



IDAHO FARM BUREAU

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Balancing School & Farm

Almond growers
eyeing Idaho
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The Zipline

Broadband shouldn't be a luxury

By Zippy Duvall
President American Farm
Bureau Federation



There was a time when high-speed internet was a luxury, but that time has long passed. Broadband is essential for doing business today and having access to the latest resources and information.

Yet much of rural America still has no access to do business at the speeds of the rest of the country. Thirty-nine percent of rural households are

without a high-speed connection, compared to 4 percent of urban households. That's unacceptable for modern farmers and their rural communities.

The 21st century is an exciting time for American agriculture. We have tools at our fingertips that our parents and grandparents never dreamed of. Thanks to precision ag tools, farming is more sustainable because we can focus and conserve our resources better than ever.

See DUVALL, page 7

The President's Desk

Respect the engine that drives Idaho's economy

By Bryan Searle
President Idaho Farm
Bureau Federation



University of Idaho agricultural economists recently crunched some USDA data and came up with a very interesting fact: Idaho ranks an unchallenged No. 1 among the 11 Western states in per capita farm income.

Put simply, when you divide the total number of people in Idaho by the amount of revenue farmers and ranchers received last year for their commodity, it comes out to \$4,287.

Montana was a distant second at \$3,300 in farm cash receipts on a per capita basis but no other Western state was even in the ballpark after that.

It doesn't take a rocket scientist to see from those figures that farming is far more important to the average Idahoan than it is to residents of other states.

According to a University of Idaho study, agriculture is the most important sector of the

See SEARLE, page 7

Inside Farm Bureau

Voting is a right and a responsibility

By Rick Keller
CEO Idaho Farm
Bureau Federation



In the lead-up to the Nov. 6 mid-term election, the airwaves, print and the cloud were full of political ads and commentators prognosticating; the noise was deafening.

Most of us know that voting is a right which has been guarded and protected by laws, society, courts, and the blood of the most hallowed warriors seeking to pre-

serve this right.

Lest we forget why voting is touted as sacred, as is the right to choose and not be compelled, the following are some quotes from our founding fathers on this subject.

Samuel Adams: "Let each citizen remember at the moment he is offering his vote ... that he is executing one of the most solemn trusts in human society for which he is accountable to God and his country."

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Photo by Sean Ellis. Design by Joel Benson.





Photo by Robbie Andersen

Tyler Andersen, a Declo High School junior, works on his family's dairy in Declo. The 16-year-old also plays basketball and runs cross country for his high school.

Ag kids balance farm work, school sports

By Sean Ellis

Idaho Farm Bureau Federation

POCATELLO – There's a lot of reward in growing up on a ranch or farm in Idaho but there's also a lot of hard work involved. Same with high school sports: big rewards but lots of work.

Combine the two, and you have plenty of rewards but an incredible amount of hard work.

High school students who work on a farm or ranch and are also heavily involved in high school sports or other extracurricular activities pay a huge price in energy and time commitment.

Mackay High School senior Dallin Green,

17, is captain of the school's football and basketball teams and also plays baseball for the school, all while continuing to work on a local ranch.

He is also student body president, the local FFA president and he will be the school's valedictorian this year.

How does he balance all that?

"You just kind of power through it," he says. "We were raised, you have to work and you can't quit your job."

Green and his twin brother, Caleb, who also plays those same sports and works on the same ranch, didn't grow up on a farm but got a ranch job their freshman year and now work there full-time, around their school commitments. Both say they

wouldn't trade the opportunity for anything.

"I have never had any regrets about getting into that ranch job, at all," says Caleb Green, who is vice president of the Mackay High School student council and treasurer of his FFA chapter. "Never."

The two start a typical school day lifting weights and working out at 5:30 a.m., then after school they usually end up helping a Mackay resident or two with some odd chores. Then it's off to practice for a few hours and then it's homework time.

How do they balance all that?

"I get asked that all the time," Caleb Green says. "We're kids and we have a lot of energy."

Down in Declo, in the Magic Valley area of Idaho, Tyler Andersen keeps plenty busy helping out in several capacities on his family's 2,000-head dairy. His many duties include eliminating weeds, taking care of the water troughs, helping with pregnancy checks and keeping the facility clean.

He also runs cross country and plays basketball for Declo High School and is learning to play the piano and ukulele.

A typical school day means getting up at 6 a.m., doing chores, getting to school early for band practice, and going through what Andersen calls "the daily grind" of school. Then it's off to cross country practice, then home to do homework and study the piano.

Andersen, 16 and a junior, says it takes a lot of energy and commitment to balance the workload but the way he sees it, he's young and has the energy reserves to do it.

"It's just about time management. I survive," he says.

Andersen has no regrets about having to work on the family's dairy.

"I like the opportunities it gives me to learn hard work," he says.

When Jordyn Gilbert is not staying busy doing a variety of work around her family's 700-cow dairy and farm near Blackfoot, the 16-year-old Snake River High School junior plays on the school's basketball and volleyball teams.

Her typical day starts at 5 a.m., when she puts in some time on the family dairy, including helping take care of about 120 weaning calves. Then it's off to school for seven hours, followed by a two-hour sports practice.

"By the end of the day, sometimes you're like, 'Wow, I'm tired. I could fall asleep standing here,'" she says. "But that's just how it is when you're busy all the time. I sleep good at night."

She says that while the balancing act is difficult at times, "It's kind of just a mindset that I have: the work has to be done."

Her basketball coach, Jeff Steadman, grew up on a dairy farm and says he can relate to what Gilbert goes through to play sports



Photo by Emilee Gilbert

Snake River High School junior Jordyn Gilbert works on her family's dairy near Blackfoot. Besides working on the dairy operation, she also plays basketball and volleyball for SRHS.

and work on a dairy.

"Jordyn is an exceptional young lady and she does a great job of balancing the two," he says.

Andersen, Gilbert and the Green brothers all said that getting a solid night's sleep is critical in being able to handle the workload of playing sports, going to school and working on the farm.

"I think sleep is the most important thing," says Caleb Green. "If I don't get a full eight hours, then the productivity is down the next day."

Jordyn Gilbert says she always tries to get

to bed at 9 p.m. and wake up at 5 a.m.

"When I get eight hours of sleep, I wake up refreshed," she says. "I feel like when you get eight hours of sleep, it's the perfect amount."

Dallin Green says having the proper diet is another important factor.

"A huge part of it is eating healthy," he says. "It helps that we live in a small town that doesn't have a lot of fast food. You have to eat breakfast and you have to eat healthy."

Gilbert, Andersen and the Green brothers

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FARM KIDS

Continued from page 5

all said the thought of quitting either sports or work on the farm has never seriously entered their mind.

“I’ve never, ever thought about quitting sports or my ranching job,” Dallin Green says.

Gilbert’s father, Kelly Gilbert, who also grew up on a dairy and played high school sports, says he and his wife, Emilee, would never think of asking one of their children to choose between sports and working on the dairy.

“I’ve told them, I appreciate everything you do on the farm and that you’re willing to help out here on the dairy, but you are a student-athlete right now,” he says. “You’re a student first, an athlete second and any time after that that you want to work and help us on the farm, you’re more than welcome to do it.

“I told them, your school and athletic stuff is first. Achieve everything you can achieve while you’re young because you’re only going to have that opportunity once.”

Tyler Andersen’s mother, Robbie Andersen, says she feels he and his other seven siblings are lucky to have the opportunity to grow up on a dairy farm and play school sports.

“I’m really happy that my kids get to grow up on a dairy,” she says. “I like seeing them learn to manage their time at a young age. I love it that my kids have this opportunity.”

Robbie Andersen says she and her husband, Ben, will encourage all their children to stay involved in sports while they are

in school.

“We enjoy that and look forward to when they are involved in a sport,” she says. “We encourage it for sure.”

Besides their parents, farm kids in Idaho heavily involved in high school sports generally receive a lot of support from their coaches and schools as well, says Shane Stevenson, a former FFA teacher from Meridian who now farms full-time.

In general, most schools in rural areas really understand the need for some kids to work on their family farm operation, even when involved in sports, he says.

“Some school districts and coaches totally get what’s going on but in some places, usually in bigger cities, it’s all or nothing and the coaches won’t let a kid miss practice, even for work,” Stevenson says.

Dallin Green says the entire Mackay community is supportive of kids who work on farms and play school sports.

“The coaches understand and your bosses around here are very understanding, too,” he said.

Tyler Andersen says most people involved in sports in his school are also involved in agriculture in some way even if it’s only moving pipe during the summer. Some of them have to miss some summer tournaments and practices because of that but people in the community get why they need to, he says.

“They understand,” he says.



Dallin Green, left, and his twin brother, Caleb Green, both high school seniors, are shown on a local ranch near Mackay where they work full-time around their school commitments. Both also play football, basketball and baseball for Mackay High School.

DUVALL

Continued from page 2

But those tools require broadband to truly be efficient and effective. The latest farming techniques and tools allow farmers to analyze data to make careful decisions from the number of seeds they plant to the amount of water and nutrients they apply to their crops.

Farmers can now make those decisions down to the square inch, but that requires getting a signal out to their tractors in the field. For a farmer struggling to get by in today's down economy, conserving their inputs and resources might make

all the difference for being in business one season to the next.

Lack of rural broadband doesn't just put rural America behind here at home. It also can make us lose our competitive edge abroad. U.S. agriculture is part of a global marketplace today. Farmers and ranchers need to connect with customers around the world and stay up-to-date on the latest market developments. Without high-speed connectivity, it's far too easy for farms and ranches to lose out on customers and business, and the whole ag economy suffers.

It's time to bridge the rural digital divide. Farm Bureau has been calling for action here, and we are encouraged to see the administration working to close the gap. President Trump pledged action to Farm Bureau members at the start of the year at AFBF's annual convention in Nashville, Tenn., where he signed an executive order to expedite broadband deployment on federal lands.

Since then, Congress has provided \$600 million in funding for USDA's new e-Connectivity Pilot Program under the Rural Utilities Service. Additionally, the House and Sen-

ate versions of the Farm Bill include the AFBF supported "Precision Agriculture Connectivity" provision that creates a task force to focus on the broadband connectivity and technology needs of precision agriculture.

We are encouraged to see this critical issue become a priority this year for the administration and Congress, and Farm Bureau continues to advocate for the needs of farm and ranch businesses to bring us all into the next century of agriculture.

SEARLE

Continued from page 2

state's economy and is responsible directly and indirectly for one in seven jobs, about \$27 billion in annual sales and 16 percent of the state's total Gross Domestic Product.

Those are astounding numbers and they show that agriculture is the engine that drives the state's economy. But amazingly, some people don't see it that way or they choose not to.

Over the past dozen years, the Peregrine falcon was chosen over the state's most famous product, the potato, to appear on the Idaho state quarter, and an attempt was made to remove the words "Famous Potatoes" from the state's license plates.

Fortunately, the attempt to whitewash Idaho's heritage from our license plates failed, but many people in farm coun-

try are still chagrined that a falcon was chosen over the potato to appear on our state quarter.

The Peregrine falcon may be fast, but it doesn't pay taxes and it doesn't employ workers. Farmers and ranchers do.

Idaho's agricultural industry is not only critical to our state's economy, but our farmers and ranchers, who export more than \$2 billion worth of food products annually, also play an important role in feeding this nation as well as people around the world.

Given all that, it's disheartening to know that when it comes to farming, some Idahoans seem to have a disdain for the industry and view it as an inconvenience.

We've all heard the stories about people moving in next to

a farm or ranch and then complaining about the smells, dust, or noise.

To those who have such an attitude, we would say this: In order to feed the world, and continue to support the state's economy, there will be times when you have to have those smells, sounds, or inconveniences. There will be times when you get slowed in your vehicle for a small amount of time behind that farm vehicle on the roadway. Be patient with these vehicles as they work to provide food for the world.

Idaho leads the nation in potato production, as well as food trout and barley, and ranks second or third in a host of other farm commodities, including cheese, sugar beets, peppermint oil, hops and alfalfa hay. There are many more beef cat-

tle (2.1 million) than there are people (1.7 million) in Idaho.

Idaho is expected to continue to rapidly grow in population into the future. We encourage all Idahoans, new arrivals as well as those whose families have been here for generations, to remember the strength of Idaho agriculture and how food and fiber are produced.

Idaho is agriculture and Farm Bureau is the voice of agriculture. Take the time to be educated and respect those who work hard each day to provide that food and fiber.

Oct. 12 was National Farmer's Day, which was a time to recognize the nation's hard-working farmers and ranchers. It's good that a day was set aside to do this but in reality, we should recognize the hard work they do every day of the year.

KELLER

Continued from page 2

John Adams: "We electors have an important constitutional power placed in our hands; to have a check upon two branches of the legislature."

John Jay: "Providence has given to our people the choice of their rulers...."

John Jay also said: "The Americans are the first people whom Heaven has favored with an opportunity of deliberating upon and choosing the forms of government under which they should live."

Voting is also a responsibility. We have a voter responsibility not to just vote, but to study the candidates and issues. As Gen. Colin Powell taught, "You're

'During every election cycle, we must not only exercise our sacred privilege to vote, but we must also exercise our equally solemn responsibility to study the candidates and issues.'

not just voting for an individual, in my judgement, you're voting for an agenda. You're voting for a platform. You're voting for a political philosophy."

It is our voter responsibility to know what we are voting for.

Noah Webster said, "If the citizens neglect their duty and place unprincipled men in of-

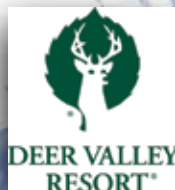
fice, the government will soon be corrupted ... If a republican government fails to secure public prosperity and happiness, it must be because the citizens neglect the divine commands and elect bad men to make and administer the laws."

John Quincy Adams: "Always vote for principle, though you

may vote alone, and you may cherish the sweetest reflection that your vote is never lost."

During every election cycle, we must not only exercise our sacred privilege to vote, but we must also exercise our equally solemn responsibility to study the candidates and issues.

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Photo by Sean Ellis

Fourth-graders from the Pocatello area make their way through a corn maze at Swore Farms Sept. 25 during the farm's annual Ag Days event. The three-day event attracted about 1,500 students from around the area and taught them about agriculture through a variety of activities.

1,500 fourth-graders learn about Idaho farming at Swore Farms

By Sean Ellis

Idaho Farm Bureau Federation

FORT HALL – Hundreds of fourth-graders from the Pocatello area received a hands-on learning experience about agriculture during Swore Farms' annual Ag Days event.

The three-day event, which was held in late September this year, attracts about 1,500 fourth-graders and about 100 parents and teachers, who learn about agriculture through a variety of activities.

The Swore family provides the farm and the Bannock County Farm Bureau Women's Committee helps organize the event

and provides funding to make it happen, including providing the money necessary to support the buses that haul the kids to the farm.

"We are bringing kids that are usually not around agriculture and we are teaching them about where their food comes from," said Stacy Burmester, the women's committee chairwoman.

During this year's event, a student asked Burmester, "Can you tell me what the difference between a pharmacist and a farmer is?"

"If we don't teach them, who will?" she said. "We want to teach them accurate facts about agriculture because there are so

many misconceptions out there."

The event includes a series of activities and learning experiences hosted by FFA students, Idaho Fish and Game Department personnel and noxious weed and water experts.

It also includes a corn maze with questions about agriculture. If a student answers a question correctly, they continue and find another question. If they answer incorrectly, they find a dead end.

"We wanted to try to help get rid of some of the misconceptions about agriculture, so some of the questions in there challenge people's misunderstandings," said farm co-owner Wendy Swore.

Bannock County Farm Bureau Women's Committee volunteers provide the students a crash course in farming which includes showing them how they can grow the ingredients for their own pizza. That activity ends with pizzas for each student.

A highlight of the event is when the students head to a real potato field and pick their own potatoes. They scoop up as much as they can carry in a plastic bag, and some even load spuds into their backpack and hood.

"Some of them get more potatoes than they can hardly carry," Swore said. "They stagger back to the buses."

She said she feels events like this are important "because the average person is four generations removed from the farm, so people have lost track of where their food comes from. We are trying to pull them back a little bit to the roots of farming."

If people don't have a basic understanding of how important farming is, then they won't be informed enough to vote the correct way on issues that could impact agriculture, Swore added.

The event has been held annually for close to 20 years and theoretically, every student who has attended fourth-grade in the Pocatello-Chubbuck area during that time has attended the Ag Days event.

That means there are thousands of people living in the area who have at least a basic understanding of and appreciation for farming, Burmester said.

Farm co-owner Mike Swore said the mission of the Ag Days event is simple: "To educate



Photo by Sean Ellis

Fourth-graders from the Pocatello area dig for potatoes at Swore Farms Sept. 25 during the farm's annual Ag Days event. The three-day event attracted about 1,500 students from around the area and taught them about agriculture through a variety of activities.

them about where their food comes from and have fun."

"We want to show them that real people grow their food and it comes from the dirt. The first step isn't from the store," said Swore, a data security officer

for Idaho Farm Bureau Federation.

People who do not grow up around agriculture don't understand the impact it has on people's lives and the economy, said Sherril Tillotson, chair-

woman of Idaho Farm Bureau Federation's District 1 Women's Leadership Committee.

"We have to tell our story," she said.

Idaho No. 1 in the West in farm revenue per capita

By Sean Ellis

Idaho Farm Bureau Federation

POCATELLO – Idaho ranked third last year among the 11 Western states for total farm cash receipts. But the Gem State was an unchallenged No. 1 in 2017 when it came to farm cash receipts on a per capita basis.

Idaho farmers and ranchers generated a total of \$7.3 billion in farm cash receipts, or revenue for their farm commodity, in 2017, placing the state third in the West, behind California (\$50 billion) and Washington (\$10.3 billion).

But when it came to farm revenue per person in the state, there was no contest.

Idaho generated \$4,287 in farm cash receipts per person in 2017, far more than California (\$1,266) and Washington (\$1,440).

Montana (\$3,300) and Wyoming (\$2,418) were the only Western states that even came remotely close to Idaho in farm revenue per person. Some Western states generated comparatively paltry amounts of farm-gate receipts on a per capita basis, including Nevada (\$222), Utah (\$552) and Arizona (\$693).

These 2017 rankings are based on U.S. Department of Agriculture Economic Research Service data that became available in late August. They were compiled by University of Idaho Agricultural Economist Ben Eborn, who assembles them annually to show elected officials and other state leaders how important agriculture is to Idaho.

The per capita rankings in particular “illustrate how important



Photo by Sean Ellis

Sugar beets are harvested in a southcentral Idaho field Oct. 25. Idaho is No. 1 among the 11 Western states when it comes to farm cash receipts on a per capita basis.

agriculture is to Idaho’s economy,” he said. “We depend on agriculture a lot more than everybody else does. Agriculture’s influence on individuals is a lot heavier here than it is in other states.”

California and Washington may generate more total farm cash receipts but the impact that farmers and ranchers have on people within the state is far greater in Idaho, said UI Agricultural Economist Garth Taylor.

“We’re a small state but we have a large agricultural industry in relation to the state’s size,” he said. “Those numbers show how important agriculture is to people in this state.”

In the total farm cash receipts category, Idaho was followed by Colorado (\$6.8 billion), Arizona (\$4.84 billion), Oregon (\$4.76 billion), Montana (\$3.5 billion), New Mexico (\$3 billion), Utah (\$1.7 billion), Wyoming (\$1.4 billion) and Nevada (\$647 million).

Idaho ranked fourth in the West last year in total net farm income at \$1.37 billion. That was down from \$1.68 billion in 2016 and

the state’s lowest NFI level since 2010 (\$1.3 billion).

In terms of net farm income, Idaho trailed California (\$17.7 billion), Washington (\$3.32 billion) and Arizona (\$1.63 billion).

Taylor said Idaho’s 2017 net farm income level was negatively impacted by the state’s dairy industry, which accounts for almost a third of the state’s total cash receipts but is facing tough market prices.

Most of Idaho’s farm cash receipts are generated by the livestock sector – dairy and beef cattle – while California, Washington and Arizona, the Western states that led Idaho in NFI, get most of their farm cash receipts from the crop sector.

Idaho’s crop sector generated \$2.96 billion in revenue last year, up from \$2.84 billion in 2016, while the state’s livestock sector generated \$4.38 billion, up from \$4.27 billion in 2016.

While Idaho’s farm-gate receipt total of \$7.3 billion in 2017 was up slightly compared with 2016 (\$7.1 billion), so were expenses.

According to USDA data crunched by Eborn, Idaho’s farm expenses, including farm origin, manufactured inputs and other expenses such as marketing, storage, repair and transportation, totaled \$4.6 billion last year, up from \$4 billion in 2016.

After other expenses such as contract labor, government transactions (direct government payments and property taxes and fees), payments to stakeholders and capital consumption were factored in, Idaho’s net farm income totaled \$1.37 billion in 2017.

In terms of net farm income in the West, Idaho was followed by Colorado (\$900 million), New Mexico (\$790 million), Oregon (\$640 million), Montana (\$370 million), Utah (\$310 million), Wyoming (\$90 million) and Nevada, which generated a negative amount of net farm income.

When net farm income was calculated on a per capita basis, Idaho again was unchallenged at \$800 per person. No other Western state had a per capita NFI above \$500.



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Photo by Sean Ellis

University of Idaho fruit researcher Essie Fallahi stands next to an almond tree that is growing in a field trial near Parma. Fallahi has received a \$136,000 grant to support the trial, which is looking at the potential to grow almonds commercially in Idaho.

Trial looks at potential to grow almonds commercially in Idaho

By Sean Ellis

Idaho Farm Bureau Federation

PARMA – An increasing number of California almond growers have expressed interest in growing that crop in Idaho. Local commercial fruit growers say they would also produce almonds here if it can be shown they can be grown economically in the Gem State.

Because of the large amount of interest in growing almonds in Idaho, University of Idaho researcher Essie Fallahi has received a \$136,000 specialty crop grant to support a field trial that has been established

at the fruit orchard at UI's Research and Extension Center in Parma.

The trial includes 14 different almond varieties, as well as 10 walnut varieties, and will study performance, bloom and harvest dates, yield and quality attributes.

The grant was awarded by the Idaho State Department of Agriculture and the project will be conducted between Oct. 1, 2018, and Sept. 30, 2020.

According to the university's application for the grant, "we anticipate attracting commercial growers from Idaho, Cali-

fornia and other adjacent states to invest in Idaho and grow these nut crops which have much less cost of production than other fruits."

Fallahi said he has heard from more than 20 growers in the past year interested in the possibility of growing almonds in Idaho, most of them from California, the global leader in almond production. Several are actively searching for land to purchase for that purpose, he said.

One is seriously considering putting in as many as 1,000 acres of almonds in southwestern Idaho, said Fallahi, who

heads UI's pomology program.

California growers interested in growing almonds in Idaho say they are attracted by the cheaper land prices here, greater water availability and more favorable regulatory environment, he said.

Fallahi said he has warned people interested in growing almonds in Idaho about the possibility of having a severe, damaging frost some years.

"But they say that even if they lose a crop one or two times every 10 years, it would still be worth it for them because of" the cheaper land, water avail-



Photo by Sean Ellis

Almonds grow on a tree at the University of Idaho's Parma research station.

ability and fewer regulations, he said. "As researchers, we are trying to be on the conservative side and give them all the warning we can, but we still have growers that are very serious about this."

Almonds have been grown in Idaho over the years but only on a trial basis and not on a large commercial scale.

Existing Idaho growers are also interested in the possibility of adding almonds to their crop portfolio and are keeping a close eye on Fallahi's almond trial.

"If we can find a variety of almond that we can grow here that is accepted in the marketplace, then we would be extremely interested in it," said Chad Henggeler, field manager for Henggeler Packing Co., one of Idaho's largest commercial fruit growers.

"We have to make sure the yields and quality are there, but we are definitely interested," he added.

Williamson Orchards and

Vineyards, another one of Idaho's biggest fruit producers, has grown some almond trees on a test basis a couple of times over the years, said manager Michael Williamson.

Almonds would fit into the company's existing equipment makeup, labor profile and growing practices, he said.

"They seem to do all right but a lot more research and education is needed to do it right," Williamson said. "That's where Essie's work will come in handy. It will give us a much broader picture because he is growing so many different varieties."

Treasure Valley farmer Vince Holtz, who used to have fruit orchards in California years ago, said he is on the cusp of putting in some almond orchards around the region. That includes a 10-acre block in Eastern Oregon near the Idaho border, 7 acres in Caldwell and a couple of acres in Homedale.

"There's a real good possibility it could work," he said.

"It's been proven you can grow almonds here. The quality is actually pretty darn good compared with what you get in California."

Holtz agreed with Fallahi that Idaho is attractive to some California farmers because of the cheaper land prices here, more reliable water situation and more favorable regulatory environment.

"The California situation is getting tough enough that some of those guys are looking at new areas to put almonds in," he said. "Demand for almonds is growing and growing and they are also running out of opportunities to expand in that area."

If grown on a drip irrigation system in Idaho, almonds would use about 2.5 acre-feet of water per year, Holtz said, which would make them comparable to peaches or apples in water usage.

If almonds are grown in Idaho on a commercial scale, that would present opportunities for the state's beekeepers, who currently travel to California in February and March to pollinate that state's almond crop.

"If I had the opportunity to completely stay away from going down to California and pollinate almonds here in Idaho, that would be an opportunity in heaven for me," said Beau Keading, a beekeeper from Shoshone.

Jonathan Millet, a beekeeper from Parma, said he believes most Idaho beekeepers would continue to travel to California as well as pollinate almonds in Idaho.

Idaho's almond crop would be pollinated in April or May,

after California's almond pollination season, which usually wraps up in March.

Millet and Keading both hope a commercial almond market develops in Idaho, but they differ on the likelihood of that happening.

Keading "absolutely" thinks it can happen. "If we can tap into the almond market, that would bring a heck of an economic boost to Idaho and could open up possibilities."

Millet, who pollinates Fallahi's almond trial, has grown several different almond varieties on a test basis over the past decade and has had mixed results.

"Some years they'll have a whole bunch of fruit and some years they frost out," he said. "They all die for a variety of reasons."

Millet said he is excited about the possibility of Idaho attracting a large number of almond acres.

"It would be great if it did happen but it's hard to do," he said. "I'm a little skeptical. I don't know if they'll ever get anything past the research stage."

Millet said the weather factor is the biggest challenge "but it's not out of the possibility. They will never be grown in Pocatello [in East Idaho] but there are some warm pockets in southwestern Idaho where it could be possible."

Based on past Idaho almond trials, "the chance for cropping in almonds was better than for apricots, which are routinely grown here," Fallahi said. "We think they can be grown here but like with everything else, people have to be willing to take a chance."

Wolf depredations of livestock reach record level

By Sean Ellis

Idaho Farm Bureau Federation

POCATELLO – Livestock depredations by wolves in Idaho have reached record levels.

Idaho Wildlife Services confirmed a record 113 wolf kills of livestock in Idaho during fiscal year 2018, which ended June 30.

Wildlife Services, a federal agency that helps solve conflicts between humans and animals, also responded to 217 sheep and cattle ranches during fiscal 2018 to perform necropsies on suspected wolf livestock kills. That was also a record.

So far during the 2018 calendar year, there have been 163 livestock depredations by wolves in Idaho, said Todd Grimm, the Idaho state director of Wildlife Services.

“This has been a tough year,” he said.

At the current pace, fiscal year 2019 is likely to be another record year for wolf depredations of livestock in Idaho, said Steve Stuebner, a spokesman for the Idaho Rangeland Resources Commission.

The depredation activity “seems to show that wolf populations are way too high,” he

said. “The impact that wolves are having in Idaho is far greater than anyone ever anticipated. We have too many wolves out there and the existing methods of management aren’t cutting it.”

After 35 wolves were reintroduced in Idaho in 1995-96, their numbers increased rapidly. The state’s wolf population grew at an average rate of 28 percent a year and the official count peaked at 856 in 2009. That growth trend halted after 2009 once the state began allowing wolf hunting and trapping.

The state’s official wolf population varied between 681 and 786 from 2010 to 2015, according to the Idaho Department of Fish and Game.

The state stopped estimating wolf numbers in 2015 but based on the trend between 2010 and 2015, it’s likely the current total is within that same range, said IDFG wildlife biologist Jim Hayden, who coordinates the department’s wolf program.

“The truth is, the wolf population is not moving very much right now,” he said. “They’re not exploding and they are not going down dramatically either.”

Some ranchers and hunters believe the number of wolves in Idaho is much greater than the 700 range estimate, said Idaho Cattle Association Executive Vice President Cameron Mulrony.

“The range could be all the way up to 1,500,” he said.

He also said the official wolf kill numbers don’t tell the whole story of how wolves are impacting ranchers because a large number of cattle don’t return and many of those are predator kills that don’t show up as kills or probable kills.

Besides actual kills, wolves are impacting livestock in other ways, Stuebner said, including by lowering pregnancy rates, causing cattle to gain less weight and causing cows to become hostile toward working ranch dogs.

“As you peel the onion, the impact just goes deeper and deeper,” he said.

Those ancillary impacts “are harder to quantify but just as real as a dead animal,” said Phil Davis, a Cascade cattle rancher, who has suffered 70 wolf depredations on his property, 11 this year alone, since the animals were reintroduced in Idaho.

“Cattle are extremely stressed by having an encounter with wolves,” he said. “You can’t have working dogs around them anymore because they just go crazy.”

Wolf depredations of livestock are at record levels despite the fact that more than 300 of the predators are being killed each year by hunters, trappers and Wildlife Services responding to problem wolves.

Many ranchers believe lethal control of wolves, by hunters, trappers and WS, is the main way to keep the predators’ numbers and impacts under control.

But some groups, such as Defenders of Wildlife, believe cleaning up attractants like carcasses, applying non-lethal deterrents, and adding proactive livestock husbandry methods are more effective than



Idaho Department of Fish and Game photo

Wolves killed a record number of Idaho livestock during fiscal year 2018, which ended June 30. That record could be surpassed in fiscal 2019.



USFWS photo

Wolves killed a record number of Idaho livestock during fiscal year 2018, which ended June 30. Fiscal 2019 is shaping up to be another record year for wolf livestock depredations in Idaho.

lethal control in reducing livestock losses to wolves.

Removing attractants like carcass pits is the first step to reducing conflicts with wolves, said DOW Regional Representative Suzanne Stone.

She said other non-lethal methods can include hazing and scaring devices such as systems that emit flashing lights and sounds when wolves approach, or other things such as using livestock guarding dogs, human presence near livestock and avoidance of wolf dens in April and May.

Stone said there are far fewer wolf losses on livestock operations that are using these types of methods.

“Ranchers who are using these proactive non-lethal management methods are more successful at protecting their livestock than those relying on reactive lethal methods,” she said.

“If the goal is to reduce livestock losses, instead of killing wolves, livestock owners should demand that these methods be taught and funded,” Stone said. “And the best place they can turn is to other ranchers who are demonstrating how successful these measures are.”

Many ranchers disagree that non-lethal methods are more successful than lethal control of wolves in reducing livestock losses.

Mulroney said that non-lethal methods only work for a short time.

“Wolves are smart animals. They will learn that these deterrents are not anything to be afraid of,” he said. “These deterrents will only keep wolves away for a short period of time and then they will continue to kill livestock.”

Wolf packs have been established pretty much throughout Idaho north of Interstate 84 and it’s likely a matter of time before they take up a presence south of I-84, Hayden said.

“I would expect wolves to become established south of 84 but not at as high a density as they are north of 84,” he said.

There is a lot of wolf activity occurring throughout the state and it’s only going to increase, said IRRC Executive Director Gretchen Hyde.

The IRRC is producing a video series on wolves in Idaho and some of the numbers and impacts the commission has seen are

startling, she said.

“The impacts are all over the state,” Hyde said. “If an area doesn’t have wolves right now, they are going to have wolves.”

Though wolves are active throughout the state north of I-84, there are some hot spots for wolf livestock depredations, Grimm said.

The worst is in the Cascade and McCall area, he said. There have been more than 50 confirmed depredations in that area this year alone. By comparison, the entire state has had fewer than 50 confirmed depredations some years.

That area is a corridor for wolves coming and going and there is a lot of livestock in that area as well, Grimm said.

“There are always a lot of wolves in that area and any wolves that are removed in that area are quickly replaced and they quickly get in trouble because livestock are on the menu,” he said.

Other wolf depredation hot spots include the Idaho City area (15 confirmed livestock depredations this year), Council area (11), Mackay area (10), Salmon area (9) and Fairfield area (8).

Since wolves were reintroduced in Idaho in 1995, Wildlife Services has confirmed more than 1,550 attacks on domestic animals by the predators. There have been at least another 274 probable attacks, according to a WS fact sheet.

According to WS, 415 Idaho livestock producers and other land owners have had some type of verified wolf damage on their property since 1995.

Since 1995, wolves have killed 3,114 sheep, 757 calves, 184 cows, 86 dogs, 9 horses, and injured hundreds more.

Custer County has suffered the most wolf depredations of domestic animals with 290, followed by Valley (272), Lemhi (188), Elmore (140), Idaho (121), Adams (95), Boise (82), Blaine (73) and Camas (54) counties.

Twenty-two other counties have had verified wolf depredations.

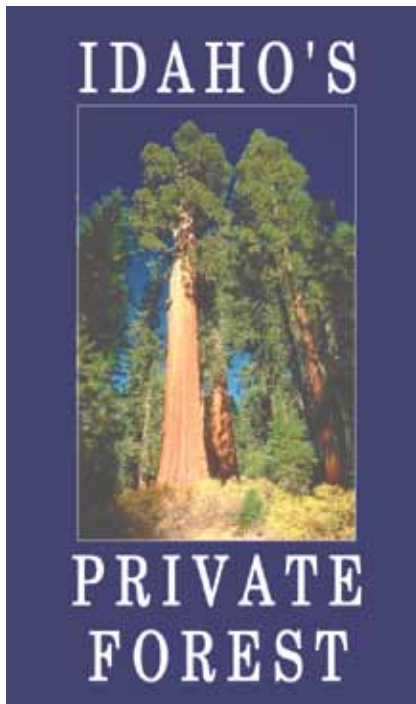


Photo by C. Schnepf

Insects like the Douglas-fir tussock moth, shown here, are forest pests. Forest pests, in many cases, can be managed through active forest management.

Can forest pests be managed?

By Randy Brooks

Over the past few years, we have written several articles on forest insects and diseases, i.e. forest pests.

Those who own forest land or work in the woods realize that insects and diseases kill a lot of trees. What most people don't realize is that insects tend to kill more trees each year than fires and chainsaws combined.

Industry and government have spent countless resources trying to devise ways to prevent insect attacks on trees, with little avail. As a forest land owner, at some point (if not already) you will be confronted by an insect pest and, as a result, may find yourself in a quandary. The final decision as to whether the problem can be ignored or should be addressed by deliberate action on your part should be determined by your management objectives and economic factors related to these objectives.

Regardless of how you approach the problem, bear in mind that good forest stewardship should include an element of protection. In order to develop and maintain a healthy and productive forest, one must be aware of

potential pest problems and be ready to take steps to ameliorate them.

It makes little difference whether your primary reason for owning forest land is to maximize timber production, to produce wildlife habitat, to provide aesthetics or some combination of the above. In order to attain any of these goals, one must occasionally deal with the threat of insect damage.

Economic considerations

For many owners of forest land, knowing what to expect in terms of the potential immediate and long-term economic consequences of damage that may be caused by a particular pest will have a major influence on their decision. This knowledge is fundamental to determining if, in fact, you have a problem to begin with. Generally, the more intensively you manage your forested land the less damage you are likely to tolerate. For example, landowners are less likely to tolerate insect damage in a Christmas tree plantation that required several hundred dollars per acre to establish, than in a naturally established forest that we hold solely for recreational purposes.

What is a pest?

Any animal, disease-causing organism or weed that prevents you from optimizing your management objective is a pest. By definition, what one forest owner views as a pest may seem unimportant and be tolerated by a neighbor. Following the same line of thought, the term outbreak refers to a situation where a pest reaches a population level that causes unacceptable damage to the land owner.

Otherwise, populations of the pest are said to be sparse (or below economic threshold). Subsequently, landowner views may differ in terms of what constitutes an outbreak. The reason for this disparity is that different land owners may have completely different values and management objectives.

Preventative maintenance

Deliberate forest management is often the most effective means by which landowners can develop and maintain forests that are less susceptible to pest outbreaks and/or less vulnerable to damage if an outbreak occurs.

Under most conditions, forest pest problems

can be minimized by encouraging the right tree species on a given site (soil, exposure, microclimate, etc.), removing damaged or low-vigor trees, and minimizing between-tree competition for water and nutrients by thinning the stand at appropriate intervals.

History has taught us that under most circumstances a biologically diverse forest community is often less susceptible to outbreaks or more resilient to disturbance than a relatively simple community.

Unless your management objectives demand a single species condition (monoculture), try to aim for multiple species. In any monoculture situation, structural diversity can be enhanced by maintaining a mixture

of age classes. Generally, different age classes of trees (e.g., seedling, sapling, pole, sawtimber) are subject to different types of problems. The key is to make it as difficult as possible for a pest to reproduce, disperse, and become established in a suitable host.

Another thing is that some pest problems are created by human activities that inadvertently create conditions for an insect or disease (wrong species on wrong site, etc.).

Chemical control – an oftentimes necessary tool

A large number of pest problems are due to natural conditions that are favorable to the pest and which landowners may have no

control over.

Weather that favors pest survival (e.g., a mild winter that enhances survival of gypsy moth eggs), drought that renders trees more susceptible to invasion by certain bark beetles, or conditions that may be detrimental to populations of the pest's natural enemies are examples of events over which the landowner has little influence.

Landowners are often left with no choice but to intervene directly with a pesticide. Chemical use is not necessarily bad and can often be part of a good stewardship plan. To take no action and let the problem “run its course” may result in an unhealthy and unproductive forest. In many instances, pest problems that go unattended for apparently valid environmental concerns create situations that may detract from the environmental and economic quality of forested land for years to come.

Pesticides - a balancing act

The vast majority of pesticides applied to forested land are for weed control during reforestation efforts. Few chemicals are labeled for forest insect control and very little insecticide is applied annually to very few acres of forest land. Insect control efforts are typically aimed at defoliators with the intent of saving foliage.

Defoliation (similar to the tussock moth outbreaks a few years ago) reduces tree growth or weakens the tree to the point where it is unable to defend itself against potential mortality-causing agents such as root diseases and bark beetles.

We often refer to these as secondary agents, because typically they thrive only on the heels of other agents that affect the tree when it is in a relatively vigorous condition. Secondary agents are so called because ordinarily they are unable to become established in healthy trees. They are secondary only in an ecological sense but are important because they are usually the ultimate cause of tree mortality. Severe defoliation may also kill a tree outright, as usually happens following a single defoliation of conifers.



University of Idaho photo

This is a photo of a ponderosa pine forest being thinned. Thinning forest stands can help eliminate tree-to-tree competition, which increases tree vigor.

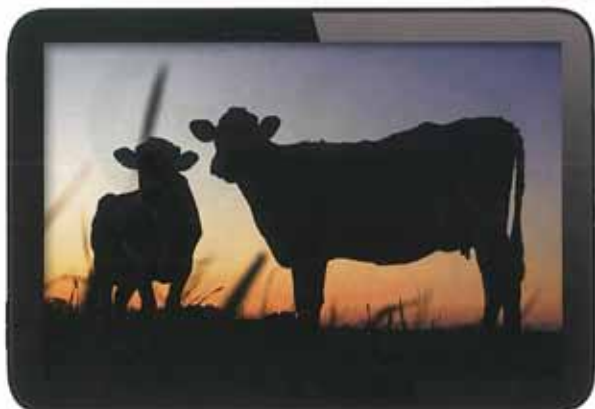
See FORESTRY, page 31

How do Farmers & Ranchers **CARE** for Farm Animals?

Through social media, America's farmers and ranchers explain why they do certain things when raising animals for food.

OUR ANIMALS DEPEND ON US

"Our animals depend on us to keep them safe and healthy. This is particularly critical in extreme winter conditions, when we take special action to ensure cows stay safe and healthy. We give the cattle a larger portion of feed so they have plenty to eat in case we're unable to get to them right away for the next feeding. We also make sure the electric water heaters are running so they always have access to water.



Also, before a blizzard starts, we bring the cows that are close to giving birth into the barn. It's crucial that we keep the new calves warm so they stay healthy.

We put out extra straw for bedding so the cows have an insulated bed and can lie down and stay warm and comfortable. We also set up wagons to create temporary windbreaks. The little ones get under the wagon beds for shelter, and the rest of the herd will surround one side to prevent the wind from getting through. Our animals' health and safety is our top priority. Even though it can be challenging in the winter, we always want to do what's right for the animals."

—Excerpted from a *CommonGround* blog post by **Hilary Maricle**, a family farmer and Farm Bureau member from Nebraska, commongroundnebraska.com/author/hilary-maricle/

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—Excerpted from a blog post by **Ray Prock**, a family farmer and Farm Bureau member in California, [facebook.com/raylindairy/](https://www.facebook.com/raylindairy/)



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Submitted photo

Members of the Idaho Grower Shippers Association's board of directors deliver a donation to the Idaho Food Bank at the group's annual convention in Sun Valley in September.

Idaho farmers, ranchers helping feed the hungry

By Sean Ellis

Idaho Farm Bureau Federation

POCATELLO – In addition to helping drive Idaho's economy, the state's farmers and ranchers are also helping feed hungry Idahoans.

The impact that Idaho's agricultural sector has on the state's economy is well-known and documented through University of Idaho studies. Lesser known is the impact that producers are having in helping those Idahoans who are "food-insecure" know where their next meal is coming from.

For example, the state's dairy industry the past three years has provided tens of thousands of gallons of milk to Idaho food banks and supports fundraisers and activities that raise a substantial amount of mon-

ey that is given to food banks to purchase dairy products.

Milk is one of the most requested but least available items at food banks, said Cindy Miller, a spokeswoman for Dairy West, which represents Idaho dairy operators.

"For us to be able to supply food banks with that nutritious product for families is a really big deal and something the state's dairy farmers support whole-heartedly," she said. "They feel very passionate about supporting their communities and helping feed the hungry."

Idaho's famous potato farmers also help feed the needy in a big way.

Members of the Idaho Grower Shippers Association, which represents potato farmers and shippers, last year provided 13.5 million pounds of spuds to the Feeding

America Network, which works with the Idaho Food Bank and other groups to provide food to those who are food-insecure and don't know where their next meal is coming from.

Those donations were enough to provide 11 million meals total, or 30,751 meals per day, in 25 states, according to Feeding America Network officials.

IGPA members also provide two truckloads worth of potatoes, as well as cash donations, each year to the Idaho Food Bank.

The IGPA coordinates those donations but the spuds come from growers and fresh packing sheds, said IGPA President Shawn Boyle.

Boyle said that when the food bank calls him to request some potatoes, he calls a potato shed and the typical response he gets is



BEEF COUNTS FOR THE IDAHO FOODBANK



IDAHO'S BEEF COMMUNITY UNITED AGAINST HUNGER

The Idaho cattle industry's Beef Counts program has provided more than 1,000,000 3-ounce servings of beef to hungry Idahoans since it was started in 2010.

like this: "How can we help and how many pallets of potatoes can we give you?"

"These guys are extremely generous, especially when it comes to helping our communities and feeding hungry people,"

cording to IBC.

"The Beef Counts program is a great way to give back to the community," said Trish Downton, a central Idaho rancher and secretary/treasurer of the IBC board of direc-

'It's something our members are proud of, that we're working to make a difference and giving back to our communities.'

Boyle said. "It's something our members are proud of, that we're working to make a difference and giving back to our communities. That makes me proud to be part of the Idaho potato industry."

Idaho's cattle industry provides a lot of protein to hungry Idahoans through the Idaho Beef Council's Beef Counts program, which converts donated funds or live animals into beef products that are distributed to Idahoans in need.

The program is a partnership between the Idaho Cattle Association, IBC, Idaho CattleWomen Council, Agri Beef Co. and Idaho Food Bank.

Since it was started in 2010, the program has provided more than 1,000,000 3-ounce servings of beef to hungry Idahoans, ac-

tors. "As a rancher, I believe strongly in the quality and commitment that goes into producing beef and beef products in this state. As a good neighbor, I and other ranchers want to make sure that all Idahoans have access to the nutrient-dense protein of our beef."

The IBC also raises thousands of dollars for the food bank through a host of other activities and events.

Besides helping to provide milk and other dairy products to hungry Idahoans, Dairy West also provides a lot of nutrition education resources, said Jaclyn St. John, a registered dietitian and the organization's health and wellness manager.

That includes providing free nutrition education materials to all educators and health

professionals in Idaho and Utah.

Dairy West also provides funding to schools to help them increase access to and consumption of nutrient rich foods, including dairy products.

The group, which is funded by the state's 490 dairy operations, provided \$249,000 to Idaho schools last year in the form of nutrition grants they could use to purchase things like kiosks, milk coolers, and blenders to increase dairy items on their menus.

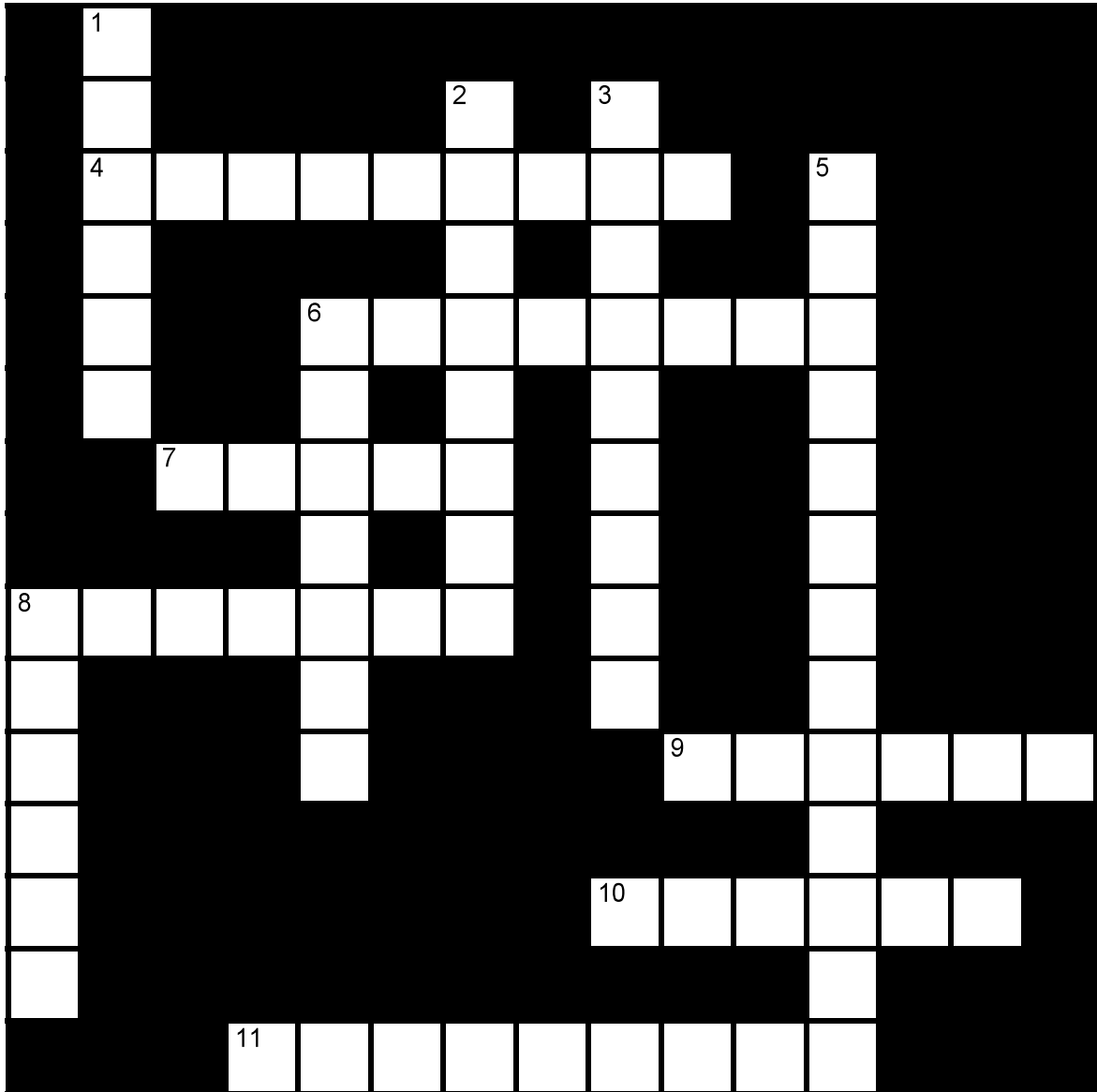
Idaho's dairy families have also provided \$1.2 million to schools since 2010 through the Fuel Up to Play 60 program, a national initiative that encourages kids to eat healthy and perform some type of physical activity for at least 60 minutes each day.

By supporting youth wellness initiatives, Dairy West is instilling healthy eating habits in young people's lives, which will only increase dairy consumption and help the dairy industry in the long run, St. John said.

But it's also the right thing to do, she added.

"Dairy farm families are committed to building a healthy, high-achieving generation of youth," she said. "The dairymen are so generous and committed to that work."

CROSSWORD PUZZLE: NUTS WE EAT



Across

4. Hard-shelled nut of an Australian evergreen tree that somewhat resembles the filbert and is cultivated extensively in Hawaii
6. Some people roast these reddish-brown nuts at Christmas time
7. An oval edible nut related to the walnut that usually has a thin shell and is the fruit of a tall tree of the central and southern United States
8. A naked seed enclosed in a protective shell from an evergreen tree.
9. Kidney-shaped edible nut that comes from a tropical American tree
10. A nut that people eat, use in recipes and make furniture from the wood of the tree
11. A long, three-sided white nut that grows on a South American tree

Down

1. Tree is of the rose family with flowers and young fruit resembling those of the peach
2. A shrub or small tree that bears this edible nut
3. A small green nut
5. White root of a plant that grows in water and is often used in Chinese cooking
6. An outer fibrous husk that contains thick edible meat and liquid
8. Legume (bean) nutlike edible seed that comes from the tough underground pods of a widely grown plant and are eaten whole or crushed to form a spread or produce oil for cooking

ANSWERS ON PAGE 37

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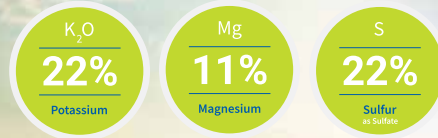
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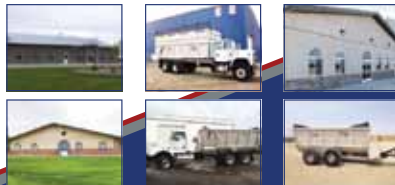


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Winter driving safety

Let's face it, Idaho winters can be challenging. The cold weather tests the limits of your car's mechanical abilities and dangerous driving conditions can test the abilities of even the best drivers.

It's important to understand the hazards we face with winter driving and be prepared to safely deal with them. In the winter, your car's dependability is more crucial than ever. The consequences of breaking down increase greatly as the temperature drops, so it's important to take the right precautions to keep you and your family safe.

Before the freeze

Have your brakes checked: Icy roads greatly increase the time it takes your car to come to a complete stop, so good brakes are especially critical in the winter.

Check your tire tread: Place a penny head first into the tread grooves on each tire. If you can still see Abe's entire head, your treads are worn and should be replaced before you drive on snow or ice.

Check your wiper blades and windshield washer fluid: Make sure your wiper blades work properly and be sure your washer fluid is undiluted so it won't freeze.

Check your antifreeze: It's easy to check the status of the mixture with an inexpensive antifreeze tester which you can pick up at any auto parts store. The mixture should be at least 50 percent antifreeze to 50 percent



Winter driving can test the abilities of even the best drivers.

water. For even greater protection, 70 percent antifreeze is recommended.

Check your battery: Have your mechanic check your battery, charging system, and belts. Even if the battery seems strong, do this once before the freeze comes and once in the middle of the winter season.

Behind the wheel

Accelerate and decelerate slowly: Applying the gas slowly to accelerate is the best method for regaining traction and avoiding skids. Don't try to get moving in a hurry. And take time to slow down for a stoplight. Remember: It takes longer to slow down on icy roads.

Drive slowly: Everything takes longer on snow-covered roads. Accelerating, stopping, turning – nothing happens as quickly as on dry pavement. Give yourself time to maneuver by driving slowly. The normal dry pave-

ment following distance of three to four seconds should be increased to eight to ten seconds.

Know your brakes: Whether you have anti-lock brakes or not, the best way to stop is threshold braking. Keep the heel of your foot on the floor and use the ball of your foot to apply firm, steady pressure on the brake pedal.

Don't stop if you can avoid it: There's a big difference in the amount of inertia it takes to start moving from a full stop versus how much it takes to get moving while still rolling. If you can slow down enough to keep rolling until a traffic light changes, do it. Before taking on a hill, get some inertia going on a flat roadway and let that inertia carry you to the top.

Stay home: If you really don't have to go out, don't. Even if you can drive well in the snow, not everyone else can. Don't tempt fate: If you don't have some-

where you have to be, watch the snow from indoors.

Watch for black ice: If the road looks slick, it probably is. This is especially true with one of winter's worst hazards: "black ice." Also called "glare ice," this is nearly transparent ice that often looks like a harmless puddle or is overlooked entirely. Test the traction with a smooth brake application or slight turn of the wheel.

Understand limitations of all-wheel drive and 4-wheel drive: It can only help a vehicle accelerate or keep it moving. Electronic Stability Control may prevent a spinout, but it can't help you go around a snow-covered turn, much less stop at an icy intersection.

Keep an emergency kit in your vehicle: While the list of items to include in the kit can be extensive, it's good to have at least a few basics.



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Meetings help explain new insurance safety net for dairymen

By Jake Putnam

Idaho Farm Bureau Federation

BOISE — Idaho Farm Bureau Federation held informational meetings across Idaho in early October to unveil a new risk-management insurance safety net for dairy farmers.

American Farm Bureau Federation teamed up with American Farm Bureau Insurance Services and dairymen to develop the safety net insurance program, which is approved by USDA's Federal Crop Insurance Corp.

"This is a usable and realistic solution to the extreme volatility of the dairy market," said IFBF Director of Commodities and Marketing Zak Miller. "Now that the product has been approved by USDA, it is signing-up time."

Known as Dairy Revenue Protection, the insurance plan allows farmers to purchase risk management protection against quarterly milk market declines and unexpected declines in milk prices, milk production, or both.

"This is exciting because Farm Bureau has been working on this safety net for quite some time," said Miller. "It is a risk management tool that just about anyone can afford."

Dairy Revenue Protection insurance gives farmers the opportunity to manage risks by focusing on their profits from milk sales.

"This is customizable; whether you're a high-fluid Holstein producer or high-solid Jersey producer, you can get insurance protection for your herd, whatever your needs are and whatever prices you can afford," Miller said

The insurance is flexible and producers can sign up by the quarter, he added.

Dairy Revenue Protection provides different levels of insurance coverage based on the value of the farmer's milk. One option uses milk futures prices while the other option is based on the value of milk components, things like milkfat, whey protein, and other milk solids. Most dairy farmers selling milk in the United States are paid just on the amount of milkfat and protein in their milk.

Miller said the insurance is a timely and needed product for the dairy industry.

"We've seen volatility in the feed side and the market side of dairy production," he said. "It's nice to see a product coming on that finally benefits dairymen."

Dairy-RP coverage works just like the area-based crop revenue-protection insurance policies. Crop coverage offers revenue guarantees based on three things: futures prices, expected production and market-implied risk.

"Dairy-RP allows farmers to pick a value of milk based on a component value or a mix of class III or class IV milk," said



Photo by Sean Ellis

A new risk-management insurance safety net for dairy farmers allows farmers to purchase risk management protection against quarterly milk market declines and unexpected declines in milk prices, milk production, or both.

AFBF Economist John Newton. "Then the farmer picks how much milk they want to cover – a dairy percentage – and that becomes a revenue guarantee for the farmer on the policy."

Newton said Farm Bureau started contacting dairy farmers two years ago to see what kind of fixes they needed in the farm safety net in the Farm Bill. He pointed to the success of crop insurance programs as an example of why dairymen need the same type of protection.

"In 2016, with declining crop prices, more than \$2.2 billion in insurance indemnities were paid to corn, cotton, rice, soybean and wheat farmers," Newton said. "Dairy-RP would have provided similar protection in 2015 and 2016 when milk prices fell by nearly 50 percent and the total U.S. farm value of milk fell by nearly \$15 billion."

Miller said a big selling point of the Dairy-RP program is

that farmers have only four decisions to make when working on their protection policy: the value of milk protected; the amount of milk production to cover; the level of coverage, from 70 to 90 percent of the revenue guarantee; and which quarterly contracts they wish to purchase.

Like other crop insurance policies, USDA would provide a premium discount to purchase Dairy-RP and the discount would increase as the farmer's elected deductible increased. For example, 70 percent coverage has a higher premium discount than 90 percent coverage.

Preliminary economic studies show that a Dairy-RP policy covering 90 percent of a farmer's milk revenue could cost 5 to 40 cents per hundredweight, depending on the quarter of the year covered and other policy parameters.

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

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Rick D. Keller
Secretary

Notice of Stockholders Meetings

The following annual stockholders meetings will take place Friday, Feb. 1, 2019, at the Idaho Farm Bureau home office, 275 Tierra Vista Drive in Pocatello, Idaho. The board of directors for each company will be elected at these meetings.

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

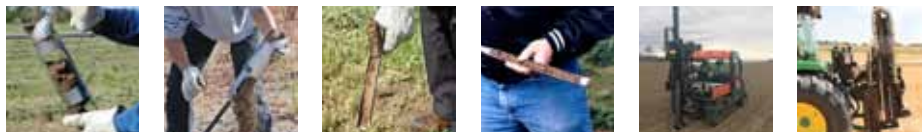
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FORESTRY

Continued from page 19

Chemical control of bark beetles is possible, but more feasible on individual high value landscape trees. Currently, the only chemical labeled for bark beetle (mountain pine beetle) control in the Pacific Northwest is carbaryl. Since the beetle is found under the bark, the bark must be saturated prior to beetle flight. Control on larger acreages is difficult (accessibility is an issue) and not very economical.

Landowners should consider chemical application when it is acceptable economically and ecologically, and when the consequences of not treating may prevent the landowner from reaching management objectives. If properly applied (to include an assessment of need, selecting the correct product,

formulation, dosage, method of application and timing) chemical insecticides are a prudent and appropriate stewardship tool.

Biological options

A significant amount of research has been conducted toward biological control of pests. Many biological controls exist for weed management. Currently, biological controls do not exist for bark beetles.

Two biological options that may be appropriate for defoliating insects are a bacterium known as Bt (*Bacillus thuringiensis*) and a molting inhibitor called Dimilin.

The former affects a wide range of caterpillars that inadvertently consume the spores. The latter

has a wider spectrum of influence. It may kill any insect that is in the process of molting and has a major impact on populations of aquatic insects.

There are additional stipulations associated with these biologicals, but when applied properly under appropriate conditions they may be more compatible ecologically than a chemical. Most biologicals affect a narrow spectrum of organisms relative to most chemicals and this is their appeal.

Tough decisions

Sound forest management requires many decisions. The landowner must be the decision maker when it comes to their forest. Seek guidance from professionals and obtain the information required to make

informed decisions about potential pests in your woods.

Develop a forest management plan and include a list of preventative and direct control strategies available for dealing with pests you might encounter. A well written management plan and active forest management are vital ingredients for good stewardship.

To answer the question, can forest pests be managed – yes, they can. But active forest management is the key, and as we extension foresters like to say, thin, thin, thin!

Randy Brooks is University of Idaho professor and extension forestry specialist. He can be reached at rbrooks@uidaho.edu.



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Idaho Farm Bureau photo

Rep. Mike Simpson, R-Idaho, center, is presented with a Friend of Farm Bureau Award by Idaho Farm Bureau Federation President Bryan Searle, second from right, and IFBF governmental affairs division employees Russ Hendricks, right, Dennis Tanikuni, far left, and Braden Jensen.

Idaho's congressional delegation receives Farm Bureau award

POCATELLO – All four members of Idaho's congressional delegation have earned the American Farm Bureau Federation's Friend of Farm Bureau Award for their efforts during the 115th Congress.

Senators Mike Crapo and Jim Risch, along with Representatives Mike Simpson and Raul Labrador, will receive the awards in the coming weeks at various locations.

The Friend of Farm Bureau award is given at the end of each Congress to those members of Congress who were

nominated by their respective state Farm Bureaus and approved by the American Farm Bureau Federation Board of Directors.

This award is based upon voting records on AFBF's priority issues established by the board of directors, number of bills that a member has sponsored and co-sponsored, their specific leadership role for Farm Bureau on priority issues, and how accessible and responsive that member is to Farm Bureau members and leaders.

According to a University of

Idaho study, agriculture is the most important sector in the state's economy. It showed that agriculture is directly and indirectly responsible for 16 percent of the state's total Gross Domestic Product as well as \$27 billion in sales annually and one of every seven jobs in the state.

Idaho Farm Bureau Federation President Bryan Searle said the state's congressional delegation gets high marks when it comes to leading on important issues and for being accessible to Farm Bureau members as

well as other constituents and responding to their concerns.

"The members of Idaho's congressional delegation receive this award because their actions prove they understand how important agriculture is to our state's economy and to our nation's security," he said. "We applaud them for their work and look forward to continuing to work closely with them on issues important to Farm Bureau members and the state's 24,000 farmers and ranchers."

IDAHO FARM BUREAU FEDERATION

79TH Annual Meeting

Riverside Hotel, Boise, Idaho • December 4 – 6, 2018

Tuesday, December 4

9:00 am – **HOSPITALITY ROOM**
11:00 pm **OPENS**
Aspen

9:00 am – **REGISTRATION DESK**
4:00 pm **OPENS**
Convention Lobby

11:00 am **GENERAL SESSION LUNCHEON**
Bryan Searle – President, Idaho Farm Bureau
Rick Keller – CEO, Executive Vice President
Laurel/Ponderosa/Tamarack

1:00 pm **FARM BUREAU'S LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE AND WORKSHOPS**
Legislative Issues –
IFBF Governmental Affairs
Cinnabar

Seed Crop Technology – Jake Blauer,
Forage Genetics International
Juniper

Farm Succession Do's and Don'ts –
Sarah Phillips, FB Life
North Star

2:00 pm **REFRESHMENT BREAK**
Convention Lobby

2:15 pm **FARM BUREAU'S LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE AND WORKSHOPS (continued)**
New FB Marketing Partnership with J.C.
Management
Clark Johnston, J.C. Management
Cinnabar

Accessing Satellite Images for Field Analysis –
Dr. Richard Allen, University of Idaho
North Star

Transportation Issues in Idaho – Discussion
Juniper

3:00 pm – **HOSPITALITY ROOM**
6:45 pm **OPENS**
Aspen

3:00 pm **DISCUSSION MEET PARTICIPANTS AND JUDGES**
Clearwater

3:15 pm **DISCUSSION MEET SEMI-FINALS**
Liberty/Clearwater/Delamar

5:00 pm **CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE MEETING**
Emerald

5:15 pm **SCREENING COMMITTEE MEETING**
Garnet

5:15 pm **YOUNG FARMERS AND RANCHERS CAUCUS**
North Star

5:30 pm **DISCUSSION MEET JUDGES**
Riverside Board Room

6:00 pm **DISCUSSION MEET FINALS**
Laurel/Juniper

7:00 pm **YOUNG FARMER AND RANCHERS AWARDS BANQUET**
YF&R Awards, Farm Safety Minute and Women's
Scholarship Auction
Ponderosa/Tamarack

Wednesday, December 5

- 7:00 am **RISE ‘N SHINE BREAKFAST**
Affiliated Company Reports
FBMIC, Paul Roberts
- Crop Insurance Update, Loren West
Marketing, Zak Miller
Ponderosa/Tamarack
- 8:00 am – 10:00 am **REGISTRATION DESK OPENS**
Convention Lobby
- 8:00 am – 9:00 am **GENERAL TRAINING –**
Understanding Exports, Trade & Tariffs
Veronica Nigh, AFBF Economist
Ponderosa/Tamarack
- 9:15 am – 11:30 am **HOUSE OF DELEGATES SESSION BEGINS**
Laurel/Juniper
- 9:00 am – 9:45 am **DISTRICT WOMEN’S CAUCUSES**
District I – Riverside Board Room
District II – Quiet Bar
District III – Clearwater
District IV – Delamar
District V – Topaz
- 10:00 am **REFRESHMENT BREAK**
Convention Lobby
- 10:00 am – 11:30am **WOMEN’S COMMITTEE BUSINESS MEETING**
Women’s Gold Star
Aspen
- 12:00 pm **AWARDS LUNCHEON**
County Showcase, Women’s Awards & Farm Safety Minute
Ponderosa/Tamarack
- 2:00 pm **HOUSE OF DELEGATES CONTINUES**
Laurel/Juniper
- 2:00 pm **WORKSHOP**
“Stop the Bleed” – St. Als Hospital
Aspen

- 3:15 pm **REFRESHMENT BREAK**
Convention Lobby
- 4:30 pm **DISTRICT CAUCUSES**
District I – Emerald
District II – Garnet
District III – Topaz
District IV – Clearwater
District V – Delamar
- 7:00 pm **FARM BUREAU’S ANNUAL BANQUET**
FFA President, Sadie Longhurst
President’s Cup Award
Keynote Speaker, David Cooper
Ponderosa/Tamarack

Thursday, December 6

- 7:00 am **COUNTY PRESIDENTS BREAKFAST**
(County Presidents/State Board and Spouses only)
Cinnabar
- 8:00 am **ELECTION OF DIRECTORS**
Laurel/Juniper
- 8:20 am **HOUSE OF DELEGATES CONTINUES**
Laurel/Juniper
- 10:15 am **REFRESHMENT BREAK**
Convention Lobby
- 12:00 pm **ADJOURN HOUSE OF DELEGATES**
Laurel/Juniper
- 12:30 pm **STATE BOARD OF DIRECTORS LUNCHEON**
Emerald
- 12:30 pm **STATE BOARD SPOUSES LUNCHEON**
Garnet
- 1:30 pm **STATE BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING**
North Star



Photo by Bill Schaefer

Jose Arujo, of Idaho Falls, piles on the condiments at the free taco bar during the 3rd Annual Idaho Agfest, which is designed to thank the state's farm workers for helping manage, plant and harvest the state's crops and livestock

Agfest event thanks Idaho farm workers, families

By Bill Schaefer

Idaho Farm Bureau Federation

IDAHO FALLS – More than 2,000 people attended the 3rd Annual Idaho Agfest, an event designed to thank farm and ranch employees for their hard work.

According to Idaho Department of Labor statistics, more than 50,000 agricultural workers help Idaho farmers and ranchers manage, plant, cultivate and harvest their crops and livestock.

Three years ago, a group of eastern Idaho farm families created Idaho Agfest as a way to thank those workers and their families.

Carl Taylor, of Taylor and Sons Farms, said he and his wife, Linda, had wanted to find some way to show their gratitude for all the hard work their agricul-

tural workers put in during the growing season.

“We decided to start this Agfest (and) we’ve got several other growers who feel the same way to help sponsor it,” Carl Taylor said.

Phil Simpson, CEO of Taylor and Sons Farms, said Carl and Linda came to him four years ago with this vision of Agfest.

“We started a non-profit,” Simpson said. “Every penny that’s donated goes to Agfest. There are no paid employees.”

More than 30 local businesses, including farms, ag and fertilizer suppliers, ag irrigation companies, banks and transportation companies contributed to this year’s event.

“It’s financed by those who deal in agriculture and I’ve never been turned down,” Carl Taylor said.

This year’s Agfest was held at the Pinecrest Event Center in Idaho Falls Oct. 20 from noon to 5 p.m. Families were given free admission with proof of agricultural employment in the form of a pay stub or worker ID. Free food and entertainment along with a petting zoo and children’s playground were among the attractions in the center.

About 30 booths representing a variety of social services as well as the University of Idaho, Boise State University, Idaho State University, the Community Council of Idaho, the Mexican consulate and the Bingham County library, offered their services.

“We have a large Hispanic community that’s involved in agriculture so a lot of our services are centered around the needs of the Hispanic community,” Carl Taylor said.

Linda Taylor said Idaho Agfest has grown and expanded with more booths and sponsors in its three years.

“It was a huge success,” she said about this year’s event. “It turned out exactly as we envisioned.”

She estimated between 2,000 and 2,500 people came to this year’s Agfest.

“I think it’s great. This is what the whole area is about,” said David Bingham of Rigby, a regulatory manager for Necternal, a soil amendment company, as he and his family were waiting in line at the taco bar.

Four \$1,000 scholarships were awarded this year to children of agricultural workers.

Jessica Benitez, a Skyline High School graduate, Mariela Guadarrama, an Idaho Falls H.S. graduate, Tanisha Coffey, a



2019 AFBF YOUNG FARMERS & RANCHERS

Competition Awards



The YF&R program helps young members shape their future and American agriculture through leadership development and personal growth opportunities. Three competitions enable members to showcase their leadership experience, communication skills and successful business plans as they compete against the best of the best from each state Farm Bureau.

As part of the YF&R competitions, the top four competitors in the Achievement Award, Discussion Meet and Excellence in Ag areas will receive:



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3RD PLACE

THIRD PLACE: Case IH 40" Combination Roll Cabinet & Top Chest and \$500 Case IH parts card, courtesy of Case IH plus \$2,000 of Stanley Black & Decker merchandise (PROTO, DeWalt, Stanley, Lenox & Irwin), courtesy of Stanley Black & Decker.

4TH PLACE

FOURTH PLACE: Case IH 40" Combination Roll Cabinet & Top Chest and a \$500 Case IH parts card, courtesy of Case IH.

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