Pay-to-Play"



By Rick Keller  
CEO Idaho Farm Bureau Federation

Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILT) are federal payments to county governments that help offset losses in property taxes due to non-taxable federal lands within their boundaries. The law recognizes the inability of

local governments to collect property taxes on federally-owned land can create a financial impact.

PILT payments help local governments carry out such vital services as firefighting and police protection, construction of public schools and roads, and search-and-rescue operations. PILT payments are one of the ways the federal government can fulfill its role of being a good neighbor to local commu-

nities.

For Idaho, which is 61.7 percent federally owned, the PILT program sounds wonderful, however the results do not measure up with its intended purpose. In 2017, Idaho counties received approximately \$30 million from PILT, but the receipts are only a fraction of what is required of the counties to sustain having federal government land within their boundaries. The Idaho

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Idaho Wheat Commission officials plan to seek legislative support for a new rule allowing the collection of grower information. *Farm Bureau file photo*

# Wheat Commission Plans Legislation to Collect Grower Information

By Jake Putnam

Fort Hall— Idaho Wheat Commission Executive Director Blaine Jacobson nervously sat in the Idaho Farm Bureau’s House of Delegates at the Annual Meeting last month in Fort Hall.

The Commission wants grain elevator operators to provide mailing and email addresses of producers at the point of sale to the Idaho Wheat Commission.

Jacobson is interested in the rule change for obvious reasons. Most commodity groups, be they non-profit or an arm of state government, have the ability to contact and collect information about their constituents.

During the Idaho Farm Bureau Meeting on December 5th, the House of Delegates discussed, voted and passed the resolution that will allow the Wheat Commission to build a producer database and Jacobson breathed a sigh of relief.

“We’re quite pleased with the resolution passed by the House of Delegates because that grassroots support from Idaho farmers will help us when we take this issue to the Statehouse this year,” said Jacobson.

In a time of high-tech communication, the ability to build a database is im-

*See GRAIN LEGISLATION page 4*

**Cover:** The Idaho Wheat Commission is planning to seek legislative support to collect grower information from first handlers of wheat. Idaho Farm Bureau delegates supported the idea during meetings held in early December. *Farm Bureau file photo*



# GRAIN LEGISLATION

Continued from page 3

portant. Other groups might think it inconceivable that the Idaho Wheat Commission hasn't had a complete member database in years.

"When the Wheat Commission was originally organized we had that capability but by mistake, it got removed from our administrative rules at one point. Our rule change is simple it just puts the database requirement back in the rules," said Jacobson. "Nothing more, nothing less."

When a referendum comes up or a vote on check-off dollars the Wheat Commission has only a partial database and many members are left out of the process and that's frustrated Jacobson for years.

"If we are going to be accountable back to the wheat grower then we need to know who the wheat growers are so we can include them in the periodic referendum. We also have a statutory responsibility to educate the grower and to develop research grants to respond to their needs," said Jacobson.

So by having the grower database, the Commission will be able to educate growers and react to their concerns. Growers will have a voice on how checkoff dollars are used. Jacobson says the rule change ultimately will help the Commission be more efficient with grower dollars.

The database issue is not a new one and in fact, the proposed rule change had been

delayed for more than two years. Jacobson will now go to the Idaho Legislature armed with grassroots support from the Idaho Farm Bureau and the Idaho Grain Producers Association.

In November the IWC and Idaho Grain Producers Association sat down and agreed to go forward with the proposed rule change. That decision followed a recommendation from the Idaho Attorney General encouraging the Commission to fulfill their statutory responsibility and get a complete mailing list.

"The next step for the Commission is to take the proposal to the House and Senate Ag affairs committee and with their vote put it back in the administrative rules. So when we go forward in January we will have producer support," said Jacobson.

Other farm commissions have the ability to collect grower names and contact information in their administrative rules and the IWC rule change would give the commission the same tools that other commissions have had for years, Jacobsen said.

The IWC first brought the proposed database rule change up during the 2016 legislative session. But when grain elevator operators voiced concerns, the Commission voluntarily pulled the proposal. Last session the operators asked the Commission to hold off submitting the rule during the 2017 session after

more questions were raised.

Since then the Idaho Wheat Commission has been through a total of six negotiated rule-making meetings. IWC Board and Jacobson thinks the commission has answered all concerns that elevator owners and lawmakers raised the past two years. He thinks he can find a consensus at the Statehouse this legislative session.

One of the main issues raised by elevator operators and producers is that they didn't like the grower's information open to the State public records law. Exhaustive legal research

by IWC revealed that it's not.

Some elevators were also concerned about how the database would be used, so the IWC adopted a policy that specified that grower names and addresses will only be used by the Idaho Grain magazine and to conduct the periodic referendum, according to Jacobson.

With legislative approval, the Idaho Wheat Commission can finally build a grower database. According to the Commission, they'll finally be able to educate producers and react to their concerns like other commissions.

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Julie Anna Potts, American Farm Bureau's executive vice president, visited Idaho in December and spoke at the Idaho Farm Bureau's Annual Meeting.

## American Farm Bureau Executive VP Visits Idaho

By Jake Putnam

Pocatello—*The Executive Vice President of the American Farm Bureau visited Idaho in early December.*

*Julie Anna Potts addressed the Idaho Farmer Bureau's 78th Annual Meeting and talked about the importance of State and County Farm Bureaus to the American Farm Bureau's lobbying efforts. Potts says she's been working on Capitol Hill for several years and the success of Farm Bureau is unmatched. Following is a question and answers interview with her.*

*Have things changed with the Trump Administration?*

From the start, I saw the opportunities to affect change and influence issues on the Hill like never before and I'm talking Administration issues and court cases. Specifically, I don't think I've ever seen the Farm Bureau with a greater opportunity to influence the Executive Branch

as we do right now. No matter how you feel about the President, we have opportunities we haven't had before. We have an open door to us and that's incredibly important. We've seen movement on the issues that we've been dealing with for decades. Our top issues, the issues you're not reading in the paper, we're finally invited to the table in ways we haven't been in the past. I'd venture to say that right now the American Farm Bureau is the most influential voice in agriculture.

*Do you think this administration is making progress on red tape? Cutting rules and regulations that'll make farming and ranching less encumbered?*

Yes. First of all, on a very positive note the Federal Lands issue, the Endangered Species Act, and water quality issues are all in the process of regulatory reform. The question is how do we change the ways rules are put in place to make real, permanent change in the process? We have

an open dialogue with the Department of Interior and we have a dialogue with the Environmental Protection Agency and we even have the ear of the West Wing of the White House. Having that connection gives us a voice and we know what's going on. We can call upon that connection when needed and that's huge.

*The EPA's Waters of the US was a great victory, but is it over?*

In respect to Waters of the United States rule, we've been working diligently to help the Administration understand the legal technicalities of reviewing and renewing the rule. I don't have to tell you that it's a bad rule. Thankfully the Trump Administration is taking it off the table. But for us to have a real winner with WOTUS we all have to establish a clear understanding of where federal authority ends and where state authority begins regarding

*See JULIE ANNA POTTS page 16*

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# DUVALL

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cannot ignore this crisis. According to the Centers for Disease Control, 91 Americans die every day from an opioid overdose. While we may want to think drug addiction is a big city problem, this crisis is hitting rural America especially hard. The CDC reported this fall that the rate of drug overdose deaths is actually higher in rural areas. It's time to talk about it, and that is what this AFBF – NFU partnership is about.

These tragic stories often begin with folks accidentally developing an addiction to what they believe are safe painkillers. Even without a prescription, opioids have become too easy to come by. According to our Morning Consult survey, three in four farmers say it would be easy for someone in their community to access a large amount

of prescription opioids or painkillers without a prescription.

Opioid addiction is a disease, not a moral weakness. We must help our neighbors struggling with addiction fight this battle, rather than pointing fingers and placing blame. AFBF and NFU are committed to raising awareness and empowering rural communities to access the resources they need to overcome this crisis. And while opioid abuse is a disease, recovery is possible. It may not be quick or easy, but support of the community will be the key to success.

One in three rural adults say there is a great deal of stigma associated with opioid abuse in their local community, and shame only fuels the crisis. It's our hope the awareness campaign we're

launching with NFU will empower friends and family to have tough, honest conversations—the kind we need to have to bring people out of the shadows and into the treatment they need.

We have to start talking with friends, family—anyone we know who may need help. Folks need to know that they are not alone in this battle. The Apostle John reminded us to love our neighbors, not just with our words but also with our actions. He asked, if anyone “sees a brother in need yet closes his heart against him, how does God's love abide in him?” The opioid epidemic presents a real need to support to our rural communities. We must resolve to fight this disease by bringing the problem out into the open and helping our neighbors find the hope and healing they so desperately need.

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# KELLER

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Continued from page 2

Farm Bureau is asking Congress for a study of PILT to determine if it is meeting its purpose and is equitable in its distribution of funds.

It is projected, with the increase in the federal debt, PILT payments will decrease by 15 percent in 2018. But the needed county services will continue to be carried by the private property owners in the county. Something must be done to generate more revenue to either the counties or the federal government to compensate the increased demands.

The federal agencies currently charge fees for multiple services provided on federal land. The fees include grazing, mining, timber harvest, and others. Hunters and fisherman lobbied for and pay excise taxes that generate more than \$18 billion for conservation purposes. These excise taxes are applied to guns, ammunition, fishing gear, boat fuel, and other similar items.

These revenue sources are known as “pay to play” forms of revenue.

There is a growing interest in outdoor recreation on public lands and yet there is little dedicated funding for it. In economic terms, the demand for hiking, climbing, viewing wildlife, or simply enjoying nature on public lands is far too disconnected from funding the supply of it. Outdoor recreationists are placing increased demands from the county, state and federal governments to provide ample opportunities to enjoy the great outdoors, even if they do not step up to pay its share as other nature based industries do.

For the most part, recreationists receive a free ride, and yet statistics show the demographic makeup of the people who visit National Forests and parks, nearly one-third of visitors in recent years, had household incomes of \$100,000 or higher. Perhaps it is time to consider a modest fee or a “backpack tax” that could tap into

the steady demand for recreation. The tax could apply to outdoors equipment and its revenues would help fund trail maintenance, visitor centers, and other recreation infrastructure.

In a recent article published in the PERC Reports, Tate Watkins makes a good point in which he concludes, “Once hikers, climbers, and recreationists of all stripes are putting their money where they play, and helping fund recreation on public lands adequately, they'll have a much better case for setting aside additional lands for recreation.”

Rural counties need more and more funds to provide essential services within their boundaries, especially when federal lands constitute a large part of their tax base. With PILT payments being reduced, perhaps other sources of revenue should be considered to supplement the needs placed on counties. Perhaps a “backpack tax” should be considered.

Continued from page 2

forefront and help develop policy statements that protect agriculture and private property rights, provide a voice in the management of natural resources, and improve our state and federal tax structure.

I appreciate all those who engaged in the process this past year. There is no other organization that involves the grassroots to establish policy as does the Farm Bureau. From the member, to the county Farm Bureau, then the county to the district, and the district to the state, and those of a national concern on to AFBF. Those resolutions that are discussed and passed at each level become the policy of Idaho Farm Bureau or American Farm Bureau depending on their scope. Our connection with American Farm Bureau makes this organization almost six million members strong.

The policy development process begins every year the day after our House of Delegates convenes in early December. The issues facing agriculture are challenging and ongoing. Therefore, the way we develop policy is fluid. Every month of the year, county Farm Bureau members are meeting and discussing the difficulties they face. These conversations lead to new policy statements that are in turn vetted by county Farm Bureau members, in district policy development meetings and by a state

resolutions committee. By early December every year, we are ready for our House of Delegates, made up of two regular members from each county Farm Bureau, to consider and vote on the policy that is brought forth.

We invite all of you to contact your local Farm Bureau County organization and get involved in the policy process as you can and will make a difference. What is required of you to be able to participate? Our bylaws state that to participate in this process you must be a regular member and be actively engaged in agriculture. Our Bylaws define regular members as follows: Persons, partnerships, unincorporated association, and corporations, actively engaged in the production of agricultural products (including horticultural crops and forest products), who receive a substantial portion of their income from such products, including lessees and tenants of land used for the production of such products, and lessors and landlords who receive as rent, either in kind or cash, the equivalent of all or part of the crop raised on the leased or rented premises, are eligible to apply for voting membership in the organization.

From these regular members is where our organization draws its true strength. We hold several meetings throughout the year. Our lobbyists regularly brief

members on legislation that is proposed and how it may affect the various sectors of agriculture in Idaho. Your own personal experiences concerning the many challenges in agriculture can then be used to help defend our policies in telling our true story within agriculture. Our public relations and member relations staff members work to communicate news and issues to the membership and share the issues that arise from the grassroots. This process helps us use our organization to influence the political process, and in the end, to solve the

problems we face as farmers and ranchers.

It's an important and effective process that revolves around county Farm Bureaus. One key to the organization's future success is you being engaged within your county or even at the state level, of telling your story and becoming a dedicated grassroots leader. As we work together and all pull in the same direction there is no better organization working on behalf of farmers and ranchers anywhere.

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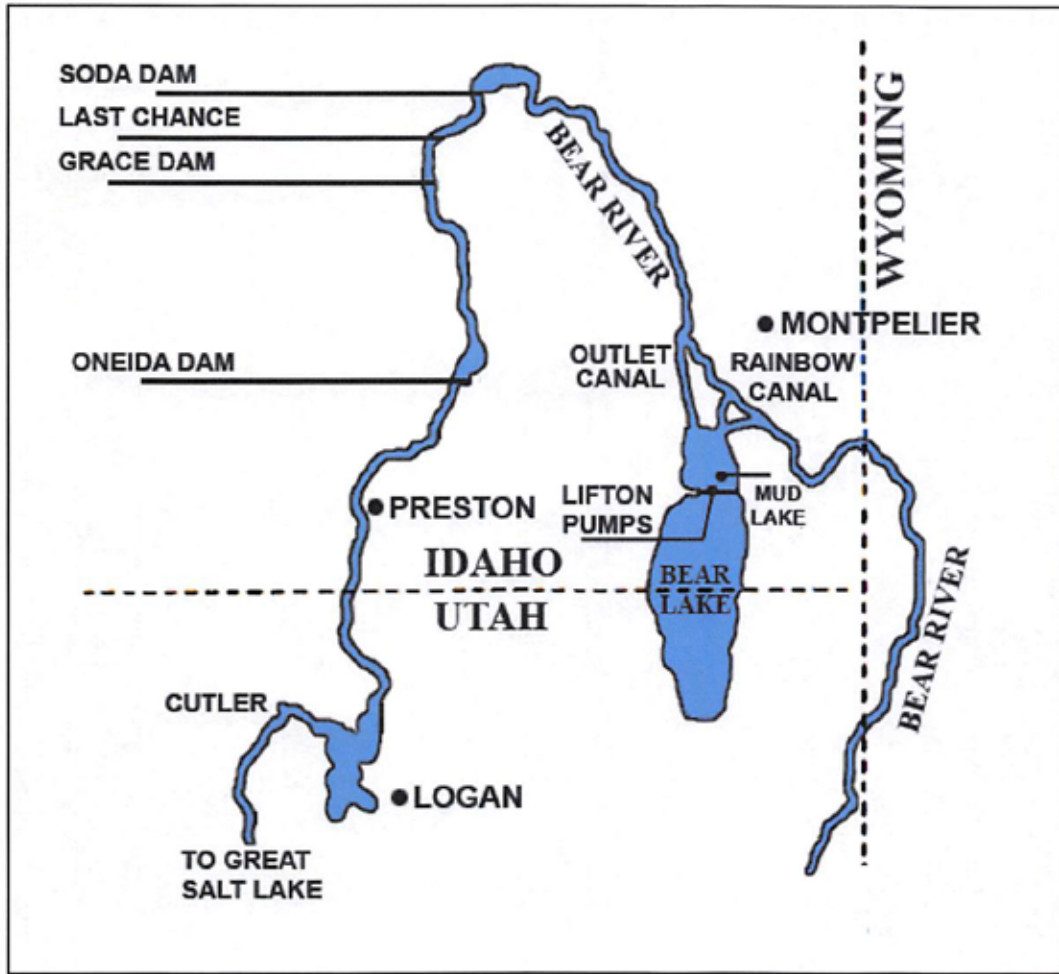
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The Gentile Valley spans the border of Franklin and Caribou counties. Landowners along the Bear River in those two counties are under pressure from Rocky Mountain Power to sell easements to accommodate power production.

# Caribou, Franklin County Ranches Threatened by River Management Plan

By John Thompson

A group of cattle ranchers along the Bear River in Franklin and Caribou counties are under pressure from Rocky Mountain Power (RMP) to compromise private property rights to accommodate power generation.

It's a complicated matter but a basic explanation is that RMP needs to increase flows through an area called Gentile Valley in order to meet reserve power production obligations under

a concept called spinning reserve. However, when flows are increased to meet those obligations, farmland in Gentile Valley gets flooded. Although RMP says spinning reserve flows are rarely needed, the amount of water required to accommodate the plan is 2,600 cubic feet per second (CFS) – the capacity of the company's Soda hydro plant. But the river breaches its banks at 1,500 CFS in the Gentile Valley, flooding parts of 26 cattle ranches over about 900 acres.

Spinning reserve is back up power for times when other forms of power production are down or decreased. The integration of wind and solar power, which are more variable and are becoming more important in RMP's overall power production portfolio, creates time periods when spare generation is needed. In this case, RMP's plans are to generate some of that back up electricity in their Soda hydro plant. Hydro plants at Oneida Reservoir and Cutler Reservoir in Utah, are



currently used to fulfill spinning reserve regulations.

Landowners in the Gentile Valley think there is more to the story than RMP is disclosing. They say all 26 of the cattle ranches along the river in the two counties are likely to be put out of business because cattle ranching and most other agricultural pursuits on the land would no longer be allowed. Further, they say RMP is using spinning reserve as a tool to create a pool of excess water that could be stored in Bear Lake and then wheeled down river and sold to water users on the Wasatch Front.

Mark Mathews is a Gentile Valley cattle rancher, Caribou County commissioner and vice president of the Bear River Water Users Association (BRWUA). He said BRWUA put together a one-year lease agreement last spring that RMP rejected, saying it fell \$11 million short of what they felt was reasonable – a good indication of how far apart the two sides are.

Mathews said negotiations and discussions are ongoing since November of 2016 and the threat of eminent domain is palpable.

“They have told me they are moving forward with the project,” Mathews said. “When I asked if eminent domain was an option they repeated that they are moving forward with the project. When I asked again, they just looked at me and didn’t answer.”

Mathews said over the last year he and other landowners along the river have been approached by appraisers, surveyors, received letters from RMP and attended meetings to learn more about the plan. RMP has discussed purchasing the land and then leasing it back to the cattle ranchers but those offers fell flat because the documents contained verbiage precluding livestock inside the easements.

“What they’re doing is trying to create a pool of water in Bear Lake to sell to the Wasatch Front,” Mathews said.

“It’s all about money. But if we realize there is a demand for water going to the Wasatch Front this isn’t the way to do it. The power company can’t use eminent domain in Gentile Valley to create a reservoir in Bear Lake and then sell the water. It’s outside their scope as a public utility. They’re hiding behind the excuse of spinning reserve to try and secure flood easements in Gentile Valley.”

Another interesting point Mathews raises relates to flood control. If RMP were to gain flood easements in Gentile Valley, it would streamline the ability to wheel water downstream.

“It’s a mathematical equation,” he said. “In order to accommodate spring runoff the lake level has to be down to 5,918 feet (elevation) by April 1. “If you need to move 200,000 acre-feet for example, it takes a certain number of days to do that. Given the ability to release 2,600 CFS down through Gentile Valley it cuts the number of days they would need to accomplish that in half.”

In an email correspondence, RMP Spokesman David Eskelsen said the two most relevant concepts in the discussion are reserve power at the company’s Soda Hydro Plant and increased storage at Bear Lake.

The wet winter of 2017 replenished Bear Lake to levels not seen in several years, providing a power-production opportunity. In order to reach the Company’s maximum targeted flow in the Bear River, RMP ramped up efforts to acquire land in the Gentile Valley. The Soda Hydro Plant can handle up to 2,600 CFS, but is limited by flows through Gentile Valley.

“The expedited attempt to capture increased storage at Bear Lake didn’t work out this year but we are proceeding with acquiring land rights in Gentile Valley and are busy preparing offers,” Eskelsen wrote.

RMP rejected the offer from BRWUA because time was short with last

spring’s heavy runoff already in progress and the power company needs a long-term arrangement. “Reserve power is an ongoing reliability requirement for customers. In order to provide reliable storage for water in Bear Lake, permanent land rights are needed,” he wrote.

The \$11 million figure represents the cost to RMP to store additional water in Bear Lake. If the movement of the water is shifted from winter flood control releases to a future summer delivery, there is reduced generation of power for RMP customers. “The \$11 million figure represents the cost (in the form of a lost opportunity) of holding this water and not generating with it during the winter as part of flood control preparations in advance of the coming Spring,” Eskelsen wrote.

Regarding eminent domain, Eskelsen responded that state law requires utilities to give notice that they have the right to use the tool to acquire land. However, they prefer to work with willing sellers.

With regard to potential downstream demand for Bear Lake water, Eskelsen wrote that RMP does not have legal authority to move water in the manner the allegation supposes. PacifiCorp’s perpetual obligations to deliver irrigation water are incorporated in decades of water law in the Bear River Compact. We are fully committed to honoring all our irrigation contracts,” he wrote.

“To use the Soda plant at its full capability for reserve power or generation emergencies and be able to maintain a higher elevation in Bear Lake during wet years, the flow capacity through Gentile Valley must be increased to 2,600 CFS. Spinning Reserve at the Soda plant and maintaining more storage in Bear Lake are separate projects that need the same flow capacity through Gentile Valley in order to be implemented.”



The Port of Portland recently announced intentions to resume container handling at Terminal 6. The terminal has been closed for just over two years when two global shipping companies left the port due to a dispute with a dock workers union.

*Farm Bureau file photo*

# Container Shipments to Resume at Portland

*By John Thompson*

Ocean-going vessels that haul shipping containers will begin calling on the Port of Portland again in early January, according to recent reports.

Docks sat idle for the past two years due to a dispute between the terminal operator, ICTSI, a Philippines-based company, and the International Longshore and Warehouse Union (ILWU). The union was accused of an intentional work slow-down. Hapag-Lloyd and Hanjin, two of the

largest global shipping companies, pulled out of Portland in March 2015 citing inability to maintain shipping schedules.

Swire Shipping, based in London, will provide shipping from Terminal 6 at Portland beginning in early January. They will call on the Oregon port once every 35 days initially. Terminal 6 was an important shipping point for containerized pulse crops (chickpeas and lentils) and wheat grown in the Palouse Region and throughout the Northern

Plains states. The Port of Lewiston, through Portland, connected those farms with export markets in Asia and throughout the Pacific Rim.

Since 2015, pulse crop shippers have switched to truck and rail options and routed more loads through ports on Puget Sound. Prior to 2015, about 60,000 metric tons of pulse crops were transported by barge from the Port of Lewiston to Portland's Terminal 6. It takes 134 trucks to move the same amount of cargo as one Co-

*See PORTLAND SHIPMENTS page 23*

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Pebble Creek - Bogus Basin  
Brundage Mtn. - Silver Mountain  
Deer Valley Resort, UT

## PROPANE

Amerigas  
Suburban Propane

## OFFICE SUPPLIES

Office Depot - Office Max

## FOOD STORAGE

Walton Feed

## MEDICAL ALERT SYSTEMS

LifeStation

## LOCALIZED

Cub River Ranch (Preston)  
Silver Mountain Resort (Kellogg)  
Larry Jensen Sod (Eastern Idaho)  
Helping Hands Home Health (Pocatello)  
Dwight Baker Orthodontics (Eastern Idaho)  
Summit Eyecare (Eastern Idaho)  
Felton & Felton Law (South Central)  
Village Coffee & Bistro (Boise)  
Desert Canyon Golf Course (Mountain Home)

## OIL CHANGE

Jiffy Lube

## SHUTTLE TRANSPORT

Salt Lake Express  
(To or From SLC)

## APPLIANCES

Sears Commercial

## MEDICATION

The Canadian Pharmacy  
Farm Bureau RX Card

## LIFEFLIGHT

EIRMC - Portneuf  
St. Alphonsus - St. Lukes

## HEARING

Clear Value Siemens

## PAINT

Sherwin Williams  
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## NEW VEHICLES

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Idaho Farm Bureau®



Dean and Shirlene Schwendimann of Madison County are recipients of the 2017 President's Cup.

## Idaho Farm Bureau Holds 78th Annual Convention

FORT HALL - Dean and Shirlene Schwendimann of Madison County are the 2017 recipients of the Idaho Farm Bureau President's Cup Award. The Schwendimann's received Farm Bureau's most prestigious award on Wednesday, December 6 during the organization's 78th annual convention.

The Schwendimann's are lifelong farmers from Newdale and have volunteered their time and effort to the organization and their fellow farmers and ranchers for the last 40 years. Shirlene served in leadership on the Women's Leadership Committee for more than 15 years. Dean served on the State Board of Directors for nearly 20 years. Prior to that they were both involved at the county level.

About 350 Farm Bureau members repre-

senting 36 county Farm Bureaus attended the Annual Meeting. Delegates to the convention set policy to ensure all water agreements protect Idaho's longstanding water doctrine, first in time, first in right. Delegates opposed fire rules proposed by the Idaho Department of Lands which will impose regulatory burdens on small landowners and supported additional measures to reduce wolf depredation. Delegates also adopted language calling for a study on Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILT) and the Secure Rural Schools (SRS) to determine whether rural counties, burdened with high percentages of federal land, are getting a fair shake from the federal government.

Bryan Searle of Bingham County was reelected as president of the Idaho Farm

Bureau. Mark Trupp of Teton County was reelected vice president.

Gerald Marchant of Cassia County, Luke Pearce of Payette County, Marjorie French of Latah County and Dan Garner of Franklin County were reelected to the Idaho Farm Bureau State Board of Directors. Travis McAfee of Lost Rivers Farm Bureau was elected to serve as a state director from District 2. He replaces Danny Ferguson who retired.

Kyle Wade of Bannock County was elected as the Idaho Farm Bureau Young Farmer and Rancher chairman. He replaces Lanae Nalder of Minidoka County, who aged-out of the program.

Sherril Tillotson of Bannock County and Doris Pearson of Twin Falls County, were



Idaho Farm Bureau Women of the Year for 2017 are left to right: Karen Matthews of Bear Lake County, Stephanie Mickelsen of Bonneville County, Carleen Clayville of Cassia County, Helen Percy of Elmore County and Sheryl Nuxoll of Idaho County.

reelected to serve on the Idaho Farm Bureau Women's Leadership Committee. Sandy Daniel of Boundary County and Kristie Dorsey of Canyon County were elected to serve on the Women's Leadership Committee.

Winner of this year's Young Farmer and Rancher discussion meet was Dusty Clark of Rigby. He comes from a ranching family and works as veterinarian. He received a Polaris ATV and an all-expense paid trip to Nashville, Tennessee to compete in the American Farm Bureau Discussion Meet in January.

LaNae Nalder of Minidoka County won the Young Farmer and Rancher Excellence in Agriculture Award. Cole and Lynette Smith of Bear Lake County received the Young Farmer and Rancher Achiever Award. Nalder

won a \$5,500 credit toward a Polaris four-wheeler while the Smith's won a Polaris Ranger. Nalder and the Smiths will also travel to the American Farm Bureau Convention in Nashville in January to compete for the national Excellence in Agriculture and Achiever competitions.

Dealers from 17 Idaho Polaris Dealerships donated the Polaris Ranger and Northwest Farm Credit and Idaho Farm Bureau donated the Polaris four-wheeler.

Recognized as Women of the Year were Karen Matthews of Bear Lake County, Carleen Clayville of Cassia County, Helen Percy of Elmore County, Sheryl Nuxoll of Idaho County and Stephanie Mickelsen of Bonneville County.



Dusty Clark of Jefferson County is the winner of the 2017 Idaho Farm Bureau Young Farmers and Ranchers Discussion Meet. He received a new Polaris 4-wheeler, from Idaho Farm Bureau and a trip to AFBF Convention in Nashville, Tennessee.



American Farm Bureau Executive Vice President and Treasurer Julie Anna Potts spoke to Idaho Farm Bureau members during the 78th Annual Meeting.



The House of Delegates for the Idaho Farm Bureau's 78th Annual Meeting included representation from 36 county Farm Bureaus.



Cole and Lynette Smith of Bear Lake County won the 2017 Young Farmers and Ranchers Achiever award. The Smith's received a Polaris Ranger valued at \$10,000 donated by 17 Polaris dealerships in the region. The Smith's will also travel to Nashville, Tennessee to compete in the AFBF Achiever competition. In the photo, the Smith's are seated, at the left is outgoing Young Farmers and Ranchers Chair Lanae Nalder, Idaho Farm Bureau President Bryan Searle is in back and Polaris Representative Andy Mills is on the right.



Lanae Nalder of Minidoka County won the Idaho Farm Bureau Young Farmers and Ranchers Excellence in Agriculture award. She received a Polaris 4-wheeler sponsored by Northwest Farm Credit and a trip to Nashville, Tennessee to compete in the AFBF Excellence in Agriculture competition. In the photo, left to right, are Lance Zollinger of Northwest Farm Credit, Idaho Farm Bureau President Bryan Searle, Nalder and Polaris District Representative Andy Mills.

# JULIE ANNA POTTS

Continued from page 5

water quality. It's very important that we put clear rules in place and simply repealing it is not enough. We have experts in our office to help articulate that and we have expert counsel with experience in water issues and environmental law. I think we have the greatest resources available in Washington for assisting this administration and getting it right and making it legally defensible. I'm so proud that we have that door open and we're working hard with the Trump administration. We want to make sure it won't be rolled back by future administrations.

*One of the biggest AFBF successes in many years on the Hill was the WOTUS issue, why?*

It was grassroots politics and it's a tremendous story. The waters of the U.S. rule was a clear-cut example of federal encroachment on land without congressional approval. This issue is one that Farm Bureau had worked on for decades. Then all the sudden they introduced the rule and we had to mobilize.

This issue was a threat to our property rights and we saw what the government could do to the rights in a regulatory environment. So WOTUS got to a real emotional level and that was key to our success. There's no other group in Washington who understood the technicalities of that regulation and could articulate it like the Farm Bureau. We involved our grassroots leaders who said: "I'm putting my name on this, we're going to ditch the rule."

The second thing is that we put every tool and tagline into the mix and ran with it. We added some very creative videos from farmers that struck a chord. I think the third thing when it came to a long-term strategy we added a delay action to keep the rule from being adopted and all that added up to a textbook example of grassroots politics.

I was very proud that a difficult issue for property owners and industries was struck down and our members led the charge. Big business, small business, landowners, followed our lead and carried our message so much so that when the EPA engaged in illegal campaigning on behalf of the rule, they actually used language, 'ditch the myth' and that was directly responsive to our ditch the rule tag-line and we were extremely proud of that.

*Are there other Issues as big as WOTUS on the horizon?*

I'm sure you've heard about the Monuments of the U.S. and the Bear's Ears Monument in Utah. That's a huge issue we continue to do work on, even after President Trump's announcement to cut back acres. That's the result of the kind of conversations we've had with the White House and state Farm Bureaus. The Bear's Ears National Monument will go from roughly 1.3 million acres to 228,000 — only about 15 percent of its original size. And Escalante Grand Staircase will be reduced by roughly half, from 1.9 million acres to about 1 million. We teamed

up with county and state Farm Bureaus and they helped us lobby and work the social media channels.

On the other hand, we still have a labor issue and that's a huge challenge. State Farm Bureaus say it's the single biggest threat to farm operations. I don't have to tell you that we need an adequate, legal labor supply. That's a priority and we are working on that non-stop on Capitol Hill but the challenges remain on the immigration side. And so our point man on these issues is our President, Zippy Duvall. He's been invited to speak with the committees of authorization when we have difficulties with legislative proposals. He's in constant touch with President Trump about the need to fix this problem and its tricky handling and understanding the other issues. But it's happening. We need something in place that is workable while supplying labor to the farm and administered by the USDA. It's critical to keep it under the USDA umbrella.

*What's the importance of States in affecting change on agriculture issues in Washington?*

States like Idaho are unbelievably important. I once worked on the Hill as Chief Counsel on the Senate Ag Committee. Constituents who came from states to talk about their issues in front of the committee have a big impact on the committee members. Farmer testimony is more important than a lobbyist and those living inside the beltway. When it comes to tes-

timony real voters make a difference. I think the Farm Bureau's greatest strength is the fact that we have an organization in every county and political strength in every state. Also, think of it, every county Farm Bureau has a relationship with their congressional delegation and they have state-house contacts with their lawmakers and their governors so it gives us influence and depth that other agriculture organizations don't have.

*One of our senators told us that our Ag Ambassadors are more powerful in many respects than paid lobbyists. Is that true*

That's exactly right. We have within Farm Bureau people with real stories. In terms of lobbying, you hear a lot about the importance of telling stories. Whether through social media or face to face visits on Capitol Hill. Senators need the ability to retell a story and do it authentically when they're working an issue. Better yet, a story from the mouth of a farmer or rancher affected by an issue is real. It's also very authentic and I'd say it's impactful. It packs more punch than a story from a lobbyist. I would add that when the Ag Ambassadors come to Capitol Hill in the spring you can see and feel the change on the Hill. The Farm Bureau both the state and AFBF gives members a strong briefing and the informational tools to lobby effectively.



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a lot in  
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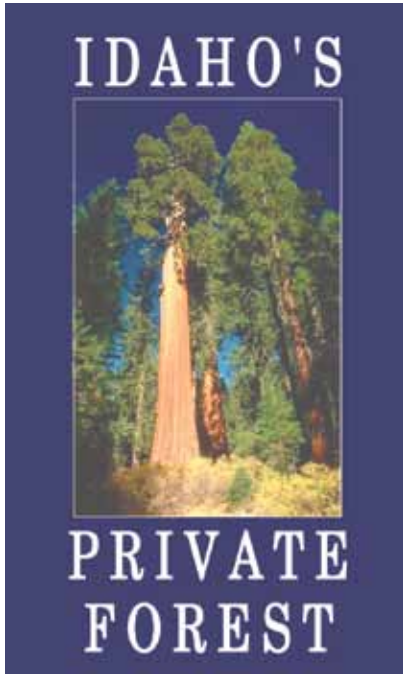
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Interest in biochar as a soil amendment is growing.

# Biochar - a Byproduct with Untapped Potential

By Chris Schnepf

Biochar is defined by the International Biochar Initiative as “a solid material obtained from thermochemical conversion of biomass in an oxygen-limited environment.” The process described in this definition is usually referred to as “pyrolysis.” Almost any organic material can be used to create biochar, from grasses, to trees, to manure. Pyrolysis can also be varied by temperature, oxygen, and cooking time to create a whole range of solid, liquid, and gaseous products, including biochar, syngas, torrefied wood, and bio-oil (some of these go by other names, such as bio-coal or refined charcoal). There has been great interest in pyrolysis in recent years as a technique to create liquid or gaseous fuels from biomass. Biochar is often a by-product of those efforts, even if it is not the primary product

One of the factors renewing interest in biochar is the dark “terra preta” soils in South America, which are much more fertile than

other tropical soils. Historically, many people living in tropical areas burned forests then farmed those lands. The initial productivity of these lands was partially due to the benefits of biochar from the burned forests. Eventually, the productivity of these sites waned and farming shifted to another site where the forest was burned to start the process again. Terra preta soils were likely enhanced with additional amendments of biochar and other organic materials, so they could be farmed for longer periods of time. Interest is growing in using biochar in a variety of agricultural settings as well as gardens and landscapes. Reported possible benefits include:

- Improved nutrient and water-holding capacities,
- Reduced nitrous oxide and methane emissions,
- Reduced leaching of nutrients to groundwater,

- Soil contaminant absorption,
- Stimulation of beneficial soil microbes,
- Reduced soil acidity, and

A better environment for native plants to compete more effectively against invasive weeds (especially on heavily disturbed sites)

These benefits (or lack thereof) can vary by site, type of biochar used for the amendment (different feedstocks or different pyrolysis techniques can yield different biochar characteristics), and the crop being grown.

Biochar could also benefit forest growth in some situations. Given the large role that fire plays in western forests, biochar has likely already played a significant role in our forest soils. Charcoal is commonly found on top of or buried in western forest soils. Biochar shows particular promise in restoring heavily disturbed forest sites, such as forest roads, skid trails, and landings. For more detail on the current state of biochar research in North American forests, see a



Over time fires have naturally created biochar in many Idaho forests.

chapter in a recent biochar book at [www.fs.usda.gov/treearch/pubs/54277](http://www.fs.usda.gov/treearch/pubs/54277).

Most of the enthusiasm around biomass in the forestry community is related to using forest management residues to create fuels and biochar. Many of our forests are overstocked. Reducing stocking can reduce fire risk, strengthen forest resilience to insects and diseases, and provide many other benefits. Some of the trees cut in these efforts can be taken to a mill and turned into wood products. However, there will always be leftover material that is too small to be used for wood products, particularly when many of the cut trees are small (e.g., pre-commercially thinning sapling trees).

Needles, branches, and stem wood left in a forest after a management activity (commonly referred to as “slash”) are not necessarily wasted. Some of that material can be critical to forest soil health, depending on the soils and the nature of the material. But after meeting forest soil nutrition needs, some slash must usually be treated or removed to keep fire risk (“slash hazard”) within acceptable limits.

For a stand regeneration cut, such as a clear-cut, some of this might be accomplished with a prescribed broadcast burn across the

entire unit. Otherwise, excess slash is typically piled and burned. Pile burning costs time and money, and generates greenhouse gases. However, if this material can be put through pyrolysis and generate revenue from fuel or biochar, slash treatment costs could be off-set.

A portion of the greenhouse gases produced by burning the slash would also be sequestered in the biochar or substitute for non-renewable energy sources such as petroleum. Biochar is relatively stable and can persist in soil for hundreds or even thousands of years. Carbon from non-charred wood, does not last nearly as long. Therefore, biochar could reduce the amount of carbon going into the atmosphere.

People have been talking about ways to use slash rather than burning it for many years. The biggest challenge has usually been the cost of collecting the material and hauling it to a site where it can be processed. Utilities that use biomass to produce energy often face feasibility in terms of how much biomass is within a certain distance to the facility. For example, they might only be able to afford to bring in feed stock 30-40 miles to the plant.

One way out of this conundrum is to bring

the processing to the material rather than vice-versa. This idea is not new. When horses were the chief means of hauling logs to the mill, many small sawmills were scattered all over Idaho. In recent years, there has been more discussion of technologies that process biomass in the woods. To that end, Utah State University has been working with a variety of companies to develop relatively inexpensive units to create biochar on or nearer to logging jobs (for more information, go to <https://forestry.usu.edu/files-ou/UFF34May2017.pdf>)

Because biochar can produce many different benefits, many are doing short- and long-term research on it (see a recent article in the University of Idaho Extension Nutrient Digest ([www.extension.uidaho.edu/nutrient/pdf/NutrientDigestNewsletterWinter2010.pdf](http://www.extension.uidaho.edu/nutrient/pdf/NutrientDigestNewsletterWinter2010.pdf))). Biochar seems to hold great promise as a way to benefit farms, gardens, and landscapes; make forest treatments more affordable; and sequester more carbon. Stay tuned for more details!

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

# Idaho Farm Bureau Online

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## 2017-18 Idaho FFA Foundation Tractor Raffle Funds Scholarships



Win this Beautifully Restored  
**1977 International  
2500 B Tractor**  
and support Idaho FFA members with  
your **\$10 raffle ticket donation**

**2nd Prize—Traeger Grill**  
**3rd Prize—\$250 D&B Carhartt Gift Card**

Proceeds benefit Idaho FFA Members through post-secondary education scholarships and support of Idaho FFA programs statewide through the Idaho FFA Foundation. **\$107,000** in scholarships has been awarded to date and another \$20,000 in scholarships will be awarded in April 2018.

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

Tickets may be purchased from your local FFA chapter or the Idaho FFA Foundation. **The drawing will be on April 6, 2018 at the Idaho State FFA Leadership Conference in Twin Falls. Need not be present to win.**

**This restored tractor includes a loader and a rear blade.**

**Contact your local Idaho FFA Chapter for Tractor Raffle tickets, or call Idaho FFA Foundation Tractor Raffle Chairman Sid Freeman at 208-941-3584. For more information about the Tractor Raffle and sponsors, visit: [www.idffafoundation.org](http://www.idffafoundation.org)**

### Tractor Raffle Chairman Freeman and Idaho FFA Foundation Honored



L-R: Anna Peterson, Nampa, Boise Valley District (BVD) Secretary; Savannah Stroebel, Kuna, BVD President; Sid Freeman, Idaho FFA Foundation (IFFAF) Tractor Raffle Chairman; Laura Wilder, IFFAF Executive Director; Stephen Parrott, IFFAF Board Chairman; Ashton Shaul, Meridian, BVD Treasurer; and Cameron King, Meridian, BVD Sentinel.

Congratulations to Idaho FFA Foundation Tractor Raffle Chairman Sid Freeman on being named Outstanding Adult



Idaho FFA Alumni

Philanthropist at the Southwest Idaho Regional Philanthropy Day celebration in November for his exceptional work benefitting Idaho FFA members. Also, the Idaho FFA Foundation was recognized as one of the top three honorees in the Philanthropic Company/Foundation award category. The Foundation is proud to do great work advancing agricultural education and Idaho FFA!

Idaho FFA Foundation Executive Director Laura Wilder said, "Freeman brought an innovative idea to the Foundation to help fundraising efforts to benefit Idaho FFA members. So far to date with the first seven raffle tractors, the IFFAF Tractor Raffle has raised just over \$221,000 in ticket sales, \$35,500 in banner sponsorships, and approximately \$60,000 from in-kind contributions. **Last year we surpassed a quarter of a million dollars in support to the program since its inception. This year we are at approximately \$316,500 so far**, and that doesn't count the thousands of hours and thousands of miles by Freeman, and FFA Alumni volunteers. Through this program **\$107,000** in post-secondary education scholarships have now been awarded, with another **\$20,000 set aside** for 2018."

**FFA—Premier Leadership, Personal Growth and Career Success through Agricultural Education**



# Focus on Agriculture

## Tax Reform Key to Preserving Our Family Farm

**“All good men and women must take responsibility to create legacies that will take the next generation to a level we could only imagine.” —Jim Rohn**

*By Isabella Chism*

Who doesn't want to leave this earth better than they found it and leave their children a solid foundation to build on? My husband and I do. That is our goal on our family farm but every year that dream is threatened by uncertainties in the tax code. Our lawmakers can bring relief to farm and ranch families across the coun-

try with tax reform, but first, we must help them see the impact certain tools and provisions have on our ability to stay in business.

My family's story is quite simple and yet far too common among farm families. We are three generations farming together: my husband and I, my in-laws, and our grown children. Part of my role on the family farm is

bookkeeper, tracking our income and expenses in order to plan day-to-day business wisely while also preparing our transition and succession plan. Every time there is a change or delay in any part of the tax code it costs our family time and money. This uncertainty takes income from farm growth with no promise of securing a future for the farm and family.

We want our children to have the freedom to keep on with the family farm business—rather than being forced to sell off farmland to cover an insurmountable tax burden. Take for example the impact the estate tax has on a family business like ours. In 2016 alone we spent thousands of dollars and hundreds of hours to update our will and set the path to transfer ground and equipment in the best way possible. It's also not easy to schedule timely appointments with accountants, lawyers and business consultants. That money and time could have been better spent on much-needed farm improvements instead, but safeguarding our business

had to come first. There is no guarantee that we won't have to do this again next year without permanent changes to the tax code. How much more time, money and opportunity will we lose because of ever-changing estate tax law?

With the House and Senate tax bills yet to be reconciled, the exact fate of the estate tax remains to be seen. If estate taxes were repealed, however, our family would know how to plan every year, so we can keep running the family business and pass it on to the next generation without the fear of losing our most valuable asset, the very land we farm. This is a support all young farmers need if we're going

to continue growing a safe and stable food supply. Until repeal is achieved, however, raising the exemption on estate taxes will bring much-needed relief to many farm and ranch families.

Our lawmakers can't change the weather or markets to make farming less risky, but they can certainly craft a tax code that gives family farms the freedom to stay in business from one generation to the next.

*Isabella Chism, vice chair of the American Farm Bureau Women's Leadership Committee, farms with her family in Galveston, Indiana.*

## PORTLAND SHIPMENTS

Continued from page 10

lumbia River barge. The pass-along cost to growers was estimated at \$1 per hundredweight.

The Port of Portland severed ties with ICTSI last February and is now managing the port. ILWU denies there was ever a work slowdown at Terminal 6, despite statistics that show workers there moved fewer than half as many containers per hour as the only other West Coast port that handles the large shipping containers in Seattle.

In June 2015, ILWU spokeswoman Jennifer Sargent said Terminal 6 didn't have a labor problem, it had a management problem.

Sargent provided the following comment by email: "ICTSI operates on American turf solely for profit, without regard for the workers and farmers who rely on smooth transport of our goods. ICTSI is a Philippines-based company that operates in about 30 countries around the world - typically in low-wage and developing nations where workers and farm-

ers have few rights compared with large multinational corporations. ICTSI signed conflicting contracts when coming from the Philippines to operate Terminal 6, and fails to provide adequate staffing and equipment."

A spokesman for ICTSI had a differing interpretation of the problem: In an e-mail to Oregon Public Broadcasting in May 2015, ICTSI CEO Elvis Ganda said "For Terminal 6 to be successful, the ILWU must signal to potential container shipping lines that its almost three-year campaign of work stoppages, slowdowns, and safety gimmicks at Terminal 6 has come to an end. No carrier will want to make a long-term commitment to the terminal so long as ILWU workers delay cargo and vessels as a strong-arm tactic to get what they want."

According to press reports Swire's ships will haul containers and general cargo and their capacity is between 100 and 200 containers per

month. Previously, Hanjin, the South Korean shipping company that left the Port of Portland in March 2015, handled 1,600 containers per week.

The bulk of the cargo Swire will begin with are Western Star trucks, manufactured in Portland, bound for Australia and New Zealand. In addition, Swire will haul apparel from Columbia Sportswear and Nike. The freighters will pick up cargo in Asia that is bound for export to the United States, which doesn't bode well initially for agricultural exports from the U.S.

If relations with ILWU proceed smoothly, Swire may begin shipping containerized agricultural commodities out of the Port of Portland in the near future. However, another hurdle they face is that the Port of Portland is about 100 miles inland and the Columbia River channel is not deep enough to accommodate many of the largest vessels transporting goods around the globe.

# Look for Opportunities to Profitably Market Your Wheat

*By Clark Johnston*

Well it is the beginning of a new calendar year and no matter what has happened during this past year we can now look forward to a new crop and new enthusiasm for marketing your new crop. Yes, I did say enthusiasm for marketing.

I feel that some of you are beginning to enjoy marketing more than in the past. I recently asked a group of producers to tell me one thing in their operation that they disliked doing. The answer was surprising to me when the unanimous answer was maintenance. It made my day.

As we moved from this past harvest into the end of the year we experienced a rather large sell off in the markets. Chicago wheat futures traded \$1.75 per bushel lower between the 4th of July and Christmas. As the local basis strengthened during this same time frame those of you that hedged your wheat with the futures market did alright for yourself and your farm.

For now the markets are looking towards the weather in South America trying to find some direction and the direction they found is lower. The bright spot is that the spec funds have rather large short positions in both corn and wheat and will need to buy those positions in someday.

Historically we see some strength in the futures markets as we reach the month of June and we trade the weather driven market and start looking at corn pollination. We are currently so far down and with the technical indicators showing the market to be over sold we should watch for some type of strength coming back into the market.

Be prepared to sell the strength in the spring time frame for up to 25 percent of your projected crop. And then hedge another 25 percent of your crop towards the first of July if the rally does materialize.

You will need to have a good handle on your input costs just to be able to hedge at the right level to give yourself the opportunity to be profitable. The two time frames to watch for are the third week in May and the second week in July. These aren't exact but are good indicators and are worth keeping an eye on. During the spring we see the weather markets take over for at least short periods of time and give us our opportunities to contract and hedge.

With the current carry in the Chicago wheat futures we could very well see a cash price of \$4.15 per bushel for soft white next fall. This is hedging with the futures at the current level. We probably want to wait for at least a little weather strength in the market before we lock in the futures level of your pricing equation.

Let's take a look at selling the futures at \$5 to \$5.25 in the December contract or in the time frames mentioned earlier. We can't always guarantee a certain price in the market but we can trade the seasonal trends and do well for the current marketing year. Using the current nearby basis for soft white in southeast Idaho at 65 under we have the possibility to see your soft white wheat contract between \$4.35 and \$4.60 per bushel.

If that level works for your budget then that could be a goal to look for in your marketing plan for new crop. Remember that we



**Clark Johnston**

are looking for levels that give us an opportunity to be profitable on the crop. After you have hedged a percentage of your crop with futures at levels that will help you the question should then be, what do I want to have happen in the markets? The answer to that question is I want this wheat that I just hedged to be the cheapest wheat I contract all year.

In that recent producer meeting I mentioned earlier there was an interesting comment made as we visited about hedging at least a percentage of your crop. One producer said, "But what that does is take away the greed factor."

I don't know if I would call it a greed factor but I do feel that more money has been lost waiting to see how high the market will go rather than looking for opportunities to contract at a profit.

Let's all look forward to having a great crop year and a great marketing year as well.

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





## President Trump to Address Farm Bureau Members at Annual Convention in Nashville

WASHINGTON, D.C., – Donald J. Trump, the 45th president of the United States, will address farm and ranch families from across the nation at the American Farm Bureau Federation's 99th Annual Convention, Jan. 5-10 in Nashville, Tenn.

“The American Farm Bureau Federation is honored to host our nation's president,” said AFBF President Zippy Duvall, a beef and poultry farmer from Georgia. “President Trump has said all along that he would make sure agriculture has a seat at the table when it comes to the top issues facing America's farmers and ranchers. Now, it is our privilege to reserve a spot for him at our podium.”

Duvall considers President Trump's announced speech as a sign of the high regard in which the nation's chief executive holds America's farm and ranch families.

“Farmers and ranchers and our rural communities are the bedrock of our nation. President Trump knows that, and his willingness to devote his time to talk directly with Farm Bureau members will be a memorable occasion,” Duvall said.

After three consecutive years of decline in farm sector profits, President Trump will speak to Farm Bureau members during a period of prolonged economic challenge across farm country. Profits have fallen and many farmers have seen declines in equity. Though the Agriculture Department forecasts that farm profits will be relatively stable in 2017, action on key issues on the president's agenda could help farmers turn the corner as they head into the new year.

“President Trump is fully aware of the economic difficulties farmers and ranchers have gone through these past few years,”

Duvall said. “The economic issues he has outlined, including reform of our nation's tax and regulatory systems, match many of the issues on Farm Bureau's agenda.”

President Trump's executive order establishing the Interagency Task Force on Agriculture and Rural Prosperity, led by Agriculture Secretary Sonny Perdue, highlights the importance his administration places on rural America, according to Duvall.

“President Trump has assigned his team to focus on important pocketbook and quality-of-life issues to strengthen rural America, and those issues are front and center on his to-do list,” Duvall said. “We look forward to hearing the strategies that he and Secretary Perdue share for taking agriculture and rural America down the road toward renewed prosperity.”



Cattle ranchers are returning livestock to the range in southwest Idaho after devastating fires in 2105.  
*Farm Bureau file photo*

## Idaho and Oregon Ranchers Return Herds to Range

*By Jake Putnam*

Owyhee County cattle ranchers have made an epic return to the range.

Cattlemen were burned off the land two years ago when the Soda Fire destroyed more than 270,000 acres of rangeland. The fire stretched from Owyhee County to Oregon.

Because of the 2015 fire, more than 40 ranchers and cattlemen were forced to find grazing land in Nevada and as far east as Burley but in September they started trucking their cattle back to the home range.

Rancher Ted Blackstock says his operation was able to return cattle to three-quarters of his allotments.

“We were happy to get back on the range,” said Blackstock. “In fact, we were able to

use some of the allotments this fall. But there’s still a few allotments this spring that we will not be able to use. The majority of them we can use and after trucking cattle, we hope to cut those costs.”

Cindy Fritz of the Bureau of Land Management says rehabilitation of the range came back faster than expected.

“Our seeding did well this past spring and we’re seeing much better results than what we expected. Everything worked and we had favorable responses from our treatments and I’m pleased for the most part,” said Fritz.

The Soda Fire scorched 84 pastures on 40 different grazing allotments. The BLM says the majority of the devastation occurred in Owyhee County southwest of Boise, but it burned all the way to Jordan Valley area in eastern Oregon.

After the fire, the BLM told ranchers they couldn’t graze cattle on their allotments for at least two growing seasons. Initially, that was an optimistic estimate considering the threat of erosion.

“We were devastated when they said we’d be off the range for two years,” said Blackstock. “But the BLM found that the range naturally came back. They had a funny way of classifying it. They said on some of the allotments that they would never achieve their standards but they just opened them.”

Grazing started on 48 affected pastures six weeks ago and BLM range managers expect to make decisions on the remaining 36 pastures after the first of the year.

“It’s been expensive for us because it wiped out all of our feed for the last part of 2015 and

then all of '16 and most of this year. It cost us a lot buying all that feed," said Blackstock who said he'll now be able to use some of the winter range initially burned in the fire.

The lightning-caused fire rolled rapidly across the range destroying everything in its path. "There were no unburned islands or in this fire, everything was burned," he said. "Whatever it went across, it burned 100 percent of it and it killed hundreds of cattle."

Owyhee rancher Ed Wisley was burned off the range, he says the fire burned hot because range managers let the fuels buildup for generations.

"They kept taking cattle off the range and then the sheep and it resulted in all of this organic overburden. The duff was a foot deep under the sagebrush. There was nothing but fuel out there. Add a strong wind and some lightning and you lose a hundred

thousand acres real quick," said Wisley.

The BLM has studied the fire and fuel loads on the range and developed a restoration plan that they hope will make the range more resistant to catastrophic fires in the future.

Instead of keeping cattle off the range, they plan on using them across 30 miles of targeted grazing on the once blackened range. The grazing fuel breaks will start this spring. Land managers will work with ranchers in a grazing program designed to break up the vast sea of grass and underbrush.

"We started this targeted grazing program that the BLM fire guys suggested and it's starting to work for us," Blackstock said. "I think we can show results as the range opens up and we can cut down on fuels and disastrous fires. We can control the long runs, the mile long runs of fires by controlling the underbrush fuels in the controlled grazing breaks."

Another element is the use of county and dirt roads. The BLM wants additional grazing breaks along key roads on the range. Each road will have 200-foot grazed buffers on each side. Under the plan, the cattle will graze the grass down to a two-inch stubble height.

The BLM thinks the breaks will keep fires from making runs and will slow the explosive spread of fires. The agency started using this tactic a few years ago in the West, but not on this massive scale and not without fencing.

The new grazing plan that incorporates the fuel breaks are part of the BLM's innovative plan to protect the millions of dollars of restoration work done over the past two years. There was a time when cattle were considered a problem on the range, now according to ranchers, they're a part of the wildfire solution.



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| <b>Dennis Dillon</b><br>Boise (208) 343-2830                     | <b>Rexburg Motorsports</b><br>Rexburg (208) 356-4000       |
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# AMERICAN FARM BUREAU FEDERATION NEWS

## AFBF Seats New National Committee Members

The American Farm Bureau Federation has appointed farmer and rancher members to the organization's Young Farmers & Ranchers and Promotion & Education committees.

"Grassroots volunteer leaders, such as those who serve on national committees, are the bedrock of Farm Bureau," said AFBF President Zippy Duvall. "They play an important role in building greater understanding between modern farmers and consumers."

Duvall announced the appointment of the following members to the YF&R Committee for the 2018-2020 term beginning in March: Nick Smith, Cushing, Maine (hay, beef cattle, pumpkins and squash); Paul Molesky Jr., Schaghticoke, New York (operations manager on a 2,500-cow dairy farm); Dan and Kelly Snipes, Rochester, Indiana (corn, soybeans, high-oleic soybeans, wheat and alfalfa); Jarrod and Sarah Bowser, Mayetta, Kansas (crops and beef cattle); Kacie Luck-

ett, Pride, Louisiana (specialty crops); Rachel Pickens, Stillwater, Oklahoma (beef cattle); and Whitney and Lynne Farr, Reidville, South Carolina (beef cattle, row crops and a custom planting, cultivation and harvesting business).

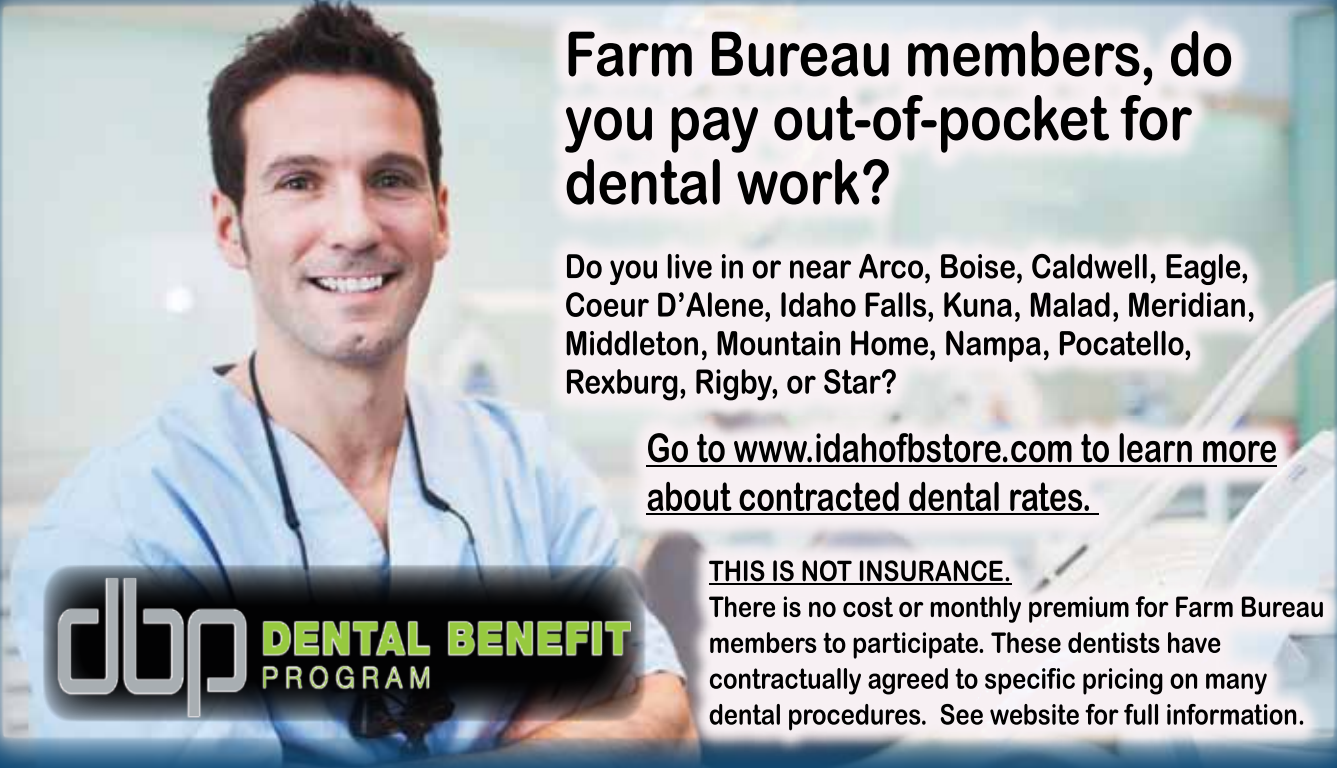
The YF&R Committee is comprised of 16 positions representing all regions of the U.S. An individual or couple may hold each committee appointment. Committee members are responsible for program planning, which includes the coordination of YF&R competitive events during AFBF's Annual Convention each January and the Harvest for All program.

Duvall announced the appointment of the following members to the P&E Committee for two-year terms starting in 2018: Debra Durham, Long Prairie, Minnesota (pure-bred swine, sheep, beef cattle and crops); Mary Fischer, Rockville, Missouri (beef cat-

tle and crops); and Patti Fisher, Madrid, New York (dairy cattle and crops).

The P&E Committee is comprised of 10 individuals representing qualifying Farm Bureau Promotion & Education states. The committee strives to develop and centralize resources that inspire and equip Farm Bureau members to convey the significance of agriculture. Committee members support and encourage state Farm Bureau volunteers to participate in projects and activities by providing resources for programs, communicating with state leaders and contributing collaborative ideas.

National committee members are nominated by their respective state Farm Bureaus. Learn more online: Young Farmers & Ranchers, <http://www.fb.org/programs/young-farmers-and-ranchers/> and Promotion & Education, <http://www.fb.org/programs/promotion-education/>.



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

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

Go to [www.idahofbstore.com](http://www.idahofbstore.com) to learn more about contracted dental rates.

#### THIS IS NOT INSURANCE.

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

**dbp** DENTAL BENEFIT PROGRAM

## AFBF Hails Bears Ears, Escalante Reforms

“The recent reduction in the size of the Bears Ears and Grand Staircase-Escalante monuments marks a return of common sense to environmental stewardship,” according to American Farm Bureau President Zippy Duvall.

“The 1906 Antiquities Act was clear in its purpose, even if the government has not always been. It was designed to stop theft and destruction of archaeological sites and other federal lands of historic or scientific interest. The act requires the president to reserve ‘the smallest area compatible with the proper care and management of the objects to be protected.’ Unfortunately, that law has been abused to quaran-

tine millions of acres of already-scarce grazing land, harming farmers, ranchers and struggling small towns across the West.

“Other presidents have established and reduced the size of monuments. Presidents Taft, Wilson, Coolidge, Eisenhower and Kennedy all shrank the size of established monuments. Farm Bureau is pleased to see President Trump doing likewise at Bears Ears and the Grand Staircase-Escalante. This is different from the previous administration, which created and expanded more new national monuments than any other in U.S. history, locking up 5.44 million acres of land and 545 mil-

lion acres of water resources in the process.

“Rural America continues to struggle economically, even as large cities boom. We hope Congress will also move to improve accountability and transparency in the designation of national monuments so that we do not once again find ourselves at the mercy of a remote bureaucracy. With common sense public policies, we can preserve antiquities while providing prosperity and opportunity for rural America.”



## New Discounts For Idaho Farm Bureau Members

**Case IH Tractor & Equipment Incentive Program:** Farm Bureau members can now take advantage of Case IH equipment discounts thanks to a new membership value program. Eligible Farm Bureau members will receive an incentive discount – from \$300 to \$500 – when purchasing qualifying Case IH equipment from participating dealerships. The discount is stackable, meaning it can be used with other discounts, promotions, rebates or offers that may be provided by Case IH or a Case IH dealership. A current Farm Bureau membership verification certificate must be presented to the Case IH dealer in advance of product delivery to receive the incentive discount.

**Farmall Compact tractors (A & B) \$300 per unit**  
**Farmall Utilities – C, U, & J series \$500 per unit**  
**Maxxum Series and Farmall 100A series \$500 per unit**  
**Self-propelled windrowers \$500 per unit**  
**Large square balers \$500 per unit**  
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**Small square balers \$300 per unit**  
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**Case IH Scout \$300 per unit**

To print off a Farm Bureau verification certificate go to  
**[www.fbverify.com/case](http://www.fbverify.com/case)**

Type in your Idaho Farm Bureau membership # and zip code.

**Questions? Call Joel 208-239-4289**

# AMERICAN FARM BUREAU FEDERATION NEWS

## Fall Purple Plow Challenge Winners Announced



The American Farm Bureau Foundation for Agriculture has recognized three schools as Purple Plow Challenge winners for the fall season of the maker-space contest.

The following teams were selected as winners in the national competition:

Team 11, Laupāhoehoe Community Public Charter School,  
Laupāhoehoe, Hawaii  
Educator: Aaron Mickelson

Erosion, No Eroding!, Home School, Port Orange, Florida  
Educator: Priya Muthukumaravelu

Team 1, West Central Middle School Library Makerspace, Hartford,  
South Dakota  
Educator: DaNann Kistler

Each school received a 3D printer and gift card to support future educational investments.

The Purple Plow challenge site (<http://www.purpleplow.org/>) encourages students to research scenarios related to food, hunger and sustainability. Students are also encouraged to build their own prototypes to solve problems. The resources – provided for facilitators, students and volunteers – are written by teachers, aligned to national learning standards and reviewed by industry experts. The fall challenge, “Save the Soil,” engaged students in creating a prototype that addressed local erosion concerns and measurably reduced topsoil erosion. Students used a tested design process and shared their experience on social media. Follow the @ThePurplePlow journey on Twitter and Instagram.

The spring Purple Plow challenge contest will run Jan. 1 to May 1. Interested teachers, mentors and students should check out the website for information. Purple Plow is a special project of the American Farm Bureau Foundation for Agriculture. The resources are made possible through the generous support of the title sponsor, DuPont Pioneer.

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## Duvall Appointed to Trade Advisory Committee

American Farm Bureau Federation President Zippy Duvall has been appointed to the White House's Advisory Committee for Trade Policy and Negotiations.

Members of the ACTPN advise the president on the potential effects of proposed and current trade agreements. The ACTPN, which is administered by the U.S. Trade Representative, is the main trade advisory committee that provides policy information and advice to the president.

"I am deeply honored to be called to serve as a member of the White House's Advisory Committee for Trade Policy and Negotiations," Duvall said. "I look forward to taking a seat at the table on behalf of America's farmers and ranchers as we look to further our agricultural trade opportunities. We must keep building on our current gains in markets abroad, foster lasting relationships with our international partners and, of course, effectively enforce current trade agreements

to ensure agriculture continues to boost our economy and create jobs for all Americans."

Duvall has been appointed by the president for a four-year term. Established by the 1974 Trade Act, the ACTPN brings together up to 45 individuals from the private sector who represent key economic sectors affected by trade. The committee evaluates trade policy issues by considering their effect on the overall national interest.



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Program continuation, eligibility requirements and terms and conditions apply.

## Survey Shows Massive Opioid Impact in Farm Country

The opioid crisis has struck farm and ranch families much harder than the rest of rural America, a Morning Consult survey shows.

While just under half of rural Americans say they have been directly impacted by opioid abuse, 74 percent of farmers and farm workers say they have. Three in four farmers say it would be easy for someone in their community to access opioids illegally, and just under half of rural adults – 46 percent – say the same. The poll, sponsored by the American Farm Bureau Federation and National Farmers Union, is a first step in the groups' collaboration on this issue.

"We've known for some time that opioid addiction is a serious problem in farm country, but numbers like these are heartbreaking," AFBF President Zippy Duvall said. "Opioids have been too easy to come by and too easy to become addicted to. That's why we are urging everyone we know to talk to their friends, family, co-workers – anyone at all they know or suspect needs help. And because opioid addiction is a disease, it's up to all of us to help people who suffer from it and help them find the treatment they need. Government cannot and will not fix this on its own. Rural communities are strong. The strengths of our towns can overcome this crisis."

"The opioid crisis is not just some talking point or abstract

issue—it is an enormous challenge for both rural and urban America, and we as a country need to come to grips with it," said NFU President Roger Johnson. "These responses demonstrate the reach of the unrelenting and deadly crisis that is gripping farm families across the country. Farm and rural communities currently face major challenges in the fight against addiction, like access to services, treatment and support. Time and time again, farmers and ranchers have come together to help their families and their neighbors through challenging situations. That same resolve and compassion will help us break the grips of opioid addiction in rural America."

More highlights from the survey:

Half of farmers and farm workers (50 percent) say addiction to opioids is a disease, rather than due to a lack of willpower.

Three in four farmers (77 percent), as well as those who work in agriculture generally (76 percent), say it would be easy for someone in their community to access a large amount of prescription opioids or painkillers without a prescription.

Rural adults overwhelmingly recognize that opioid abuse can begin accidentally with the use of what are deemed safe painkillers, or opioids (75 percent).

Rural adults are largely unaware that rural communities are impacted the most by the opioid crisis (31 percent). And, they say opioid abuse is a major problem in urban communities more so than in rural communities by a 10-point margin (57 percent vs. 47 percent).

One in three rural adults (34 percent) say it would be easy to access treatment for addiction to prescription drugs or heroin in their local community. But, less than half (38 percent) are confident they could seek care that is either effective, covered

by insurance, convenient or affordable.

One in three rural adults say there is a great deal of stigma associated with opioid abuse in their local community (31 percent), and that the stigma of abuse and addiction contributes a great deal to the opioid crisis (32 percent).

A strong majority of rural Americans believe increasing public education surrounding resources (68 percent) and reducing the shame or stigma around opioid addiction (57 percent) are effective means for solving the opioid crisis.

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

To all policyholders: The 2018 annual meeting for policyholders of Farm Bureau Mutual Insurance Co. of Idaho will be held on Friday, Feb. 2, 2018, 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. 2, 2018, 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*

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- Risk Management
- Enterprise Budgets
- Human Resources
- Cash Flow Plans
- FinPack Software

**Classes are 1-4 p.m. | \$100 per operation**

**American Falls:** starts Jan. 9, six consecutive Tuesdays

**Rexburg:** starts Jan. 10, six consecutive Wednesdays

**Preston:** starts Jan. 11, six consecutive Thursdays

**Please Register by January 5**

Contact the UI Extension, Bear Lake County office at **208-847-0344** or **beborn@uidaho.edu**.

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For questions or persons with disabilities who require alternative means of program information or reasonable accommodation should contact the UI Extension, Bear Lake County office, 208-847-0344. The University of Idaho provides and is an equal opportunity/affirmative action employer and educational organization. We offer our programs to persons regardless of race, color, national origin, gender, religion, age, sexual orientation or disability.

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## FARM BUREAU COMMODITY REPORT

GRAIN PRICES	11/20/2017	12/21/2017	Trend
<b>PORTLAND</b>			
Soft White Wheat	5.17 - 5.35	5.25 - 5.30	+ .08 to -.05
Hard Red Winter	5.41 - 5.51	5.11 - 5.35	-.30 to -.16
DNS 14%	7.46 - 7.56	7.37	-.09 to -.19
Corn (bushel)	4.31 - 4.39	4.41 - 4.42	+ .10 to +.03
Oats	215.00	210.00	- 5.00

<b>OGDEN</b>			
Soft White Wheat	3.88	3.87	-.01
Hard Red Winter	4.33	4.64	+ .31
DNS	6.34	6.12	-.22
Barley	6.20	6.20	Steady
Hard White	4.88	4.99	+ .11
Corn (bu/cwt)	3.95/7.05	4.01/7.16	+ .06 to +.11

<b>BLACKFOOT/ IDAHO FALLS</b>			
Soft White Wheat	3.80	3.65	-.15
Hard Red Winter	4.35	4.55	+ .20
DNS 14%	6.00	5.75	-.25
Hard White	4.55	4.75	+ .20

<b>BURLEY</b>			
Soft White Wheat	3.70	3.71	+ .01
Hard Red Winter	4.03	4.00	-.03
Hard Red Spring	5.69	5.42	-.27
Feed Barley	5.50	6.00	+ .50
Hard White	4.70	4.70	Steady

<b>MERIDIAN</b>			
Soft White Wheat	4.11	4.07	-.04
Hard Red Winter	4.59	4.53	-.06

<b>LEWISTON</b>			
White Wheat	4.91	4.97	+ .06
Barley (ton)	111.50	111.50	Steady

LIVESTOCK PRICES	11/20/2017	12/21/2017	Trend
<b>FEEDER STEERS</b>			
Under 500 lbs	148 - 216	160 - 207	+12 to -9
500-700 lbs	135 - 172	130 - 180	-5 to -8
700-900 lbs	129 - 161	125 - 155	-4 to -6
Over 900 lbs	100 - 138	104 - 138	-4 to steady

<b>FEEDER HEIFERS</b>			
Under 500 lbs	137 - 189	142 - 183	+5 to -6
500-700 lbs	125 - 162	126 - 155	+1 to -7
700-900 lbs	110 - 157	115 - 143	+5 to -14
Over 900 lbs	98 - 115	81 - 119	-17 to +4

<b>HOLSTEIN STEERS</b>			
Under 700 lbs	85 - 100	91 - 97	+6 to -3
Over 700 lbs	82 - 97	72 - 90	-10 to -7

<b>COWS</b>			
Utility/Commercial	48 - 75	45 - 69	-3 to -6
Canner & Cutter	35 - 61	38 - 65	+3 to +4

STOCK COWS	1,100 - 1,450	785 - 1,385	+315 to -65
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<b>BULLS</b>			
Slaughter	52 - 89	64 - 88	+12 to -1

COMPILED BY THE IDAHO FARM BUREAU COMMODITY DIVISION

# IDAHO HAY REPORT

## USDA Market News, Moses Lake, WA

December 22, 2017

Tons: 3600 Last Week: 3900 Last Year: 4400

Compared to last week, Alfalfa steady. Trade slow this week but some interest was noted by stock cow operators due to fires last summer there is less available winter feed. Retail/Feedstore not tested. Prices are dollars per ton and FOB the farm or ranch unless otherwise stated.

	Tons	Price	Wtd Avg	Comments
Alfalfa				
Mid Square				
Premium	2100	165.00-170.00	165.24	Tarped
Fair	1000	100.00-105.00	102.50	

## Wheat Straw

Mid Square

Good 500 55.00-55.00 55.00

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

# POTATOES & ONIONS

December 19, 2017

Potatoes

UPPER VALLEY, TWIN FALLS-BURLEY DISTRICT, IDAHO (2017 CROP) ---

Shipments 280-271-265---Movement expected to remain about the same. Trading moderate. Prices generally unchanged. Yellow Spanish Hybrid 50-pound sacks super colossal mostly 12.00, colossal 10.00-11.00, jumbo mostly 9.50, medium 5.00-6.00; White 50-pound sacks jumbo mostly 18.00, medium mostly 16.00; Red Globe Type 25-pound sacks jumbo mostly 9.00, medium mostly 7.00.

Onions - Dry

IDAHO AND MALHEUR COUNTY OREGON--- Shipments 675-769-742(includes exports of 0-3-3) ---Movement expected to remain about the same. Trading moderate. Prices others generally unchanged. Russet Burbank U.S. One baled 10-5 pound film bags non size A mostly 7.00-7.50; 50-pound cartons 40-50s mostly 9.50-10.00, 60s mostly 11.50-12.00, 70-90s mostly 12.00-13.00, 100s mostly 12.00-12.50; Russet Norkotah U.S. One baled 10-5 pound film bags non size A mostly 7.00-7.50; 50-pound cartons 40-50s mostly 9.00, 60s mostly 11.00, 70s-90s 11.00-12.00, 100s 10.00-12.00.

# 5 YEAR GRAIN COMPARISON

Grain Prices.....12/20/2013.....12/23/2014.....12/16/2015.....12/22/2016.....12/21/2017

Portland:					
White Wheat.....	6.86	No Bid	No Bid	4.42-4.50	5.25-5.30
11% Winter.....	7.43-7.63	No Bid	5.56-5.66	4.48-4.73	5.11-5.35
14% Spring.....	8.12	No Bid	6.25-6.45	6.40-6.60	7.37
Corn.....	No Bid	265.00	265.00	4.37-4.40	4.41-4.42

Ogden:					
White Wheat.....	6.25	6.95	5.23	3.67	3.87
11% Winter.....	7.07	6.69	4.51	3.65	4.64
14 % Spring.....	7.50	7.50	5.45	5.35	6.12
Barley.....	7.45	5.45	6.98	5.50	6.20

Pocatello/Blackfoot:					
White Wheat.....	5.90	6.75	4.88	3.30	3.65
11% Winter.....	6.13	7.09	4.55	3.65	4.55
14% Spring.....	6.48	7.11	5.13	4.95	5.75
Barley.....	No Bid	7.24	5.00	3.75	4.75

Burley:

White Wheat.....	5.95	6.80	4.95	3.32	3.71
11% Winter.....	6.47	5.90	4.01	3.50	4.00
14% Spring.....	6.80	7.61	5.01	5.15	5.42
Barley.....	7.50	5.20	6.00	5.00	6.00

Nampa/Meridian:

White Wheat (cwt).....	10.17	10.16	9.50	5.75	4.07
Hard Red Winter.....					4.53

Lewiston:

White Wheat.....	6.75	6.85	5.15	4.15	4.97
Barley.....	141.50	156.50	131.50	96.50	111.50

Bean Prices:

Pintos.....	38.00-40.00	25.00-27.00	25.00-27.00	29.00-30.00	21.00-23.00
Small Reds.....	40.00	38.00-40.00	38.00-40.00	35.00-36.00	No Bid

\*\*\*

# MILK PRODUCTION

December 19, 2017

## November Milk Production up 1.1 Percent

Milk production in the 23 major States during November totaled 16.2 billion pounds, up 1.1 percent from November 2016. October revised production, at 16.7 billion pounds, was up 1.3 percent from October 2016. The October revision represented a decrease of 27 million pounds or 0.2 percent from last month's preliminary production estimate.

Production per cow in the 23 major States averaged 1,861 pounds for November, 9 pounds above November 2016. This is the highest production per cow for the month of November since the 23 State series began in 2003.

The number of milk cows on farms in the 23 major States was 8.73 million head, 57,000 head more than November 2016, but unchanged from October 2017.

## November Milk Production in the United States up 1.0 Percent

Milk production in the United States during November totaled 17.3 billion pounds, up 1.0 percent from November 2016.

Production per cow in the United States averaged 1,839 pounds for November, 9 pounds above November 2016.

The number of milk cows on farms in the United States was 9.40 million head, 53,000 head more than November 2016, but unchanged from October 2017.

## 5 YEAR LIVESTOCK COMPARISON

	12/20/2013	12/23/2014	12/16/2015	12/21/2016	12/21/2017
<b>Feeder Steers</b>					
Under 500 lbs.....	157-235	255-351	155-234	125-188	160-207
500-700 lbs.....	134-187	210-284	137-203	105-152	130-180
700-900 lbs.....	121-167	195-237	120-165	97-115	125-155
Over 900 lbs.....	129-145	150-198	111-130	95-115	104-138
<b>Feeder Heifers</b>					
Under 500 lbs.....	155-214	225-337	136-213	104-164	142-183
500-700 lbs.....	133-173	201-281	130-170	100-143	126-155
700-900 lbs.....	115-158	153-218	115-155	95-120	115-143
Over 900 lbs.....	122-143	149-192	108-133	no test	81-119
<b>Holstein Steers</b>					
Under 700 lbs.....	90-123	120-212	90-120	62-79	91-97
Over 700 lbs.....	80-115	150-185	85-115	65-75	72-90
<b>Cows</b>					
Utility/Commercial.....	60-87	89-127	51-76	43-66	45-69
Canner & Cutter.....	60-78	81-114	42-63	39-62	38-65
Stock Cows.....	950-1400	1250-2200	775-1950	625-1475	785-1385
<b>Bulls – Slaughter</b>					
	63-97	105-140	85-100	55-85	54-88

## CATTLE ON FEED

Released December 22, 2017

### United States Cattle on Feed Up 8 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 11.5 million head on December 1, 2017. The inventory was 8 percent above December 1, 2016.

Placements in feedlots during November totaled 2.10 million head, 14 percent above 2016. Net placements were 2.03 million head. During November, placements of cattle and calves weighing less than 600 pounds were 610,000 head, 600-699 pounds were 545,000 head, 700-799 pounds were 455,000 head, 800-899 pounds were 294,000 head, 900-999 pounds were 75,000 head, and 1,000 pounds and greater were 120,000 head.

Marketings of fed cattle during November totaled 1.84 million head, 3 percent above 2016.

Marketings were the highest for November since the series began in 1996. Other disappearance totaled 71,000 head during November, 3 percent above 2016.

## CATTLE MARKET REPORT

December 22, 2017

The winter solstice came and went without leaving any winter magic on the cattle markets. Packers continued to bid to buy more inventory at steady prices but the bulk of the week's purchases are completed at \$120 live and \$190-191 dressed. Midwinter and the shortest day did bring cold weather although it was accompanied by very little moisture.

A looming question is whether cash or futures are going to take the lead in price discovery. Who is going to lead and who is to follow? Cash prices might have moved higher this week had it not been for the futures sell off but the futures sell off did not stop or lower cash prices once trades had started.

Cattle Futures. Today's cattle on feed report will feature a release within trading hours. Many of the recent COF reports have exceeded pre-release forecasts in the placement area. Ideas that there will come a time when placements will overwhelm demand for beef might be developing in the eyes of some traders. Today's report will allow an immediate reaction in the futures' marketplace.

Carcass weights are released each Thursday and are a closely watched barometer indicating the position of cattle feeders in the nation's feedlots. The last report released for the week of December 9th, had steer carcass weights up 1# at 904# which is only 5# under prior year. Heifers were 5# over last year with more heifers in the mix. Pen conditions are ideal for cattle feeding and cattle are performing well into the winter. Carcass weights are on target to exceed year ago numbers during 2018.

Forward Cattle Contracts: Packers have slowed purchases of forward cattle but a few cattle traded for May at \$4-5 premium to the June board.

The weekly breakdown of fed cattle moving to the beef processing plants is as follows. 1) formula 55%; 2) negotiated 20% [both live and flat dressed]; 3) forward contracts 25%. Some of the formula arrangements are week to week negotiated prices and not committed cattle to one plant.

The Cutout. The cutout leveled out at week's end. Packers pared back the slaughter this past week in order to maintain stability in the box prices. Processors will process two holiday shortened periods starting next week. The spread between choice and select is narrowing.

Retail interest will now turn to after the new year plans and decisions will be made on post holiday features.

Beef Feature Activity Index. Beef specials serve as drawing cards into the stores and are profit centers. This new link provides perspective on the level of feature activity week by week in the country.

# CLASSIFIEDS

## Farm Equipment

1956 Ford 850. Includes original Dearborn front end loader with trip bucket, heavy duty box scraper, log skidder, rebuilt car, plus extras. \$4,500 pictures available. Grangeville, Id. 208-983-1417.

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 and Feed

For sale: alfalfa hay, small bales, 2nd & 3rd crop. \$135.00/ton can load flat bed truck/trailer. Preston area. 208-681-3581.

## Household

Antique oak Victorian fireplace mantel. Built in 1890's. Came out of a home in Oakley, Id. Real good condition. 80 inches high, 60 inches wide. Burley, Id. 208-678-2036 or 208-431-2036

## Miscellaneous

Cider-beer-wine making supplies. Includes 6 gallon screw top fermenter, 6 gallon heavy glass carboy, air locks, stoppers, triple scale hydrometer, dozen 750 ml green glass champagne bottle, plus much more. All brand new and excellent! Grangeville, Id 208-983-1417.

Deer stand - 4x4, 2 stories, green roof, \$400. '84 Corvette, great condition, 92k. \$7,250. Rally Rims, center rings, 6 lugs, Chevy, \$300. Blackfoot, Id 208-782-1937.

Old fashion style Pine Coffin. Natural finish. Unlined - \$700.00, Lined \$850.00. Delivery available. Weiser, ID 208-549-2239.

Construction equipment. Farm equipment. Reasonably priced auto body and mechanic work. Cars, trucks, ATVs, motorcycles, snowmobiles. Preston area. For more information 208-681-3581.

## Wanted

Want-used 4wd van, good condition, 10 yrs old or newer, mechanically sound, side entry for wheel chair access. 208-926-4784.

Want to Buy or trade for 6M Detroit 471 Diesel Engine for Michigan loader. Wilder, Id. 208-482-7048.

Used (within last 20 years) 13 to 14 ft double disc Great Plains or John Deere grain drill. Need to have press wheels and prefer alfalfa/grass seeder. 208-317-7858.

Wanted Propane Refrigerator for Cabin. 208-358-7475.

Older Farm Bureau member looking for a Farm Bureau member that will allow me to hunt deer on their land. The property owner can specify time, place, weapon, etc. call 208-584-3662.

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

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

## Real Estate/Acreage

6 corner lots and buildings. Commercial zone, city water and sewer in Hazelton, Id. 208-731-4181.

Nice house with 5 bdrms. Fridge furnished, electric heat. Nice large insulated shop. Lots of space, three car garage. Good water, sitting on 120 acres. Location 1405 E Richards Road, Downey, Id \$360,000. Call for appointment to see. 208-233-1317 or 208-226-4887.

12 acres - 10 miles N of priest River, Id. Approx 1200 sq ft house. 2 bd, 2 bath, new roof, paint, 2 wells, 3 car garage, RV garage outbuildings. Fenced garden, green house. \$245,000. Gary, 208-826-3132.

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

## FREE CLASSIFIEDS

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

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