

Gem State Producer



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IFB® *IDAHO FARM BUREAU*

Soda Fire:
Rehabilitation Efforts
Continuing

Update on IDL
Grazing Restructure

Rural Depopulation
Trends Alarming for
some Counties

Tide Beginning to Turn on EPA



By Zippy Duvall
AFBF President

The Environmental Protection Agency and the Army Corps of Engineers are finally getting a much needed check on their run-away overreach. A unanimous ruling by the Supreme Court in May means farmers and ranchers can take the federal government to court immediately af-

Beyond the Fencerows



ter an agency determines it can regulate part of their property.

This ruling—*United States Army Corps of Engineers v. Hawkes*—is among the most important court opinions we have seen. Along with other groups, including the National Cattlemen’s Beef Association, AFBF was proud to contribute a friend-of-the-court brief in sup-

port of the Hawkes family and the Pacific Legal Foundation.

Before this ruling, the Army Corps would tell farmers they had no right to challenge its decision that it had legal authority over what it had determined to be “navigable waters” on their land. Landowners would have to apply for a permit to work their
See DUVALL, page 10

Understanding Farm Bureau - The Importance of Telling our Side of the Story



By Bryan Searle
President Idaho Farm Bureau Federation

In my last column the discussion centered on the Idaho Farm Bureau’s policy development process. This time, I’d like to stress the im-

portance of telling our story.

Consumers are bombarded daily with images, articles, blog posts, Facebook posts, videos and podcasts. Many of them are not sympathetic to the challenges we face. Our industry is misunderstood and activists are using that to their advantage.

As an example, last month I had the privilege to spend time with American Farm Bureau President Zippy Duvall. He is a Georgia native and a lifelong farmer. We visited a BLM

holding facility for wild horses and burros in Utah. He expected to see a rolling grassy pasture filled with healthy horses happily munching on clover. After laying eyes on a few hundred mustangs swishing flies and stomping around the hot, dusty corrals, his mind changed and he became much more inclined to learn more about the plight of the wild horse in the western states. His pre-conceived notions didn’t match up with the unfortunate reality.

See SEARLE, page 16

The Slow and Painful Death of an Institution



By Rick Keller
CEO Idaho Farm Bureau Federation

I sat across the table of a dear friend this week, Mae Nakahata. Mae is iconic in Hawaiian agriculture. She and her husband Warren, fight tirelessly for agriculture, whether at county planning and zoning

meetings, government hearings, court rooms or halls of state and national Capitols. We have known and watched this couple, but particularly Mae for many years. At our first meeting with Mae she was vice president of the Hawaii Farm Bureau. It took place in crowded hotel meeting room in Washington, D.C. We’ve been guests eating in their home on the beautiful island of Maui. Mae has always been energetic with a quick smile, but this week, the quickness has slowed and the smile has weakened.

Besides being a farmer in Maui, Mae works for Hawaiian Commercial and Sugar Company (HCSC). Recently, HCSC announced it is closing at the end of the year, the last sugar cane plantation and mill in Hawaii. Sugar cane was the economic driver for this most isolated archipelago island group in the world. Sugar brought the immigrants, jobs, infrastructure, economy and lifestyle to Hawaii. Maui Gold sugar will be no longer, after 145 years.

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The BLM recently hosted a tour in Owyhee County to look at rehabilitation efforts after the Soda Fire. Photo by Steve Ritter

Secretary of the Interior Tours Soda Fire Scene

By Jake Putnam

Grandview—Secretary of the Interior Sally Jewell saw the transformation for herself, a quarter of a million acres of range reduced to ash last summer now lush and green.

Last August great waves of fire swallowed up the Owyhee range destroying sage, rangeland and cattle operations.

When the smoke cleared great walls of dust and blowing ash swept the plain and the next environmental disaster was just a flash flood away. The BLM sent teams of scientists to work out a plan. The massive fire started last August 10 and scorched more than 280,000 acres of rangeland stretching from Grandview to eastern Oregon.

“The amount of science that’s being learned here is nothing short of incredible,” Jewell said at a news conference at the Interagency Fire Center, “and I think all that knowledge will advise us for many years to come.”

BLM Natural Resource Specialist Cindy Fritz was one of hundreds of experts that hit the ground running last summer to aid the parched land. She says the BLM was committed to the rehab effort from the start spending some \$14 million dollars to date and says things are off to a good start.

“We’ve been doing the reseeding efforts since last fall. This was the first step to restore the range and have sage grouse habitat out here again,” said Fritz. “First and foremost is soil stabilization and includes attacking the spread of invasive species.

See SODA FIRE page 4

Cover: BLM officials recently held a tour in Owyhee County where the Soda Fire burned last year. They discussed fire rehabilitation and changes planned for future land management. Photo by Steve Ritter



SODA FIRE

Continued from page 3



Reseeding efforts have gone well and the extra spring rain has helped the desirable grasses to take hold.

Photo by Steve Ritter

After a fire it's an open palette out here because after a fire we have the power to put in perennial grass and not only stabilize the soil but be competitive against invasive species in the long run." According to Fritz, the BLM used 14 different seed mixes during the emergency recovery.

Ranchers on the tour were free to speak and many blamed decades of government mismanagement.

"The reason this country burned so hot is because the last 40 years, they took more and more cattle off the range,"

said Owyhee County rancher Ed Wilsey. "They took the sheep off the range and all this organic overburden built up, that duff was a foot deep under the sagebrush and that's nothing but fuel out there." Ranchers like Wilsey that fought the blaze say it didn't just burn, it blew up.

Not many will argue with Wilsey's assessment about fuel load on the range. The Soda Fire as disastrous as it was, provided a clean slate and the BLM was able to seed several thousand acres before the invasive species could take hold.

Cheatgrass's big advantage is the roots; they can grow more than 30 inches deep and grow later into the fall and earlier in the spring than native plants, robbing the soil's water and nutrients.

"Nothing eliminates cheat grass," said Fritz, "all this rehab is a chance to release native grasses already here, to put back onto the ground what's missing. If we can get native grasses back, we can help restore habitat. The Soda fire provided that opportunity."

The fire tore into the sagebrush-steppe landscape -

prime habitat for the threatened sage-grouse - in the middle of 50,000 acres designated by BLM as a Priority Habitat Management Area.

Jewell says the Soda Fire complex has served as the nation's active rehabilitation laboratory for the past 10 months and will serve as a template for years to come.

"So if we do something that grows more cheatgrass, we'll understand that because we've done the science," said Secretary Jewell. While in Boise after the tour, Jewell pledged another \$10 million for the Wild-



Rancher Ed Wilsey, right, wearing hat, is one of many cattleman in the area whom are critical of federal land and fire management policies.

Photo by Steve Ritter

land Fire Resilient Landscapes Program, a targeted fund that restores landscapes threatened by wildfire.

On the Bruneau and Owyhee Rivers crews are cutting and grinding up the juniper trees that invaded sage grouse habitat. The \$500,000 program is being done as a cooperative effort with ranchers, the BLM, the Idaho Department of Lands and Office of Species Conservation and Owyhee County.

“We’ve known all along that there’s habitat degradation due to wildfire and these invasive species are the primary threat to sage-grouse in Idaho,” said Idaho Governor Butch Otter. “In fact cheatgrass is the most

devastating invasive species in the history of West.

For the State of Idaho and the BLM, sage grouse are a priority. They don’t want to see the species listed on the Endangered Species Act.

“The two biggest threats for sage grouse are fire and invasive annual grasses which plays into the fire return interval,” said BLM range technician Robert Bennett. “So putting desirable plants out here to compete with invasive annuals will help this range and improve sage grouse habitat, or at least in recovering hundreds of thousands of habitat acres.”

Dave Bunker is a private con-

tractor reseeding the Owyhee range. He says that seeding needs lots of rain. “We had good moisture this past spring so our seeding operation went well and it’s been a huge success.”

Bunker used different grass seed designed to work in different locations. “We used crested wheatgrass, some ryegrass and few smaller varieties, like squirreltail and seven other grasses. We plant stuff that’ll compete against cheatgrass and right now because of a great winter and spring it all looks fantastic.”

For ranchers burned off the range they continue to struggle and will struggle for at least

two more years. That’s when the BLM will consider putting cattle back on the range.

“We’ve got cattle scattered all over the country this year. We have steers in Oregon, some more up in Cascade then some more steers in Crane Creek and Hammett and we had them there all winter,” said Ed Wilsey. “It’s devastating to us because we went through \$200,000 in a heartbeat last summer. We had to find them, round them up and truck them and that’s a lot of work. And here on my range I’ve worked three months to get this land reseeded and we got a long ways to go.”



The Idaho Department of Lands is evaluating how best to update grazing rates. The timeline for that plan has changed slightly since May when we published our last article on the topic. *Farm Bureau file photo*

IDL Grazing Rate Restructure Timeline Changes

By John Thompson

The Idaho Department of Lands is in the process of restructuring its grazing leases on nearly two million acres of endowment trust land located primarily across the southern two-thirds of the state.

After our last edition of Gem State Producer Magazine went to press, the IDL Grazing Subcommittee met and changed the timeline for public comment on several proposals under consideration.

IDL Deputy Director of Lands and Waterways Diane French, said the subcommittee, made up of Gov. C.L. “Butch” Otter and Secretary of State Lawrence Denney met May 25. They discussed four alternatives to restructure the state’s grazing fee formula and added one proposal to the list:

Alternative 1 is the current IDL formula

Alternative 2 is the Wyoming formula which looks at beef parity ratios

Alternative 3 takes data from the Calf Crop Index and creates a percentage similar to crop share arrangements

Alternative 4 establishes a base cost of program administration and then is fully market driven after that

Alternative 5 is a model based on private land lease rates in Idaho

French said the subcommittee elected to designate another committee of five or six different experts to review the alternatives and narrow them down to a shorter list. This new twist will delay the process by a couple of months. Members of the new committee

were suggested by have not confirmed if they are available to participate, she said.

“We would like a few more experts to review the alternatives, develop an economic analysis and narrow the list of alternatives down to two or three,” French said. “We would also like them to provide a recommendation to the subcommittee and at that point we will go out for public comment.”

She added that the subcommittee discussed several experts to participate but most were not yet confirmed. She described them as “university types,” who had published relevant work.

“When we get reports back from an adequate number of experts we will reconvene

See GRAZING RATES page 9



Rural depopulation is an alarming trend in many Idaho counties. *Farm Bureau file photo*

Idaho's Rural Depopulation Trend Remains Prevalent

By John Thompson

Over the last ten years some of Idaho's rural counties have grown while others continue to show an alarming rate of depopulation, according to a new report from the Idaho Department of Labor.

Idaho's eastern region shows the most counties with a sustained population decline, but every region in the state has at least one county on the downswing and some others remained mostly flat. The Idaho Department of Labor classifies seven counties as urban, including Kootenai, Nez Perce, Ada, Canyon, Twin Falls, Bannock and Bonneville. Of the remaining, 15 rural counties grew in population since 2010, 20 dropped and two were stagnant.

Counties showing the most severe depopulation statistics since 2000, include Clark at -14.1 percent, Butte at -13.6 percent, Shoshone at -9.7 percent, Elmore at -9.6 percent, Bear Lake at -7.8 percent, Caribou -7 percent, Custer -5.7 percent, and Clearwater -4.9 percent, while Lemhi and Washington remained flat.

Ethan Mansfield, an economist with the

Idaho Department of Labor said county population data is collected every ten years by the U.S. Census Bureau. That sets a benchmark and then within that time period estimates are made based on historical trends that come from birth and death rates and migration.

Mansfield created a population data visualization workbook that contains a wide range of information on trends in Idaho. It can be viewed at the following link: https://public.tableau.com/views/IdahoPopulation_0/PopulationEstimates?:embed=y&:display_count=yes&:showTabs=y

Mansfield said rural Idaho's long-term trends are troubling. Some counties are worse off than others. "Broadband connectivity is the only thing that connects rural areas to the markets and it makes it really difficult to attract people without it," he said. "Agriculture is huge but is no longer the employment driver it once was because of technical innovation."

He said people who want to live in areas with incredible beauty and open spaces must be willing to live on less and forego

many of the luxuries associated with city life. Job training centers and business incubators have helped reverse rural depopulation trends in some states. He cited Colorado's Western Slope as a rural area where the business model has changed from agriculture and natural resource based to a high-tech service industry driven by light manufacturing. That change has helped reverse rural depopulation in some cases, he said.

When asked about the preponderance of federal land in some counties and whether it's contributing to rural depopulation, Mansfield said he understands the resentment of many rural Idaho residents. However, as an economist, fighting the federal government is not a productive use of his time, he said.

"One of the biggest economic development goals needs to be making these beautiful rural areas places where the youth want to come back to and put down roots," he said. "But it's difficult to rely on natural resource jobs to bring prosperity in today's political

See DEPOPULATION page 8

DEPOPULATION

Continued from page 7

economy. In fact, it's nearly impossible."

Federally-managed land increases sales receipts in many Idaho counties, but it also inhibits development. A county's proximity to a metro area has a lot to do with its potential for economic development. "In Custer County for instance, if the entire area was private land would you even have development?" he asked. "There are a lot of factors at play in addition to the number of acres of federal land. I don't think federal land is the right thing to blame until you experience development pressures that are limited by federal land."

Mansfield added that he believes people who live in cities and want to capture the natural amenity values of rural Idaho are applying pressure on the natural resource industries. "The American value system is changing," he said. "It's not that the BLM wants to erase mining and grazing from the landscape. There are larger forces at play that impact the closure of mills and mines."

Priscilla Salant, director of the McClure Center for Public Policy Research, in Boise, said rural counties in south-central Idaho have grown in recent years. A study released by the University of Idaho in August 2015, tracked statewide population data since the nationwide recession that

lasted from 2007 to 2009.

However, it's important to note that the growth in those south-central counties is largely Hispanic farm workers, who now make up 14 percent of Idaho's rural population.

The UI study shows an urban growth rate since the recession of 6 percent and the rural rate as flat. Salant said five Idaho counties show a net outmigration trend with more deaths than births. They include Clearwater, Shoshone, Lemhi, Washington and Idaho.

"That reflects decades of young people leaving and older folks aging in place," she said. "That, in my mind is alarming."

With regard to counties with high percentages of federal land, Salant said there are economists who believe the existence of federal land is an asset for rural America. However, the trend isn't apparent in Idaho.

"I don't see those benefits in the numbers of our public land counties," she said. "Custer and Lemhi numbers show more people leaving. Shoshone County is in trouble for other reasons including being heavily reliant on declining industries and related job losses."

She added that it's difficult to generalize

about rural Idaho because of "all the different pockets where demographic trends and economic opportunities are vastly different."

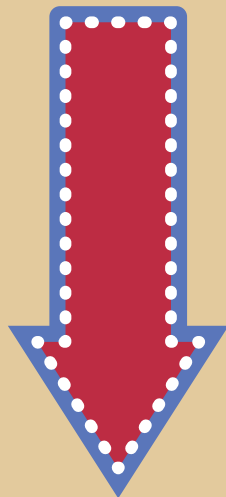
The UI Study shows jobs have been slower to recover in rural Idaho than in the urban counties. Rural counties showing significant job losses since 2010 when Idaho hit its low point include Lemhi (7 percent loss), and Bonner, Elmore and Clearwater, each with a 4 percent loss.

The wage gap between urban and rural Idaho has decreased since the recession. At the beginning of the recession the average wage in rural Idaho was \$6,939 less than in urban Idaho. By 2013 the gap narrowed to \$5,431. Unlike urban wages, wages in rural Idaho increased during the recession and have surpassed pre-recession levels, according to the UI study.

Poverty rates in both rural and urban areas peaked in 2011. Poverty rates continue to be higher in rural areas than pre-recession rates. In 2013, Madison County showed the highest poverty rate at 29 percent, followed by Shoshone County at 19 percent. Eight other rural counties had a poverty rate of 18 percent, including Boundary, Clark, Clearwater, Latah, Lemhi, Payette, Power and Washington.

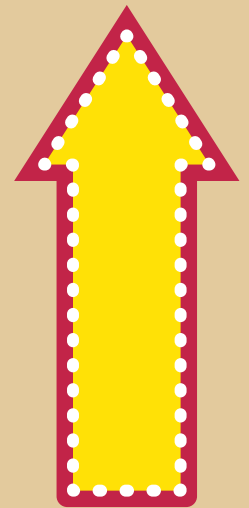
Idaho Rural Population Declines Since 2000

Clark County -14.1 percent
Butte County -13.6 percent
Shoshone County -9.7 percent
Elmore County -9.6 percent
Bear Lake County -7.8 percent
Caribou County -7 percent
Custer County -5.7 percent
Clearwater County -4.9 percent
Benewah County -1.5 percent
Idaho and Washington counties – flat
Source: Idaho Department of Labor



Idaho Rural Population Gains Since 2000

Teton County 73.2 percent
Jefferson County 41.5 percent
Madison County 39.1 percent
Valley County 31.9 percent
Lincoln County 30.8 percent
Jerome County 23.4 percent
Franklin County 15.2 percent
Boundary County 14.2 percent
Bonner County 12.4 percent
Adams County 10.5 percent
Source: Idaho Department of Labor



GRAZING RATES

Continued from page 2

the subcommittee for reconsideration later this summer,” she said. “At some point after that there will be a 60-day public comment period.”

The process began last fall when the Idaho State Land Board named an advisory committee and tasked its members with restructuring how IDL charges cattle and sheep ranchers for animal unit months (AUM’s) and generating a list of options that comply with the following criteria:

1 – It must be consistent with the state’s fiduciary responsibility to maximize financial returns to the state’s public schools.

2 - It must be a defensible process driven by market data

3 – It has to optimize management of the resource and support

long-term sustainability

4 – It has to be a transparent formula that is practical and efficient to administer

5 – It has to be fair, predictable and certain for both parties

A nine-member advisory group, made up of representatives from the livestock industry, the state, and wildlife and environmental groups, helped generate and evaluate the list of alternatives. The advisory group was assisted by seven expert consultants and a professional facilitator.

After the public comment period ends the subcommittee will evaluate the comments and make any needed adjustments before presenting a preferred alternative or a list of alternatives to the State Land Board in October. The new fee structure is ex-

pected to go into effect in 2018.

Following is a link to the IDL website with more information

on the restructuring plan: <http://www.idl.idaho.gov/leasing/grazing/rate/index.html>

IDL manages over 1,200 grazing leases on nearly two million acres

These leases contribute 258,000 AUM’s of forage for livestock each year

Total AUM’s for cattle are 226,599

Total AUM’s for sheep are 29,351

Total income from IDL Lands in 2015 are as follows:

Forest Land \$48,043,811

Agriculture Land - \$422,435

Grazing Land - \$811,075

Residential Real Estate - \$2,432,645

Commercial Real Estate - \$3,443,724

Non Commercial Recreation - \$84,535

Conservation - \$118,346

Oil & Gas - \$307,535

Minerals – (\$469,441)

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DUVALL

Continued from page 2

land, or they could farm without a permit and wait for the government to sue them.

Either of the government's approaches could bankrupt many farmers. Just applying for a permit takes months or even years, piles of technical studies and many thousands of dollars in consultant and legal fees. Many permit applications die on the vine—neither rejected nor denied by the Corps, but abandoned by frustrated landowners after years of delay and requests for more data. It wasn't hard for the Justices to see the injustice and abuse in the government's approach. Justices Kennedy, Thomas and Alito did not mince words about the Clean Water Act, either. They warned it "continues to raise troubling questions regarding the Government's power to cast doubt on the full use and enjoyment of private property throughout the Nation."

This isn't news to Farm Bureau: For more than a decade, we have been battling overreach by both the Corps and the Environmental Protection Agency, which share limited jurisdiction under the Clean Water Act. We weighed in several years ago in the so-called *SWANCC* case when the Corps claimed jurisdiction over any water body (no matter how small and isolated) where migratory birds might land. The Supreme Court said no to that scheme. EPA also tried to impose federal permitting

on any livestock farm with the "potential" to discharge pollution, even if the farm never had a discharge and even though the law only regulates "discharges" to waters. Farm Bureau filed suit together with the pork industry. The court ruled against the EPA: livestock farms don't need a federal permit to operate. But both EPA and the Corps keep trying to push the boundaries—to regulate by any means possible, no matter how they have to stretch logic and the law.

Again, Hawkes isn't the first time EPA has been caught overstepping its bounds. Take, for example, the case of Andy Johnson, a Wyoming farmer who recently won a long battle with EPA over an environmentally friendly stock pond for cattle on his property. Besides watering Johnson's cattle, the pond fostered wetland grasses and provided habitat for herons and a stopping place for the local population of eagles.

Johnson had a state permit to construct the pond on his property. But the EPA later claimed that pond violated federal law. They threatened him with a daily fine of \$37,500 for failure to follow their order to remove the pond. Johnson wasn't having any of it. He and attorneys eventually wore down the EPA. The agency settled out of court and let the pond stay as it was, rather than face certain defeat.

Lois Alt, together with the Farm Bureau, also beat back the EPA. Regulators insisted she apply for a Clean Water Act permit for nothing more than the stormwater that ran off her well-tended farmyard. And again, the Army Corps of Engineers threatened fines of \$37,500 a day if she didn't comply. It defied common sense. The courts agreed and sent the EPA packing.

Farmers shouldn't be left in limbo wondering if regulators can shut down our farms over an everyday farming activity. It shouldn't take a Ph.D. in hydrology to

determine if there's "navigable water" on our land. Opaque, confusing and shockingly expensive regulation by the Army Corps of Engineers and EPA has hamstrung farmers' and ranchers' ability to work with and care for the land.

Hawkes, *SWANCC*, Johnson and Alt: These legal battles have won real victories for private landowners across the country and for agriculture. We will continue to work through the courts and with Congress to control unlawful overreach by agencies that seem incapable of self-control.

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Growers in Idaho's Treasure Valley Consider Almonds

By Ed Maixner

What might one day be called the Idaho Growers Almond Coup may be taking root in the Treasure Valley of southwest Idaho, where farmers successfully grow table and wine grapes, peaches, apples, nectarines and more.

There, about 16 varieties of almond trees are blooming, flourishing in a small experimental tract at the University of Idaho's Parma Research and Extension Center, located in the low, flat region where the Snake, Boise and other rivers and creeks converge.

Because winters get colder there than in the southern and central California groves of almonds (pronounced a'-mens, with the a as in apple, by California farmers), researchers at Parma are, of course, looking especially at strains with cold hardiness. "The ones that have worked really well for us are Sonora, Nonpareil and Monterey," says research assistant Tom Elias. "The three have grown here for a long, long time and they are doing really well." Now, the center has stepped up its research at the urging of Treasure Valley farmers who want to consider commercial almond production.

Growing almonds "piques my interest," says Kevin Schultz of Eagle, Idaho, president of the Snake River Table Grape Growers. "I got into grapes because of a buddy who grows almonds in California. It's how I got into agriculture in the first place." Schultz observes that Californians "get pretty good returns on almonds." So, he says, "On my place, I would plant some almond trees in a heartbeat."

In California, the only state growing almonds commercially, production has had a storied history.

Franciscan friars brought almond trees, long grown in the Middle East and Mediterranean, to locations there more than 400

years ago. California farmers began growing them seriously more than a century ago, quadrupling their yields per acre by 2000. In recent decades, output has soared: Acreage has doubled in the past 20 years, and production has nearly doubled in just the last decade to an expected 2 billion pounds this year. The success is driven largely by exports: Californians now grow almost 80 percent of world almonds and ship more than 80 percent of world almond exports.

What's more, Californians have been steadily adding more bearing acres, while enhancing their yields to boot, right on through recent years of drought. Yield per acre is projected up again this year - by 5 percent - with total production of shelled almonds up 6 percent.

Back in Parma, Elias says that one strain tested there, called Fritz, showed cold damage. But

Nonpareil and Monterey, which happen to be California's top producing varieties, seem to flourish, he said. They mature later in Idaho, he said, but it may be an advantage for Idaho growers to have a bit different harvest season.

Note that while drought has zapped California in recent years, the Treasure Valley has plentiful water from area rivers and aquifers. Also, it hosts hundreds of beekeepers



who now haul their beehives each winter to California to assist almond orchard pollination, but may prefer to perform those services in Idaho groves.

So far, California producers seem to be paying scant attention to the Treasure Valley research. "As far as I know, we are not aware of any research (on almond trees) in Idaho," Alicia Rockwell, spokesperson for Blue Diamond Growers, a cooperative and leading California producer, said in an email to Agri-Pulse.

Meanwhile, Gabriele Ludwig, representative of the California Almond Board, a producer promotion and research entity, said she was surprised at the notion of Idaho almond production. Folks in her offices, she said, "are not aware that Idaho has the appropriate growing conditions for the current varieties of almonds. Almonds have a quite narrow temperature range they like to grow in and produce well."

The preceding article was provided by Agri-Pulse Communications. Anyone interested in receiving daily news updates from Agri-Pulse can sign up for a free four-week trial membership at this link:

<http://www.agri-pulse.com/Free-Trial.asp>

Boundary County FB Hosts Farm Tour

By Mary Fioravanti

The annual Farm Tour organized by the Idaho Farm Bureau and the Boundary County Soil Conservation District took place on May 20 with about 60 people attending.

Featured on this year's tour were visits to the Kootenai Tribe's sturgeon release into the Kootenai River, the dikes along the river up north, and the Houck Farm north of Bonners Ferry where the group observed multiple projects.

Starting off with sturgeon

In the morning, participants met at the Boundary County Fairgrounds for a presentation from the Kootenai Tribe about their restoration plan for Boundary County's Kootenai River. They have been putting an aquaculture system into place and constantly trying to improve the fish and wildlife

habitat of the river. The Tribe's Twin Rivers Sturgeon and Burbot Hatchery, located at the confluence of the Moyie and the Kootenai Rivers, is meant to help restore viable fish populations in the river. They are concerned that the White Sturgeon population may soon go extinct if they can't raise the numbers again fairly quickly. Burbot, another Kootenai River fish, are also becoming increasingly threatened.

The Farm Tour Bus traveled down to the Search and Rescue dock at the Boundary County Waterways Building, where there were thousands of juvenile White Sturgeon in tank trucks waiting to be released into the Kootenai River. As part of the experience, every person was permitted and encouraged to personally release a baby sturgeon themselves. Many people on Friday's Farm Tour, found this to be their favorite part of the day.



Participants in Friday's Farm Tour had the opportunity to release hatchery-raised juvenile sturgeon into the Kootenai River



A young, hatchery-raised sturgeon about to be released into the Kootenai River.

Slowly but steadily, the Kootenai Tribe has been adding nutrients to the river that are essential for the fish. The Tribe managed several construction projects on the river last summer and supply rocks to enhance and improve fish spawning areas.

Many people have asked why the new islands constructed as part of those river projects now look so cluttered. On the Farm Tour, we learned that, in order to protect trees and plants on the river islands from beaver and geese damage, the workers strategically placed shrubs and brush around the newly-planted vegetation on the island. It is those protective shrubs and brush that give the islands their cluttered look. Eventually the new vegetation will appear.

Part of the restoration plan includes capturing male and female Sturgeon to collect eggs and semen. They complete the fertilization process and regulate the growth of the sturgeon until they are of age to be released into the

river. When it is time for them to be released, all of them are tagged or marked with identification which alerts the Tribe that they were once in the hatchery, if the same fish are caught in the future. The group was informed that Sturgeon released in the spring have a much higher survival rate than those released in the fall.

White Sturgeon in particular live from 50-100 years, and physically cannot mate until they are 30 years old. They said that if the current sturgeon survival rate holds up, there may be less than 50 by the year 2030. Each year the Tribe releases thousands of juvenile Sturgeon into the river at springtime, but there is a survival rate of only about 7-10 percent.

Dikes and flooding on the Kootenai River

After the sturgeon release, the group piled back onto the Farm Tour bus and drove north of Bonners Ferry for a short time

See *FARM TOUR* page 24

Barbara Petty Named UI Extension Director

University of Idaho Extension Director Barbara Petty will formally fill that role after 18 months on the job as interim director.

An 18-year member of the University of Idaho faculty, Petty began serving as interim UI Extension director in late 2014. She began her UI career as a UI Extension family and consumer sciences educator in 1998 on a part-time basis.

“Barbara Petty showed that she is the right person to lead one of the University of Idaho’s most citizen-focused endeavors,” said Michael Parrella, dean of the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences. “UI Extension made significant gains during her time as interim director in large part due to her expertise and understanding of the university’s mission to help the public.”

UI Extension was established under the federal Smith-Lever Act in 1914. It established partnerships between counties, states and land-grant universities to provide the state’s people with practical, trustworthy information based on scientific research. Nearly 200 UI Extension faculty and staff now serve throughout Idaho, including in 42 county offices.

“I am honored to be selected to serve as UI Extension director,” said Petty, who will be based in Moscow and also serve as College of Agricultural and Life Sciences associate dean. “Extension is well poised to provide trustworthy, innovative education to address Idahoans’ needs so they can make informed decisions on issues they are facing. I look forward to continuing to build upon the foundation of excellence already established and will work together with new partners to expand our reach in serving the residents of Idaho and beyond.”

Petty’s time as interim director included a pioneering role for UI Extension: county offices helped advance the Enroll Idaho campaign to encourage more residents to

pursue higher education.

Petty also focused on hiring talented and innovative UI Extension professionals to fill position vacancies and refocused many to address Idahoans’ current needs. She also helped lead a shift toward using technology to improve communication with residents and within Extension.

A Nebraska native, she moved to Idaho Falls in 1998 when her husband, Terry, was chosen to pastor a congregation there.

After earning her bachelor’s degree in vocational home economics education in 1977, she taught home economics in Missouri before focusing on raising her children. She earned a master’s degree in human development and the family from the University of Nebraska in Lincoln in 1984 and returned to teaching there in 1995.

After beginning work in UI Extension’s Bonneville County office, Petty worked on other collaborative projects with fellow Extension family and consumer sciences faculty focused on nutrition and financial training.

As her interest in an Extension career grew, Petty sought additional education. In 2007, she earned a doctorate in education with an emphasis in adult education and organizational learning from the University of Idaho.

Petty became director of the southern Idaho Horizons Project in 2008 and guided UI Extension’s efforts to build leadership capacity in 15 communities through the program funded by the Northwest Area Foundation. In 2010, she became Extension’s Eastern District Director.

One of her early projects at Idaho Falls was developing the Married and Loving It! curriculum with her husband, who now works as a certified professional mediator. The program remains popular with its focus on communication as the main path to marital



Barbara Petty

harmony.

Research showed the class helped couples. “We knew two-thirds were already satisfied with their marriage and one-third would say that their level of satisfaction in their marriage was low when they attended the first class. Immediately after participating in the five-week program, their marital satisfaction level went up: 92 percent said they were satisfied,” she said.

“The interesting part for us was when we did a follow-up survey and expected the percent to go down but 93 percent of those same participants said their marital satisfaction level was higher,” she added. The main reason, she said, was learning about themselves and learning about their spouses.

In addition to her Extension work, Petty serves as chair of the Board of Directors for Northwest University in Kirkland, Wash.



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KELLER

Continued from page 2

What was the demise of this institution in paradise? Mae, with sadness in her eyes said, legal fees. For decades HCSC has been in the courts, defending its rights to grow and produce sugar cane. The latest battle was Maui's banning most GMO's on the island. HCSC won in court, and the judge's decision is now on appeal with the 9th Circuit, but HCSC cannot see the end to the cost of litigation, so it is closing its 36,000 acre plantation.

I find it ironic that the anti-GMO community blame most of the ailments of life upon GMO's. They often clamor to the science of global warming and yet scoff at the scientific scrutiny of GMO's safety and

benefits. Many celebrate the advances in technology for the latest in the cell phones and praise those advances by standing in lines for hours waiting for the latest version to be placed upon their wrists, but will not allow a morsel of food on their forks that comes from technology to grow their food. They celebrate and invest millions in developing drones and software to deliver packages to their doorsteps from online sales from unseen and unknown warehouses and are giddy about putting their children in driverless cars to deliver this precious cargo to school, but will not accept a granule of sugar from a sugar beet that requires less herbicides than

ever before. They would rather watch nations starve because of malnutrition, than to allow the life-saving fruits, grains, or vegetables that have been tested, proven, and developed for such. They would rather watch a thousand families' livelihoods and careers devastated by the closing of an institution, such as HCSC rather than accepting the safety of sugar.

What is to become of HCSC? They are trying to figure out what to do. By state law, 28,000 acres of HCSC land must remain in agriculture. The new diversified model, which HCSC says will take years to fully implement, involves dividing the Maui plantation into smaller farms with a va-

riety of uses including energy crops, food crops, and support for the local cattle industry and developing an agriculture park. Sadly, the expectation of litigation will continue to loom over this institution as it tries to survive and evolve from an ever changing litigious society that doesn't know what it wants.

And what of Mae? She's tired and weary. Her graying hair is a testimony of her battles and fights for agriculture and Hawaiian sugar. She will continue seeking to resolve conflict, seeking to benefit her fellow farmers, seeking to bless Hawaii and its culture. For that is Mae. God bless you Mae.

SEARLE

Continued from page 2

He is a man who has been involved in agriculture his entire life, yet he didn't know that wild horse populations double every four years, or that we now have more wild horses in captivity than roam free in western states. In addition, that herd of over 44,000 horses held in captivity is costing U.S. taxpayers more than \$49 million per year.

As another example, we recently toured the Port of Lewiston and learned about a problem that has limited transportation and caused economic hardship for many north Idaho counties. Union longshoremen at the Port of Portland were unable and un-

willing to come to terms with an international shipping company last summer. The result has been the loss of container handling at the Port of Portland. That loss of container handling ability has forced shippers of peas, lentils, garbanzos and other commodities produced in the region to find new, more expensive transportation options to reach Pacific Rim export markets. Those costs are being passed on to the farms that produce the commodities, reducing profit margins.

Both of these examples are complicated issues, as are dozens of others related to agriculture in this nation. We spend a

lot of time each year educating lawmakers on both the state and federal levels. But it's not good enough. They need to hear from you, the farmers and ranchers that form the backbone of Idaho's economy. They need to read your blogs and Facebook posts, they need to hear your podcasts and receive your e-mail messages. The Idaho Farm Bureau is a grassroots organization. All of its power, heart and soul comes from you, the volunteer members. Our staff does an excellent job of telling our story and conveying agriculture's message, but we've learned that when that message comes from the farm, the voters in the districts, it car-

ries more weight.

Our industry faces a constant barrage of new challenges. If you're not in contact with your lawmakers, I challenge you to make it a habit. We as farmers and ranchers are an important and significant constituency. In May, during the primary election our members did a fantastic job of supporting candidates that support and recognize the significance of Idaho agriculture. Let's keep that momentum going. Let's not sit back, wait and watch our numbers dwindle until we are no longer an important voting block.

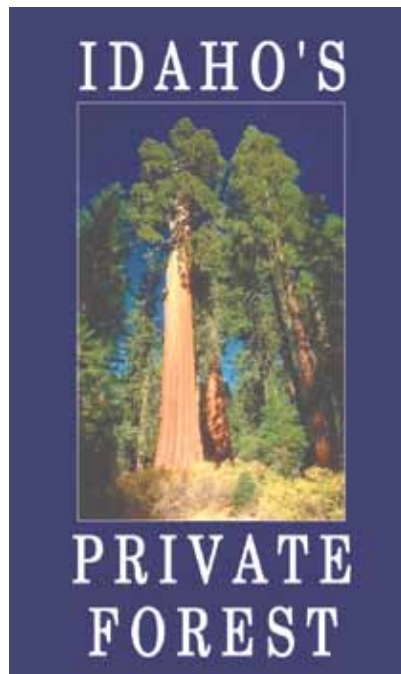
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Wildfires and the Forest Ecosystem



By Randy Brooks

As a forester with two sons and two cousins who are wildland fire fighters, the first day of summer and the summer season always make me ask myself, “what kind of fire season will we have this year”? Last summer was an epic fire season with the loss of lives and loss of many acres of native ecosystems. The Soda Fire in southwest Idaho and the Clearwater Complex fire in northcentral Idaho also raised many questions as to what effect fire has on the ecosystem.

Historically, humans have thought that all fires were detrimental because they blackened landscapes and burned trees. In fact, plants and animals evolved together with fire, making it a necessary element in the survival of many ecosystems. Throughout time, natural selection and adaptations have acted on plant and animal life to result in fire-dependent ecosystems. Many plants depend on fire to heat and scar their seeds as a process for germination. Burned out trees provide useful shelter for birds, reptiles, and small mammals. Decaying trees release nutrients into the soil and serve as a base for new plants to sprout. Much of the plant life in the United States has evolved to use fire directly as a catalyst for reproduction or benefited by the nourishment

Prescribed fire can be an important management tool for forestry and range.

Photo by Heather Heward

left in its path. Fire-dependent ecosystems are an interesting study in the way plants and animals have evolved to profit from such a destructive natural phenomenon.

Fire is an important management tool for production agriculture. Excess wheat and barley stubble is often burned to ease tillage practices. This practice saves time and fuel costs, (especially with the current high fuel prices). Kentucky bluegrass growers burn grass to stimulate seed production. Woodland owners burn vegetative cover to decrease tree seedling competition. Fire also reduces bugs, and unwanted vegetation. Removal of brush by fire improves range conditions and in turn grass production.

Prescribed burns prevent forest fires by clearing out vegetation, such as small trees, shrubs, and brush, which can eventually fuel a much larger fire. Fire fighters can allow lightning fires to burn with less danger if fuel materials within the immediate vicinity of buildings, campgrounds,

and homes are cleared away. Curtailing fuels also reduces the intensity of wildfires, which leads to easier management of them because they become more predictable and less powerful.

Fire serves many positive purposes in plant and animal life in ecosystems, but it can also damage communities just as well. Perhaps the most damaging effect of fire is erosion. Intense fires, especially in small tree and shrub communities, can burn the vegetation down to the roots. On hillsides and mountainsides, the vegetation holds excess rainfall runoff. When a fire destroys the intricate matrix of roots and grasses, devastating landslides can occur. Sediments can cloud streams, which can affect fish. Humus, the decaying organic material on the ground within the vegetation, can hold five times its weight in water. Therefore, the increased runoff resulting from erosion can seriously damage the watershed. Water and mud are not the only debris that can slide down a charred



Fire may be catastrophic but it leads to new life and can create browse for wildlife.

mountainside. Landslides, rock slides, and avalanches are far more devastating, and occur frequently when heavy rains follow a fiery summer or fall.

Soil and water temperatures are also greatly affected by fires. When the overhead canopy is destroyed, sunlight reaches regions that are not used to the added heat. Foliage that normally survived under the previously shady regions cannot survive because of the increases in sunlight and temperature. Stream water temperatures are also affected by the increase in sunlight. Spring runoffs can lead to floods because snow reserves melt much sooner, especially on steeper, sunlight facing slopes. Fire erosion affects both landscapes and plant and animal habitats; and often the effects are felt many years following a heavy fire because the regrowth can take years to occur.

Water quality can be affected by fire. Increased concentrations of dissolved nutrients generally occur in stream water after a fire. These concentrations tend to get diluted as streams become larger. Nutrient concentrations vary with fire intensity, length of time for the watershed to revegetate, and

amount of precipitation the watershed receives in subsequent years.

Fires can affect animals in a variety of ways depending on the animals and the region involved. Seldom are animals left unscathed after a devastating fire sweeps through their habitat. After a fire has ravaged an ecosystem, animals with specialized diets seldom survive as well as animals that can feed on a variety of food sources. If a fire destroys their habitat, their populations can be affected for many years. After a fire, elk, deer, and other large herbivores thrive on the newly sprouted grasses and shrubs that occupy recently burned forests. During long periods without fire, trees in dense forests often out-compete (shade out) the grasses and shrubs that large animals feed on, resulting in a decline in big game.

Many birds also thrive after a fire when the seeds of many trees are dispersed. Birds, like the woodpecker, take advantage of burned out trees to make nests or forage for dead insects. On the contrary, other birds, for instance the grey owl, flourish in old-growth forests and therefore decrease after a fire has destroyed their community. In-

sects usually do not survive fires well because their escape range is too small. This can affect birds if the specific insects are a food source. Trees can benefit from the death of insects that reside in their trunks. Many insects, in this case the mountain pine beetle in lodgepole forests, kill the trees in which they inhabit. A lot of these forest pests, like the beetle, or the spruce bud worm, which resides in Douglas and subalpine fir forests, are burned out by fires.

Fires are natural occurrences, similar to hurricanes, floods, and heavy rains. Although they can be devastating, they are also important to the survival of ecosystems. Fire acts as a necessary evil, destroying, cleansing, and diversifying wildlife communities. The impact of fire on the ecosystem can vary dramatically with severity or intensity of the fire.

Randy Brooks is a University of Idaho Extension Forestry Specialist based on campus in Moscow. He can be reached at: rbrooks@uidaho.edu

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SPOTLIGHT ON IDAHO FFA—2016 State Career Development Event Winners

State FFA Career Development Event Winners Named—Headed To Nationals

Career opportunities abound within today's agriculture industry. FFA Career Development Events (CDEs) help students develop the abilities to think critically, communicate clearly, and perform effectively in a competitive job market.

Idaho FFA conducts 23 CDEs covering job skills in everything from agricultural communications to agricultural mechanics. Some events allow students to compete as individuals, while others are team competitions. Nineteen teams and five individuals were named State Champions in 2016 Idaho FFA CDEs held at the University of Idaho in June and during the State FFA Leadership Conference at the College of Southern Idaho in April. They will represent Idaho at the National FFA Convention in Indianapolis, IN, this fall.

Since 1928, FFA has worked to create events that demonstrate the meaningful connections between classroom instruction and real-life scenarios. CDEs build on what is learned in agricultural classes and the FFA. The events are designed to help prepare students for careers in agriculture.



To learn more about Idaho FFA, please visit:
www.idahoffa.org www.idffaoundation.org



2016 Idaho FFA State Champion Career Development Event Winners

Agricultural Communications	North Fremont FFA Chapter
Agricultural Issues Forum	North Fremont FFA Chapter
Agricultural Marketing Plan	Meridian FFA Chapter
Agricultural Mechanics	Middleton FFA Chapter
Agricultural Sales	Castleford FFA Chapter
Agronomy	Fruitland FFA Chapter
Creed Speaking	Jakob Garrard, Declo FFA Chapter
Dairy Cattle Evaluation	Meridian FFA Chapter
Dairy Foods	Jerome FFA Chapter
Dairy Handler	Savanah Nunes, Castleford FFA Chapter
Environmental and Natural Resources	Meridian FFA Chapter
Extemporaneous Public Speaking	Josh Cahoon, Kimberly FFA Chapter
Farm Business Management	Middleton FFA Chapter
Floriculture	Homedale FFA Chapter
Food Science & Technology	Cambridge FFA Chapter
Forestry	Madison FFA Chapter
Horse	Preston FFA Chapter
Job Interview	Wil Jansen van Beek, Middleton FFA Chapter
Livestock Evaluation	Kuna FFA Chapter
Meats Technology	Kuna FFA Chapter
Nursery/Landscape	Middleton FFA Chapter
Parliamentary Procedure	Fruitland FFA Chapter
Prepared Public Speaking	Amber Chambers, Teton FFA Chapter
Veterinary Science	Meridian FFA Chapter



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Focus on Agriculture

Labeling Helps Consumers Make Healthy Choices ... or Does It?

By Robert Giblin

Food labeling can give helpful information to consumers looking to make healthy choices. But as more foods labels pop up, consumers can too easily associate a specific label with certain health outcomes, overestimating the value and risk a label implies.

Many of today's food labels create either a "halo effect," implying the food is more healthy or nutritious than it actually is, or a "reverse halo effect," making it synonymous with being bad. Many consumers misinterpret the meanings of various labels, leading to unhealthy outcomes.

For example, celiac disease, a debilitating and sometimes fatal autoimmune disorder, is caused by a reaction to eating gluten. Only about 1 percent of Americans suffer from celiac disease, and approximately 6 percent suffer from non-celiac gluten sensitivity. Celiac and gluten-sensitivity sufferers must follow a life-long gluten-free diet, and labeling helps them identify the many products that contain gluten such as: sauces, soups, salad dressings and marinades, vitamins and supplements, medications, cosmetics and more.

Riding the tide of a reverse halo, the gluten-free industry reached sales of \$11.6 billion in 2015, and grew by 136 percent from 2013 to 2015, but many consumers seem to follow a gluten-free diet unnecessarily.

Some parents have started placing their children on gluten-free diets to relieve digestive problems or prevent celiac, but often without prior testing for the disease or consultation with a dietitian. A recent commentary in the Journal of Pediatrics warns that putting children on gluten-free diets carries more risks than benefits, if they have not been diagnosed with gluten sensitivity or celiac disease. Packaged gluten-



free foods are often higher in fat and sugar than products that contain gluten, and many are not fortified with vitamins and minerals, so the gluten-free diet can actually lead to nutritional deficiencies. According to the Journal, some people become obese or overweight after starting a gluten-free diet.

A recent market study showed that nearly half of Americans feel a gluten-free diet is a fad, yet 25 percent deliberately consume gluten-free foods. According to a 2015 survey of more than 1,500 American adults, 35 percent said there was "no reason" for their selecting gluten-free foods, followed by 26 percent who called it a "healthier option." Gluten sensitivity was the least common reason, cited by only 8 percent.

Similar halos and reverse halos impact perceptions and consumption of other products. While "low fat" foods are often good choices, people will often overlook other nutritional information showing the snacks and other foods they're eating are high in calories or sodium. Because of the "low fat" claim, consumers feel they are allowed to eat more. Some studies have shown that people opting for "low fat" snacks ultimately consumed more calories than those opt-

ing for regular snacks.

The claims also extend to other food-related behaviors. In one study, people who bought reusable shopping bags were shown to be more supportive of organic farming, but at the same time bought more candy and chips, feeling more deserving and less guilty about indulging because of their societal contribution.

While the organic label merely designates a production process, studies have shown that consumers misinterpret the label, thinking products are healthier, safer, and more nutritious than non-organic counterparts. Studies have also shown that when presented with identical products, consumers will claim the organic labeled product tastes better.

The language of labels is having a big influence on consumer food choices, but it also shows the power of language to substitute for real knowledge about food and basic nutrition and the implications of the choices consumers make.

Robert Giblin writes, speaks and consults about agricultural and food industry issues, policies and trends.

Grain Market Makes Wide Swings in June

By Clark Johnston

What a ride the month of June gave us. For those of you that were studying the market you saw that the wheat futures moved \$1.10 per bushel during the first three weeks of the month. When I say that the market moved you need to know that it wasn't all to the upside but rather we traded 55 cents higher and then back 55 cents lower.

During this time frame the carry charge in the market remained steady with the Chicago December futures trading at a 30 plus cent carry to the July contract. As the futures moved higher we did see producers contract their wheat for delivery into the deferred months thus capturing not only the higher market but also the carry. With the carry as large as it is we even had producers contract for delivery after the first of the year.

This move in the futures was in line with the historical charts. If we continue to follow these charts we could see the board strengthen as we move into our local harvest. The other indicators to watch would be the technical studies. For instance, on the 20th of April the Relative strength index reached 71 (which is an indication that the market is overbought and we could see some resistance or a correction in the market).

At that point the market did correct moving 50 cents lower before finding some support. The same contract month did hit an RSI of 71 again on the 8th of June and then once again the futures moved lower to the tune of 60 cents.

I wouldn't want you to think the RSI is an exact science because it is far from that but, it is a good indicator for producers to use when looking for opportunities to contract wheat. For instance, the RSI doesn't always reach the level of 70 or higher but when it does you need to take it serious. Remember, you may not like the price but, that may be all the market is going to give you this year.

We are seeing some reports of reduced wheat production in other areas in the world which could open the door for the US to increase export sales this marketing year. On the other side of the coin the US corn crop is once again looking to be a very good crop which could limit the amount of wheat that will move into the feed market. Every marketing year presents us with new opportunities as well as challenges and your marketing plan should include looking for the opportunities.

I realize that every day you have unexpected challenges that take place within your operation. Some of these need to be corrected immediately taking you away from your marketing time but, as we experienced in June the market isn't going to give you a week to decide whether or not to contract your commodities.

This is why you should have your plan written down and at least carry some notes with you to remind you of what your plan is. This will help to take the emotion out of your marketing so that when you have a half a dozen other things on your mind you just need to look at your notes as well as the market and you can follow through



Clark Johnston

with your plan. This will help to eliminate any hesitation which allows the market to move back lower (which happens more times than not).

The heating oil market followed the historical trend higher from the end of January through the first of June. The historical trend from now into the month of September is higher before moving back lower into the end of the year. If you need additional fuel for the July through September time frame you should talk to your diesel distributor about booking a few gallons to make it into the fall. If we see the market start to trail off as we move into early fall then you could work off of the bottom of your tank into December.

For more information on how to use the futures markets and the local basis in your marketing plans contact your Farm Bureau Federation Representative or call the Federation office in Pocatello.

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@jcmangement.net

FARM TOUR

Continued from page 13



Bob Olson, who operates a large farm in the Porthill area, gave a presentation about the dike system of the Kootenai River

and got off at the river bank there. While there, they listened to a presentation given by Bob Olson, a third generation farmer who operates a 3,000 acre farm near the Canadian border. Mr. Olson has lived through and witnessed years of Kootenai River flooding. His presentation was about the dike inserts around the river banks. Mr. Olson said there had to be miles of dikes for both sides of the river banks, partly because the river twists so much. The dikes were built onto the banks to help protect the farms on surrounding lands from high water charges. It was interesting to hear his observation that the land around the river is highest at the river edge. He said that the biggest flood was in 1892, and the most recent and likely last floods from the Kootenai River were in the late



Lee Colson, with the U.S. Forest Service, gave a demonstration showing how forest management can lower the risk for wildfire.

1960's. When Libby Dam was built upriver in Montana, it helped to control flooding of the river. Formerly when flooding was prominent, kids used to go on dike patrol for flood watch, Mr. Olson said.

Learning about the role of forest management in fire prevention

Next, the Farm Tour went to the Houck Farm located north of Boundary County. The people first watched a forestry demonstration up close to show the impact of keeping forests managed effectively. The demonstration, presented by Lee Colson of the U.S. Forest Service, was a diorama of two miniature forests. Keeping everything safe and contained, Mr. Colson lit the two forest comparisons on fire and watched them go up in flames. The wild-looking

example caught everything on fire in less than 20 seconds, and the cleaner one took a couple of minutes. Mr. Colson made his point clear about the importance of forest management, and after elaborating more on the subject, he gave a Q & A session.

The presentation on the causes of Boundary County's forest fires of last summer was intriguing. One cause mentioned was all of the peat found underground in the Copeland Valley and around the mountains in that area. It was hypothesized that all of the peat had come from the debris of the last ice age when the glaciers carved through the area.

Interestingly, the group was informed that peat has attributes similar to those of charcoal. The peat is actually a compressed layer of organic matter under the ground, extending anywhere from the surface to 10 feet below. It acts as an unrelinquishing chamber to hold fire.

When the peat gets hot it burns underground, even if the surface with existing vegetation is cool. The peat can burn for miles underground, which is scary because the peat is always hot and ready to ignite the surface. Sparks would then seem to come from nowhere when a fire starts, but the cause is the peat. Farmers in the area knew of the peat, but were unaware of its damaging effects.

While waiting for lunch to arrive, people were also able to get a good look at the noxious weeds invasive to North Idaho. There was a display board showing noxious weeds in the area, and why they shouldn't get out of hand.

Visiting the Houck Farm

After lunch was finished and the rain had passed, the group listened to Tim Dillin talk about the Houck Farm, started by his grandfather, and all of the renovations it has gone through. In addition to being a long-time farmer in Boundary County, Mr. Dillin serves on the Board of the Soil



The Farm Bureau's annual Farm Tour stopped at several interesting places around Boundary County.

Conservation District, one of the groups who annually organizes the Farm Tour. The Houck Farm is about 1,600 acres. The crops grown on the farm include wheat, barley, canola, garbanzo beans, and new experiments with quinoa.

The farm has a lot of local support in the Bonner and Boundary County areas. Woods Meat of the Bonner County area is one client, feeding barley from the Houck Farm to their cattle. The farm's flour also reaches the shelves of local grocery stores, health food stores, a restaurant, and other merchants in both the Sandpoint and Bonners Ferry areas. The newly constructed flour mill on the farm started out just as a hobby, but as you can see in the photograph, their mill developed so much business that sales took off.

Mark Awbrey, an employee of Houck Farm, along with Jeff Hood, explained that the tractors are all linked to about 13 different satellites that map out where the tractor needs to go. This maps out the routes for the tractors so that the crops are harvested perfectly, and they aren't being damaged by being driven over twice. In fact, the tractors have a built-in mode to drive

themselves when you punch your desired route into the system. Participants got to test this when they let individuals ride in the auto-driven tractor to see for themselves that it does indeed work! One large tractor had multiple attachments with two commodity tanks and a 36 foot long harvester.

Originally published on News-BF (www.newsbf.com)

Mary Fioravanti is 16, soon to be a senior at Bonners Ferry High School, and a resident of Boundary County. Mary was recently elected Vice President of the Bonners Ferry FFA Chapter as well as North Idaho FFA District Reporter. She holds the position of 1st Runner Up in the local

2016 Distinguished Young Women, and is currently participating in a summer theatre youth group presenting "Back to the 80's." She has been an avid member of the Bonners Ferry High School Honor Choir for the last 3 years with her hobby and passion being music. Mary's future goals include studying Business, Internet Marketing, and Food/Plant Science at the University of Idaho.



Products from the flour mill at the Houck Farm near Copeland.



Participants on the Farm Tour learned about noxious weeds in Idaho.



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Burley 208-678-5111

Butterfield Express
Pocatello 208-238-1575

Grizzly Sports
Caldwell 208-454-8508

High Mark Recreation
Boise 208-343-2830

Northstar's Ultimate Outdoors
Preston 208-852-1888

Rexburg Motorsports
Rexburg 208-356-4000

Woodside Motorsports
Hailey 208-788-4005

Action Cycles N Sleds
Twin Falls 208-736-8118

Bud's Saw Service
Cottonwood 208-962-3211

Carls Cycle Sales
Boise 208-853-5550

Guys Outdoor
Lewiston 208-746-0381

Hinson Powersports
McCall 208-634-7007

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Ashton 208-652-7738

Sandpoint Marine
Sandpoint 208-263-1535

Krehbiel's Sales and Service
Aberdeen 208-397-4704



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County Happenings



Robert Bloomsburg, right, was awarded a scholarship by the Kootenai/Shoshone Farm Bureau to attend UI next fall. He will be a freshman majoring in Animal Vet Science. County President Joe Dobson presented the check.



Smoky the Bear learns how to milk a cow at the Bonner County Elementary Pre-Fair.

Photo by Bob Smathers



Bonneville County Farm Bureau saw a large turnout for their summer barbecue this year.



American Farm Bureau Federation Staff members Lyndsey Murphy, right, and Kari Barbic, second from right, discuss direct marketing with Bingham County farmers Sterling Hatch, and his wife Manu, in early June. AFBF is gathering farm profile information from Farm Bureau members in several states.

Photo by John Thompson



All-American July 4th Cookout Ticks Up, Still Under \$6

A cookout of Americans' favorite foods for the Fourth of July, including hot dogs, cheeseburgers, pork spare ribs, potato salad, baked beans, lemonade and chocolate milk, will cost slightly more this year but still comes in at less than \$6 per person, says the American Farm Bureau Federation.

Farm Bureau's informal survey reveals the average cost of a summer cookout for 10 people is \$56.06, or \$5.61 per person.

Although the cost for the cookout is up slightly (less than 1 percent), "Prices in the meat case are starting to look better from the consumers' perspective," said Veronica Nigh, an AFBF economist. "Retail ground round prices are trending lower," she noted, pointing to the nation's cattle in-

ventory and commercial beef production, which continue to rebound from dramatically low levels in 2014 and 2015.

In addition, "On the pork side, commercial production also continues to grow and is at the highest level in 25 years," Nigh said. Spare rib prices are about the same as a year ago, while the amount of product in cold storage is up 121 percent, Nigh pointed out. "This is helping mediate the normal seasonal upswing in spare rib prices we typically see around the July 4th festivities," she said.

AFBF's summer cookout menu for 10 people consists of hot dogs and buns, cheeseburgers and buns, pork spare ribs, deli potato salad, baked beans, corn chips, lemonade, chocolate milk, ketchup, mus-

tard and watermelon for dessert.

Commenting on factors driving the slight increase in retail watermelon prices, Nigh said, "While watermelons are grown across the U.S., most come from four states – Texas, Florida, Georgia and California – which together produce approximately 44 percent of the U.S. crop. Shipments of watermelons are down nearly 8 percent compared to the same time period last year," she said.

U.S. milk production is up 1 percent compared to the same period last year. During the first quarter of 2016 (January-March), U.S. milk production reached historic levels, putting significant downward pressure on the price farmers receive for their milk.

Nigh said the increase in the price of

cheese slices highlights the spread in prices that often occurs between values at the farm, wholesale, and retail stages of the production and marketing chain.

A total of 79 Farm Bureau members (volunteer shoppers) in 26 states checked retail prices for summer cookout foods at their local grocery stores for this informal survey.

The summer cookout survey is part of the Farm Bureau market-basket series, which also includes the popular annual Thanksgiving Dinner Cost Survey and two additional surveys of common food staples Americans use to prepare meals at home.

The year-to-year direction of the marketbasket survey tracks closely with the federal government's Consumer Price Index report for food at home. As retail grocery prices have increased gradually over time, the share of the average food dollar that America's farm and ranch families receive has dropped.

"Through the mid-1970s, farmers received about one-third of consumer retail food expenditures for food eaten at home and away from home, on average. Since then, that figure has decreased steadily and is now about 17 percent, according to the Agriculture Department's revised Food Dollar Series," Nigh said.

Using the "food at home and away from home" percentage across-the-board, the farmer's share of this \$56.06 marketbasket would be \$9.53.



July 4th Cookout for 10 Costs Slightly More

Items	Amount	2014 Price	2015 Price	2016 Price	% change
Ground Round	2 pounds	\$ 8.91	\$ 9.10	\$ 8.80	- 3.3%
Pork Spare Ribs	4 pounds	\$13.91	\$13.44	\$13.36	- 0.6%
Hot Dogs	1 pound	\$ 2.23	\$ 2.19	\$ 2.09	- 4.6%
Deli Potato Salad	3 pounds	\$ 8.80	\$ 8.58	\$ 8.76	2.1%
Baked Beans	28 ounces	\$ 1.96	\$ 1.83	\$ 1.90	3.8%
Corn Chips	15 ounces	\$ 3.37	\$ 3.26	\$ 3.17	- 2.8%
Lemonade	0.5 gallon	\$ 2.00	\$ 2.05	\$ 2.04	0.5%
Chocolate Milk	0.5 gallon	\$ 2.82	\$ 2.65	\$ 2.50	- 5.7%
Watermelon	4 pounds	\$ 4.53	\$ 4.21	\$ 4.49	6.7%
Hot Dog Buns	1 package	\$ 1.63	\$ 1.57	\$ 1.61	2.5%
Hamburger Buns	1 package	\$ 1.68	\$ 1.50	\$ 1.59	6.0%
Ketchup	20 ounces	\$ 1.36	\$ 1.46	\$ 1.44	1.4%
Mustard	16 ounces	\$ 1.25	\$ 1.14	\$ 1.24	8.8%
American Cheese	1 pound	\$ 3.12	\$ 2.86	\$ 3.07	7.3%
Total		\$ 57.57	\$ 55.84	\$ 56.06	0.4%
Per Person	10	\$ 5.76	\$ 5.58	\$ 5.61	0.4%

American Farm Bureau Federation®

2016 Summer Cookout

TOTAL \$56.06
Up less than 1% compared to a year ago.

SUMMER COOKOUT MENU FOR 10 PEOPLE:

- 8 hot dogs (1-pound) and buns
- 8 ¼-pound hamburgers (2 pounds pre-cooked weight) and buns w/cheese slices
- Pork spare ribs (4 pounds)
- Ketchup and mustard
- Deli potato salad (3 pounds)
- Baked beans (28 ounces)
- Corn chips (15 ounces)
- Lemonade, 2 quarts
- Chocolate milk, 2 quarts
- Watermelon for dessert (4 pounds)

Source/Graphic: American Farm Bureau Federation® newsroom.fb.org



This program is not insurance. This program is contracted dental rates with participating dentists for Idaho Farm Bureau members who are paying out-of-pocket.

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The dental benefit program provides a
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off an averaged dental fee schedule



www.dentalbenefitprogram.com

Use Group ID # IFBF as you activate your benefit online to receive your Patient ID#. Immediately upon activation, you will be able to log in and view all participating general and specialty dentists and the discounted fees. Within a few days a Dental Benefit Card will be mailed directly to you.

For further questions, contact the Dental Benefit Program at: **888-397-6453**

We are glad you are a part of the Idaho Farm Bureau and hope you take advantage of this valuable program.



Farm Service Agency County Committee Nomination Period Begins June 15

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) recently announced the opening of a nomination period for farmers and ranchers to serve on local Farm Service Agency (FSA) county committees beginning Wednesday, June 15, 2016.

“Through the county committees, farmers and ranchers have a voice. Their opinions and ideas get to be heard on federal farm programs,” said FSA Administrator Val Dolcini. “I encourage all eligible farmers and ranchers across the spectrum of American agriculture, to get involved in this year’s elections. We have seen an increase in the number of qualified nominees, especially among women and minorities, and I hope that trend continues.”

To be eligible to serve on a FSA county committee, a person must participate or cooperate in an FSA administered program, be eligible to vote in a county committee election and reside in the local administrative area where they are nominated.

Farmers and ranchers may nominate themselves or others. Organizations representing minorities and women also may nominate candidates. To become a candidate, an eligible individual must sign an FSA-669A nomination form. The form and other information about FSA county committee elections are available at www.fsa.usda.gov/elections. 2016

nomination forms must be postmarked or received in the local USDA Service Center by close of business on Aug. 1, 2016.

FSA will mail election ballots to eligible voters beginning Nov. 7, 2016. Ballots must be returned to the local county office via mail or in person by Dec. 5, 2016. Newly-elected committee members and alternates will take office on Jan. 1, 2017.

Nationwide, there are approximately 7,800 farmers and ranchers serving on FSA county committees. These individuals make decisions on disaster and conservation programs, emergency programs, commodity price support loan programs, and other agricultural issues. Committees consist of three to 11 members that are elected by eligible producers, and members serve three-year terms.

To learn more about county committees, contact your local FSA county office or visit <http://offices.usda.gov> to find a county office near you.

Since 2009, USDA has worked to strengthen and support American agriculture, an industry that supports one in 11 American jobs, provides American consumers with more than 80 percent of the food we consume, ensures that Americans spend less of their

paychecks at the grocery store than most people in other countries, and supports markets for homegrown renewable energy and materials. USDA has also provided \$5.6 billion in disaster relief to farmers and ranchers; expanded risk management tools with products like Whole Farm Revenue Protection; and helped farm businesses grow with \$36 billion in farm credit. The Department has engaged its resources to support a strong next generation of farmers and ranchers by improving access

to land and capital; building new markets and market opportunities; and extending new conservation opportunities. USDA has developed new markets for rural-made products, including more than 2,500 biobased products through USDA’s BioPreferred program; and invested \$64 billion in infrastructure and community facilities to help improve the quality of life in rural America. For more information, visit www.usda.gov/results.

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Farm Bureau Asks Congress to Save Rangelands

Congress must act quickly to keep fast-growing herds of feral horses and burros from further damaging the environment of the western United States, the American Farm Bureau Federation said today. At current rates, AFBF said, their already excessive numbers will double in a mere four years. Callie Hendrickson, chair of AFBF's Federal Lands Issue Advisory Committee, testified before the House Natural Resources Subcommittee on Federal Lands. Hendrickson also serves as executive director of the White River and Douglas Creek Conservation Districts in Rio Blanco County, Colorado.

"The rangeland of the West has its share

of unique natural resource challenges, not least of which is the burden it carries of an overpopulation of wild horses and burros," Hendrickson said. "This overabundance is critically damaging the ecology of western rangelands with severe, long-term consequences for the native plant and animal life that call it home."

Even though law requires it, the Bureau of Land Management has neither the money nor the ability to fairly balance wild horse and burro populations so that other wildlife, livestock and vegetation can thrive. Ranchers face rapidly shrinking grazing allotments while continuing to pay for the allotments they once had lest they lose

them – if and when the grazing lands recover from severe overgrazing by feral horses and burros.

"Populations of wild horses and burros have been allowed to grow at a rate that in many places exceeds six times their authorized management level," Hendrickson told the subcommittee. "This situation has not only led to widespread degradation of western rangelands, but has also had devastating effects on the health of the animals themselves who often face dehydration, starvation and death ... The need for congressional intervention cannot be overstated."

Game Promotes Math, Social Science Skills

The American Farm Bureau Foundation for Agriculture and the National Peanut Board, along with state peanut producer and industry organizations, have launched a new My American Farm game geared for students in grades 3-5. Playing the Operation Peanut Butter game online allows students to follow peanuts from the field to the peanut butter on their sandwiches.

"While playing Operation Peanut Butter, students will have the chance to not only learn about the production of peanut butter, but also the value that peanut butter has as an ideal food to feed the hungry because of its protein content and long shelf life," said Julie Tesch, executive director of the Foundation. "Along with the game, we've also created a lesson plan that will allow students to dive deeper into the role peanuts play in the nitrogen cycle," she added.

In addition to science, math and social

science skills, students will also have the opportunity to enhance their English Language Arts skills by reading about peanuts while playing the game.

"We are proud to debut this educational online resource as an enjoyable way for children to learn where their food comes from. Discovering how peanuts are grown, harvested and processed connects us all to the nutritious and delicious qualities of peanuts and peanut butter," said Cathy Johnson, marketing and communications associate at the National Peanut Board.

The Operation Peanut Butter game, lesson plan and activity sheet, along with other agricultural-based learning resources, are available at www.myamericanfarm.org.

The American Farm Bureau Foundation for Agriculture was founded in 1967 and works to educate the public about the im-

portance of agriculture and reconnect them with the people who grow their food through educational outreach and learning resources.

The National Peanut Board was founded in 2001 and is funded by America's 7,000 peanut farming families. The board funds production research, stimulates new uses for U.S.-grown peanuts and drives demand for the commodity.

The My American Farm educational resource is a special project of the American Farm Bureau Foundation for Agriculture. The site and resources are made possible through the generous support of title sponsor, DuPont Pioneer. To take advantage of the free My American Farm resources, games and activities, visit <http://myamericanfarm.org>.

AFBF Statement on GMO Labeling Legislation

“There are no - and never have been any - documented health risks from genetically engineered food in the marketplace. The American Farm Bureau Federation continues to oppose mandatory food labels that are not necessary for health or safety reasons. We also oppose a patchwork of state-by-state labeling rules. We are reviewing this legislative proposal, and over

the next few days will determine how it fits with our policy. We will also assess its impact on farmers’ abilities to use modern agricultural technology to produce more, high-quality food.

“We appreciate Chairman Roberts’ diligence in taking action prior to the Vermont law’s going into effect. This deal clearly

seeks to prevent a 50-state mismatched quilt of differing labeling standards. But the mandatory feature holds significant potential to contribute to confusion and unnecessary alarm. Regardless of the outcome, we continue to believe a national, voluntary standard remains the best approach. Our board will deliver a decision soon.”

MN Farm Bureau Testifies, Supports Trade Deals

Kevin Paap, president of the Minnesota Farm Bureau and board member of the American Farm Bureau Federation, recently described a litany of trade barriers faced by farmers and ranchers in a hearing of the House Ways and Means Trade Subcommittee.

In response, Paap asked Congress to approve the Trans-Pacific Partnership trade agreement while supporting ongoing negotiations toward a successful Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership with the European Union.

AFBF estimates U.S. farmers and ranchers will gain \$4.4 billion in yearly profits from passage of the Trans-Pacific Partnership alone - profits that have taken on special importance during the ongoing farm

downturn.

“Expanding our trade opportunities happens through tariff reduction and removal, and by the adoption of science-based standards for international agricultural and food trade,” said Paap, who also chairs AFBF’s Trade Advisory Committee.

American producers will see significant reductions in trade barriers if the TPP is approved. Japan, for instance, has agreed to slash tariffs on U.S. beef from 38.5 percent to nine percent over 16 years.

Canada will also open its market to more U.S. agricultural products by reducing restrictions on dairy, poultry and eggs from the U.S. Under the agreement, American dairy producers will gain access to 3.25 percent of the Canadian dairy market over

five years. Canada will also allow imports of duty-free U.S. eggs up to 2.3 percent of domestic production.

Paap also backed progress towards a similar pact with the EU, the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership. He cited rising anti-science sentiment as a major obstacle to American goods abroad.

“The EU was once the largest destination for U.S. agricultural exports,” Paap said. “Today, it has fallen to our fifth-largest export market. Tariff and regulatory barriers have become a significant impediment to increased exports. These negotiations must result in a modern, science- and risk-based approach to food safety, based on international standards, which can truly settle disputes.”

Reducing RFS, Bad for Environment and Economy

The Environmental Protection Agency must protect the Renewable Fuel Standard as Congress originally defined it nearly a decade ago, Iowa farmer Randy Caviness told the EPA at a public hearing recently. He testified on behalf of Iowa Farm Bureau and the American Farm Bureau Federation.

“EPA’s decision not to follow the intent of Congress in the 2007 RFS is highly disappointing to all of agriculture,” said Caviness, who also serves as a member of AFBF Issue’s Advisory Committee on Energy. “This decision strikes a blow to con-

ventional ethanol production and dampens the prospects for the further development of advanced biofuels.”

Caviness is a firm believer in clean energy, and his farm is proof of it. He has farmed for 28 years without energy-intensive tilling and leads initiatives to install wind turbines in his home county of Adair and neighboring Cass County.

Caviness told EPA that renewable fuels are an American success story and critical to keeping our nation moving forward in reducing dependence on foreign oil and pro-

viding well-paying jobs in rural America. EPA’s proposal to reduce the RFS would hurt agriculture and rural economies at a time when farmers are already struggling with a down-turned economy.

“Our nation’s farmers can grow more bushels of corn and soybeans on fewer acres to feed and fuel the world,” Caviness said. “But if these reduced volumes are finalized, this decision will stall growth and progress in renewable fuels as well as the broader agricultural economy.”



Idaho News Briefs

NW Region Potato Stocks

Potato stocks in Idaho on June 1, 2016 totaled 21.5 million cwt. Disappearance of the Idaho crop to date was 109 million cwt. June 1 potato stocks in Oregon totaled 3.0 million cwt. Disappearance to date was 18.8 million cwt. In Washington, June 1 potato stocks totaled 11.5 million cwt. Disappearance to date totaled 88.8 million cwt. Nationally, the 13 major potato States held 52.2 million cwt of potatoes in storage June 1, 2016, down 7 percent from last year. Potatoes in storage accounted for 13 percent of the 2015 fall storage States'

production, down slightly from previous year. Potato disappearance, at 346 million cwt, was up 2 percent from June 1, 2015. Season-to-date shrink and loss, at 24.0 million cwt, was 6 percent lower than 2015.

Processors in Idaho and Malheur County, Oregon used 68.4 million cwt of potatoes for the season, down 3 percent from June 1, 2015. In Washington and other Oregon counties, 74.3 million cwt of potatoes had been used by processors for the season, up 3 percent from the previous year. Processors in the 9 major States used 181.7 million cwt of potatoes for the season, down slightly

from June 1, 2015. Dehydrated usage accounted for 35.1 million cwt of the total potatoes processed.

Intermountain Energy Summit

Two Department of Energy assistant secretaries will be among the headliners of the 3rd Annual Intermountain Energy Summit Aug. 9–10 in Idaho Falls. John Kotek, Assistant Secretary for Nuclear Energy, and David Friedman, who will soon become the acting Assistant Secretary for the Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, will bookend what has come to be known as "Federal Morning" on the summit's second day. Rep. Mike Simpson, chairman of the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Water and Energy also will speak

Steve Curwood, Host and Producer of National Public Radio's Living on Earth program will keynote day two. Opening day keynote speaker will be Michael Shellenberger, co-founder of the energy think tank Breakthrough Institute. Other speakers are a who's who of energy, including U.S. Sen. Mike Crapo; Jonathan Weisgall, vice president of Berkshire Hathaway Energy; Mark Peters, director of the Idaho National Laboratory; and Susan Petty, president of the geothermal company AltaRock.

For details and to register, visit: www.intermountainenergysummit.com



National News Briefs

Hop Acreage Record High at U.S. Level

Area strung for harvest in 2016 for Washington, Oregon, and Idaho is forecast at 51,115 acres, 17 percent more than the 2015 crop of 43,633 acres. Washington, with 37,475 acres for harvest, accounts for 73 percent of the U.S. total acreage. Oregon hop growers plan to string 7,669 acres, or 15 percent of the U.S. total for 2016, with Idaho hop growers accounting for the remaining 12 percent, or 5,971 acres strung for harvest. All three states hop acreage increased from 2015. If realized this would be record high acreage for Idaho and Washington, and at the U.S.

level, dating back to 1915.

The 2016 crop in the Pacific Northwest looks good. Pest pressure is normal, however erratic weather has resulted in higher disease pressure from downy and powdery mildew. Water supplies are currently projected to be adequate across the region. Warm spring weather resulted in early runoff of Cascade Mountain snowpack, but current irrigation water projections for the Yakima Valley are at 86 percent. With efficient drip irrigation systems, growers are expected to have minimal impact unless future weather conditions result in further reductions.

Families are the core of Corporate Farming

Corporate is not a term folks naturally tie to the farm, but the benefits of corporate farming can be significant, wrote Katie Heger. "Corporate farming in America's farmland is now facing, it makes good business sense to open the door for investors or partnerships that would assist farmers in their ability to persevere and possibly boost their businesses and rural economies."

Heger also notes that creating farm corporations can open up more opportunities for direct family involvement on the farm. "The ability to use the corporate structure is one way to bring upcoming generations back into production agriculture and ranching instead of pushing them away."

New Pizza Ag Mag Debuts

Mamma Mia! That's one tasty resource! Engage students with the American Farm Bureau Foundation for Agriculture's (standards aligned) nonfiction text reader for students in grades 3-5. The *Pizza Ag Mag* helps students learn about the agricultural origins of their favorite food. A Spanish version also is available. <http://www.agfoundation.org/news/new-pizza-ag-mag-is-a-delicious-way-to-engage-students>

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FARM BUREAU COMMODITY REPORT

GRAIN PRICES	5/20/2016	6/24/2016 NEW CROP	Trend
PORTLAND:			
White Wheat	5.22-5.32	No Bid	N/A
11% Winter	5.21-5.29	4.92	-.29 to -.37
14% Spring	6.17-6.32	6.07-6.27	-.10 to -.5
Oats	270.00	270.00	Steady

OGDEN:			
White Wheat	4.32	4.25	-.07
11% Winter	4.09	3.91	-.18
14% Spring	5.32	5.26	-.06
Barley	6.90	6.15	-.75

BLACKFOOT/ IDAHO FALLS			
White Wheat	4.10	3.70	-.40
11.5% Winter	4.15	3.90	-.25
14% Spring	5.05	4.90	-.15
Hard White	4.50	4.10	-.40

BURLEY:			
White Wheat	3.95	3.90	-.05
11% Winter	3.53	3.41	-.12
14% Spring	5.08	4.81	-.27
Barley	6.00	5.50	-.50

NAMPA:			
White Wheat (cwt)	6.90	7.10	+ .20
(Bushel)	4.14	4.26	+ .12

LEWISTON:			
White Wheat	4.95	5.23	+ .28
H. Red Winter	4.99	4.81	-.18
Dark N. Spring	5.97	5.81	-.16
Barley	126.50	126.50	Steady

LIVESTOCK PRICES	5/20/2016	6/24/2016	Trend
FEEDER STEERS			
Under 500 lbs	137-194	125-175	-12 to -19
500-700 lbs	135-180	120-167	-15 to -13
700-900 lbs	120-149	110-145	-10 to -4
Over 900 lbs	108-132	103-127	-5

FEEDER HEIFERS			
Under 500 lbs	137-179	125-170	-12 to -9
500-700 lbs	131-160	100-156	-31 to -4
700-900 lbs	115-143	110-134	-5 to -9
Over 900 lbs	No Test	No Test	NA

HOLSTEIN STEERS			
Under 700 lbs	91-109	No Test	NA
Over 700 lbs	92-126	No Test	NA

COWS			
Utility/Commercial	65-83	65-88	Steady to +5
Canner & Cutter	55-73	58-78	+3 to +5

Stock Cows	950-1500	950-1500	Steady
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BULLS			
Slaughter	73-105	78-108	+5 to +3

BEAN PRICES:			
Pinto	25.00-28.00	25.00-30.00	Steady to +2.00
Pink	Not established	Not established	Not established
Small Red	Not established	Not established	Not established
Garbanzo	32.00-35.00	32.00-35.00	Steady

COMPILED BY THE IDAHO FARM BUREAU COMMODITY DIVISION

IDAHO HAY REPORT

USDA Market News, Moses Lake, WA

June 24, 2016

Tons: 6000 Last Week: 800 Last Year: 7000

Compared to last Friday: All grades of Alfalfa weak. Trade slow to moderate with light to moderate demand. Retail/feed store/horse not tested this week. All prices are dollars per ton and FOB the farm or ranch unless otherwise stated.

Alfalfa	Tons	Price	Wtd Avg
Mid Square			
Supreme	2000	125.00-137.00	131.00
Premium/Supreme	400	115.00-115.00	115.00
Premium	400	130.00-130.00	130.00
Good/Premium	3000	130.00-130.00	130.00
Good	200	105.00-105.00	105.00

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

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

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

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

POTATOES & ONIONS

June 21, 2016

Potatoes

UPPER VALLEY, TWIN FALLS-BURLEY DISTRICT, IDAHO--- Shipments 542-649-670 (includes exports of 6-4-7)---Movement expected to remain about the same. Trading bales slow, others moderate. Prices lower. Russet Burbank U.S. One baled 10-5 pound film bags non size A mostly 4.50-5.00; 50-pound carton 40-70s mostly 11.00, 80s 10.00-10.50, 90-100s mostly 8.50. *revised.

Potatoes for Processing

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

Onions

Movement expected to remain about the same. No prices reported.RT.

5 YEAR GRAIN COMPARISON

Grain Prices	6/25/2012	6/25/2013	6/25/2014	6/23/2015	6/24/2016
Portland:					
White Wheat	7.33	N.Q.	6.95	N.Q.	N.Q.
11% Winter	7.63-7.93	8.20-8.58	7.99	6.11-6.20	4.92
14% Spring	9.38	9.12	8.35	7.57	6.07-6.27
Corn	282-284.25	275.00	280.00	265.00	270.00

Ogden:

White Wheat	6.60	6.55	5.85	5.67	4.25
11% Winter	6.51	6.65	6.77	5.09	3.91
14% Spring	7.84	7.79	6.50	6.46	5.26
Barley	10.20	9.31	7.50	5.70	6.15

Pocatello/Blackfoot:

White Wheat	6.25	6.10	5.60	5.30	3.70
11% Winter	6.06	6.63	6.63	5.20	3.90
14% Spring	7.95	7.47	6.34	6.06	4.90
Barley	10.10	9.16	No Bid	5.40	4.10

Burley:

White Wheat	6.36	6.35	5.40	5.17	3.90
11% Winter	6.11	6.34	6.30	4.90	3.41
14% Spring	7.51	7.28	6.50	5.71	4.81
Barley	9.50	9.75	7.50	4.75	5.50

Nampa:

White Wheat (cwt)	10.60	7.00	10.25	9.28	7.10
(bushel)	6.36	6.40	6.15	5.57	4.26

Lewiston:

White Wheat	7.10	7.15	6.80	5.85	5.23
Barley	204.50	216.50	171.50	131.50	126.50

Bean Prices:

Pintos	50.00	34.00-35.00	34.00-35.00	24.00	25.00-30.00
Pinks	45.00-48.00	38.00-40.00	No Quote	No Quote	No Quote
Small Reds	N/A	38.00-40.00	No Quote	40.00	No Quote

MILK PRODUCTION

June 21, 2016

May Milk Production up 1.2 Percent

Milk production in the 23 major States during May totaled 17.5 billion pounds, up 1.2 percent from May 2015. April revised production, at 16.8 billion pounds, was up 1.1 percent from April 2015. The April revision represented a decrease of 13 million pounds or 0.1 percent from last month's preliminary production estimate.

Production per cow in the 23 major States averaged 2,019 pounds for May, 21 pounds above May 2015. This is the highest production per cow for the month of May since the 23 State series began in 2003.

The number of milk cows on farms in the 23 major States was 8.64 million head, 11,000 head more than May 2015, but unchanged from April 2016.

May Milk Production in the United States up 1.2 Percent

Milk production in the United States during May totaled 18.6 billion pounds, up 1.2 percent from May 2015.

Production per cow in the United States averaged 1,999 pounds for May, 23 pounds above May 2015.

The number of milk cows on farms in the United States was 9.33 million head, 3,000 head more than May 2015, but unchanged from April 2016.



5 YEAR LIVESTOCK COMPARISON

	6/18/2012	6/21/2013	6/24/2014	6/22/2015	6/24/2016
Under 500 lbs.....	140-189	128-162	200-265	260-342	125-175
500-700 lbs.....	131-169	120-151	195-248	210-283	120-167
700-900 lbs.....	119-155	111-136	145-217	182-240	110-145
Over 900 lbs.....	110-134	91-123	130-192	170-191	103-127
Feeder Heifers					
Under 500 lbs.....	135-165	116-143	185-251	238-285	125-170
500-700 lbs.....	129-161	110-137	170-239	195-270	100-156
700-900 lbs.....	114-141	98-127	135-201	163-205	110-134
Over 900 lbs.....	89-125	85-114	114-162	140-183	No Test
Holstein Steers					
Under 700 lbs.....	75-129	84-95	115-179	140-197	No Test
Over 700 lbs.....	75-112	69-100	125-170	130-190	No Test
Cows					
Utility/Commercial.....	65-86	60-82	88-114	85-115	65-88
Canner & Cutter.....	55-79	60-73	78-102	78-105	58-78
Stock Cows.....	1000-1300	850-1275	1200-1800	1500-2350	950-1500
Bulls – Slaughter.....	75-104	65-105	97-140	115-149	115-149

CATTLE ON FEED

June 24, 2016

United States Cattle on Feed Up 2 Percent

Cattle and calves on feed for the slaughter market in the United States for feedlots with capacity of 1,000 or more head totaled 10.8 million head on June 1, 2016. The inventory was 2 percent above June 1, 2015.

Placements in feedlots during May totaled 1.88 million head, 10 percent above 2015. Net placements were 1.81 million head. During May, placements of cattle and calves weighing less than 600 pounds were 305,000 head, 600-699 pounds were 250,000 head, 700-799 pounds were 479,000 head, and 800 pounds and greater were 850,000 head.

Marketings of fed cattle during May totaled 1.79 million head, 5 percent above 2015.

Other disappearance totaled 74,000 head during May, 4 percent below 2015.

CATTLE OUTLOOK

June 24, 2016

USDA released their June Cattle on Feed report this afternoon. It said there were 2.2% more cattle on feed than on June 1, 2015. May placements were up 9.6% and May marketings were up 4.9% compared to a year ago. The number of cattle on feed was the highest for any June since 2012. Both placements and marketings in May were above the year ago level for the fourth consecutive month. There were few surprises as the report came in very close to expectations.

There were 447 million pounds of beef in cold storage at the end of May. That is 1.4% less than the month before and 5.9% less than on May 31, 2015.

Yesterday's vote by the United Kingdom to leave the European Union has strengthened the U.S. dollar. That is likely to have a negative impact on U.S. exports.

USDA weekly crop progress report said that 9% of U.S. pastures were in poor or very poor condition as of June 19. That is up 1 point from the week before and the same as a year ago.

Fed cattle prices were lower this week in moderate volume. Through Thursday, the 5-area average price for slaughter steers sold on a live weight basis was \$116.09/cwt, down \$4.94 from last week's average and down \$32.59 from a year ago. The 5-area dressed steer price averaged \$187.82/cwt, down \$7.21 from the week before and down \$50.19 from a year ago.

This morning the choice boxed beef cutout value was \$214.00/cwt, down \$8.98 from the previous Friday and down \$40.53 from a year ago. The select carcass cutout this morning was \$198.38/cwt, down \$2.12 from last week and down \$51.30 compared to last year. The choice-select spread, \$15.62/cwt this morning, remains high

but is down from record levels earlier this month.

This week's cattle slaughter totaled 608,000 head, up 0.2% (1,000 head) from last week and up 8.8% from a year ago. The average steer dressed weight for the week ending on June 11 was 864 pounds, unchanged from the week before and down 5 pounds from a year ago.

Feeder cattle prices at Oklahoma City this week were \$2 to \$6 lower than last week. Stocker calf prices were \$10 to \$15 lower. Prices for medium and large frame #1 steers by weight group were: 400-450# \$149, 450-500# \$153, 500-550# \$144.50-\$156.50, 550-600# \$144-\$154, 600-650# \$138.50, 650-700# \$141.50-\$143, 700-750# \$132.50-\$144.50, 750-800# \$125-\$143.75, 800-900# \$130.50-\$138.75 and 900-1000# \$120-\$128.75/cwt.

The June live cattle futures contract settled at \$114.70/cwt today, down \$2.57 for the week. August fed cattle settled at \$110.87/cwt, down \$2.48 from the previous Friday. October ended the week at \$110.87/cwt.

Corn futures were sharply lower this week, which helped boost feeder cattle futures. August feeder cattle futures ended the week at \$139.45/cwt, up \$2.03 from a week earlier. October feeder cattle closed the week up \$1.35 at \$136.80/cwt.

University of Missouri

CLASSIFIEDS

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

Farm Equipment

2 — Thunderbird wheel moves - \$3500 a piece or \$6000 for both. Butte county, ID 208-243-0786.

15 gallon weed sprayer w/8 ft spray. Fits on 4 wheeler. \$100. Heyburn, Id 208-678-1601.

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

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

Household

Pioneer 55" HD TV & Pioneer Receiver - Older cabinet model. Very nice. Sold As-Is Condition. \$275. Shelley. Call 528-5337.

Outdoor wood furnace for sale. Includes radiators, pex line, and pumps. Best way to heat your home and hot water. Can add heat to a barn or shop as well! Extremely efficient. Stove sits outside and is safe! John 208-781-0691.

Miscellaneous

Cemetery plots in Fielding cemetery in Idaho Falls. 6 plots reduced to \$350 each. Call 208-681-3454.

Old Fashion German Sausage Stuffer (good condition) \$50.00; 15 ft log chain \$20.00 obo. Heyburn, Id 208-678-1601.

Real Estate/Acreage

6 acres horse pasture with a cabin built for 2. Located on a quiet road in Moreland, Id. Leave message. 208-242-7716.

Lot for Sale - 3/4 Acre Country Lot. City water, Gas, Utilities available. \$30,000. Shelley area. Call 528-5337.

1 bedroom farmhouse, phone. non GMO garden, St. Maries, Idaho, 350/month. 1 acre RV site, garden, electric. 150/month. For Sale, 5 acre cabin site, 35k, owner carry. No Drugs. Call Thor: 509 341- 9135

Real Estate/Acreage

Beautiful building lots or camping spot you can own with views of mountains and trees on west side of historic gold town Sumpter, Oregon. We are told the pond on this property has never been dredged. Call: 208-482-6828.

Hagerman Valley Turn-Key Horse Ranch - Level 4.7+- acres, views to Hagerman Fossil Beds. One mile to boat docks on Snake River. Fishing, waterfowl hunting nearby. Two bedroom, two bath older doublewide. Four car garage, studio. Large pines, orchard. \$160,000. (208) 539 2261.

19 acres, fenced and flood irrigated. Planted into hay. 28x66 mobile home, not on a foundation, outbuilding. \$160,000. Owner will not finance. Shelley, Id. 208-244-2022.

5 acres horse property in Bouse, AZ (Located between Quartzsite and Parker, AZ) Furnished turnkey 2 bed, 2 bath mobile home with awning, decks. \$100,000. Call 208-436-1941 or 670-4908.

Vehicles & Recreation

2010 Harley Davidson Ultra Classic. 96Cl motor and 6 speed transmission. Black. \$12,253 miles. \$16,500. Pocatello, Id. Call Mike at 208-241-5312.

35 foot motorhome for sale in American Falls. 1996 Georgie Boy Cruisemaster. 40,000 miles, great condition, everything works. 5KW generator with 20 hours, self-contained, sleeps 6, Chevrolet 400 engine. Recently serviced. \$15,000. Call 208-406-4540.

2003 White Harley Davidson Road King Classic. Very good condition. 36,500 miles, no body damage. Extra parts attached to bike. Clear title. \$7,500 obo. Pictures available. Call Jim at 208-244-2022.

1978 MGB. Nice little convertible. 80K miles. Always garaged. Looks good, runs good. \$7,300/offer. Sandpoint, Id 208-255-8944.

Wanted

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

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

Wanted for parts: older gray colored metal Senco Brand Framing Nail Gun. I need nail pusher spring. 208-743-9204

Wanted

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

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.

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.

Mail ad copy to:

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Farm Bureau Price

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Purchase at select Farm Bureau offices.

ROARING springs water park

Regular Adult \$32.85 tax included

Farm Bureau Price

\$25.50

*Roaring Springs prices include sales tax. Purchase at select offices or online.

Check website for full information on obtaining tickets and other discounts such as SeaWorld, San Diego Zoo or Knott's Berry Farm.



Regular Adult \$30.99

**Farm Bureau Online
Discount Price**

\$23.99

Child/ (Under 60") \$23.99

**Farm Bureau Online
Discount Price**

\$18.49



Regular Adult \$48.00

**Farm Bureau Online
Discount Price**

\$39.00

Child/Senior \$25.00

**Farm Bureau Online
Discount Price**

\$20.00