



**IDAHO
FARM BUREAU**

Quarterly

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Beyond the Fencerows

A Harvest of Rural Prosperity Begins with Sound Policy in 2018

By Zippy Duval
President American Farm
Bureau Federation



Agriculture policy is off to a promising start in 2018. The American Farm Bureau Federation began the year at our 99th Annual Convention in Nashville with the theme “Transform,” because we’re committed to pushing the issues that will revitalize and transform our rural communities. We intend to keep agriculture on the cutting edge of innovation and ensure that our

nation’s farmers and ranchers can continue to feed the world.

We were honored to host President Trump at this year’s convention, the first time in 26 years that a sitting U.S. president spoke to Farm Bureau members on that stage. The president’s visit was a visible reminder that rural America is being heard and that this administration takes a real interest in the concerns of farmers and ranchers. We’ve already seen great strides

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The President’s Desk

Regulatory Reform Reduces Burden on Business

By Bryan Searle
President Idaho Farm
Bureau Federation



During a recent speech at the American Farm Bureau convention in Nashville, Tennessee, Agriculture Secretary Sonny Perdue discussed the regulatory burden farmers and ranchers face and how problems associated with government overreach are being addressed by the Trump Administration.

A lot has been accomplished in the first year of Donald Trump’s presidency, but as we all know, there is a lot left to do. Under the previous administration the regulatory burden on agriculture grew at an astounding pace and was highlighted by the Environmental Protection Agency’s attempt to regulate water on private land, known as the Waters of the U.S. rule, or WOTUS. It would have given EPA primacy over nearly every mud puddle and removed the word “navigable” from the Clean Water Act.

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Inside Farm Bureau

The Words from the President of the United States

By Rick Keller
CEO Idaho Farm
Bureau Federation



Last month nearly 7,000 farmers and ranchers from around the nation were gathered in Nashville, Tennessee. The setting was the annual meeting of the nation’s largest farm organization, the American Farm Bureau. The primary purpose of the annual meeting is establishing policy and direction for the organization. The resolutions come from the farm and ranch

grassroots, the 2,800 county Farm Bureaus in this nation. Mixed with establishing policy were also educational workshops, demonstrations, and keynote speakers, such as the U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Sonny Perdue.

This annual meeting was a little different than the immediate past annual meetings. President Donald J. Trump responded to an invitation to meet this august gathering of farmers and ranchers. His words expressed his thoughts and actions relating to American agriculture.

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Cover: Sterling Hatch is a farmer and rancher from Bingham County. He and his wife Manu and their children raise laying hens, show pigs and beef cattle. *Photo by Steve Ritter*



Rural Idaho Series



Manu Hatch releases her flock of laying hens to graze for the day. The breeds they raise are White Leghorns, Golden Sex Links and Barred Rocks. They have two coops and the chickens self-segregate in the coops, or in other words, the white chickens don't want to roost or share a coop with the others. Photo by Steve Ritter

The 10-Acre Farm: Bingham County Family Carries on a Proud Tradition

By John Thompson

Editor's Note: This is the second in a series of articles about people who make their living from the land in rural Idaho and some of the challenges they face. It's an ongoing story about people whose occupations are high-risk and both physically and mentally demanding. Many of them are ancestors of the first settlers who came here to homestead and produce nat-

ural resources that would support a growing nation. They are Idaho's heritage and their sacrifices created an economy that allowed the rest of us to follow.

A few miles east of Blackfoot near where the mountains begin to rise up from the Snake River Plain, a large grove of Russian olive trees hides a growing family of coyotes that has developed a keen appetite for chicken.

Watching a coyote slink away with a dead White Leghorn in its mouth is a cost of doing business for Sterling Hatch and his wife Manu, owners of Our Family Farm LLC. The Hatch's raise about 200 free-ranging laying hens. They sell eggs to two different local grocery stores. Predator loss, mainly from coyotes and skunks, is one of their many challenges.

Manu collects, washes, inspects and care-



Piglets being raised for the show ring at Our Family Farm in Bingham County take nourishment from their sow. Each piglet in the litter will return to the same teat every time it nurses. The process of birthing a litter is called farrowing and a weaned piglet is called a shoat. *Photo by Steve Ritter*

fully arranges the eggs in one-dozen cartons. Six brown eggs on one side of each carton and six white eggs on the other side. Eggs with cracked shells, called checks, are put aside and fed to their hogs. They ship between 80 and 150 dozen eggs per week and sell them wholesale for \$2.25 per dozen. The couple's four children help with the eggs when they're not in school and do many other farm chores.

The Hatches have an asparagus patch that resembles a small forest in late summer. The ferns grow five to six-feet tall in the sandy, alkaline soil. The children help with that crop also. "Our kids help with the asparagus and they gather eggs," said Manu. "It's important for us that our kids are raised in a wholesome setting. They

learn where food comes from and they learn a good work ethic."

Manu is of German descent. She traveled to Utah to work as a nanny and later attended Utah State University in Logan, where she met Sterling. They both worked at a historical farm in Cache Valley while attending the University.

After finishing school, where Sterling received a degree in animal science and Manu in American studies (history and literature) the couple moved to Bingham County where Sterling grew up. They lived in what they described as a "very small, very old single-wide trailer house." Sterling went back to work on his father's dairy and the couple started raising show pigs. Sterling had previous experience

with show hogs in the Future Farmers of America (FFA) organization.

For the next eight years they scrimped and saved all they could and grew a small herd of sows. At around the time of the Great Recession they found a 10-acre farm with some barns and a house. It had been sitting vacant for a while and the sale was held up by a foreclosure. The bank wouldn't let anyone even look at it. The bank later offered it in a short sale and attempted to sell it three more times at auction. But each time the buyer's financing fell through. Finally the Hatches were able to convince the bank to let them put an offer together and the deal went through.

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RURAL IDAHO

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Now the couple had a ten-acre farm of their own. It came with some small barns and sheds and a house that needed a lot of work. The Hatch's got busy remodeling the farm house and developing the farm to accommodate their growing family.

"We started with cobbled-up equipment and a cobbled-up shed, we saved and then we bought some farrowing stalls," Sterling said. "We saved money and upgraded our farrowing stalls, saved up for a down payment on this place and continued to farrow in the cobbled-up shed. They we saved more and finally built a proper farrowing house, and bought a tractor and a feed grinder."

He explained that the ability to buy bulk ingredients and mix their own livestock feeds has been a big money-saver. They buy local grain and work with a nutritionist in Minnesota who helps put together the proper rations for their flock of chickens and hog herd.

"We've paid cash for the improvements we've made and once in a while we have borrowed operating money in the spring, but other than that we've done it the old-fashioned way," he said.

The show hog business is complex. Sterling explained that over the past 18 years, livestock judges' preference in how hogs should look has changed dramatically. Previously the look that won shows was body-builder pigs, lean and muscular. They wanted rippling muscle and little to no fat. That has slowly changed over time to a more balanced animal. The driver behind the change was what any chef will tell you, fat equals flavor. A lean hog may look great but if there's no bacon, what's the point?

"It was all about looks and they weren't bred for taste near as much as they are now," Sterling said. "What they're looking for now is a hog that resembles a bulldog. They should be tall, thick and wide between the legs and stand solid on all

four corners. Right now we are splitting the difference between commercial and show hogs and it's about where it should be."

They also want animals with some color. Too much white on a pig and it will be overlooked in the show ring.

But trends will change. It's like a pendulum, he said. Sterling's breeding strategy is to keep his sows somewhere in the middle. He doesn't want sows that are unpredictable, no matter how good they might look. And he uses AI, buying semen out of the trendy boars mainly from Texas.

"We try to keep our sow herd in the middle and follow the trends but it's frustrating sometimes trying to keep up with the changes," he said.

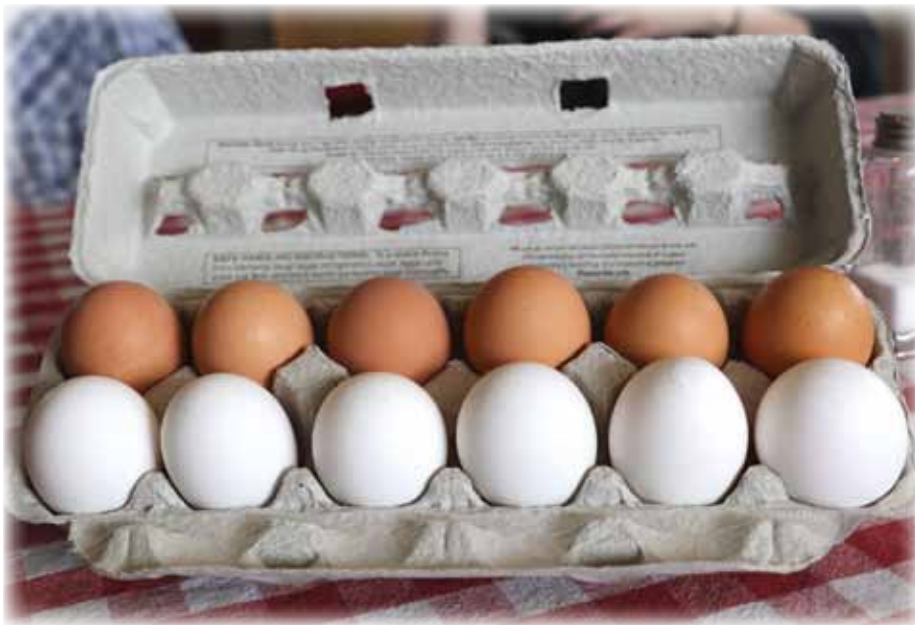
The couple manages a website at <http://www.ourfamilyfarm.net/> but word-of-mouth advertising is what built their reputation and is mainly what keeps customers coming back. Soon after they got back into raising pigs for the show ring they had some big litters that produced grand

and reserve champions in consecutive years. That turn of events helped build their business and expand from a few sows up to 30 today.

"They don't all have to win but they need to grow well and the kids need to have a good experience," Sterling said. "You do need to win once in a while to keep your name out there."

Another challenge of the show pig business is that 4-H members age-out. 4-H members can show pigs from the time they join the program at age nine until they age-out at 18. Sterling says that means about 12 percent of his customer base moves on every year. Recently with high cattle prices, some 4-H students have switched from raising steers to hogs because it costs less.

Yet another unique factor of the show pig business is that sows farrow (give birth) twice each year, once in late winter and again in late summer. It takes a pig about six months to reach the optimum weight of 275 pounds when it can be shown and sold. So the summer batch of piglets can't



A dozen fresh eggs from Our Family Farm, are washed, inspected and ready to ship to a local grocery store. Photo by Steve Ritter



A litter of piglets being raised for the show ring at Our Family Farm in Bingham County. The Hatch family sells show pigs to customers mainly in Idaho, Wyoming, Utah and Montana. Photo by Steve Ritter

be sold for the show ring. They're typically sold a couple at a time locally to people who want to finish them for personal use.

Sterling said the late market is more volatile. And like most agricultural ventures, some years are better than others.

"Some years we do pretty well but the last two we've been lucky to break even," Sterling said. "Honestly I haven't done that math yet because I don't want to know."

All of the Hatch's pigs that are sold for show are bred through the artificial insemination process (AI) in order to get the best show genetics. But those show genetics don't always turn into pigs with the best temperaments and maternal char-

acteristics, Sterling said.

With the summer farrowing he prefers to use his own boars. That way he gets better replacement sows and the breeding can be tailored toward market hogs rather than show hogs. Feed prices fluctuating and hitting the mark on farrowing add even more risk.

Pigs that are too big or too small when the county fairs start in late July don't win. So breeding time becomes critical. The Hatch's sows farrowed eight litters in one day in mid-January this year. They try to spread out the litters but it's a short window between mid-January and mid-February.

Looking down the road, the Hatches are exploring feasibility of raising broiler chickens for meat and building a small butcher shop. Sterling said the profit margin and the market for meat chickens is intriguing. They have also looked into producing organic eggs but with both ventures the government regulations seem prohibitive. A small meat shop would also allow them to create a value-added product like sausage from their cull sows.

In the meantime they will keep putting in the long days and generating the innovative ideas that helped build a thriving business - while keeping an eye out for coyotes.

IFBF Policy for 2018

The following policy statements were developed over the past 78 years by Idaho Farm Bureau volunteer members. Every year Idaho Farm Bureau volunteers meet to discuss, amend, delete and create the policy statements that guide the organization. The process takes place in the county and district levels throughout the calendar year. Then in early December the entire organization meets to update the policy book. This year delegates from 36 county Farm Bureaus met in early December. The policy comes from our grassroots members and is then used to guide the organization's lobbying, public relations and membership efforts throughout the year.

BASIC PRINCIPLES

Purpose of Farm Bureau

Farm Bureau is a free, independent, non-governmental, voluntary organization governed by and representing farm and ranch families united for the purpose of analyzing their problems and formulating action to achieve educational improvement, economic opportunity, environmental awareness and social advancement, and thereby, to promote the national well being. Farm Bureau is local, statewide, national, and international in its scope and influence and is non-partisan, non-sectarian, and non-secretive in character.

Farm Bureau Beliefs and Philosophy

America's unparalleled progress is based on freedom and dignity of the individual, sustained by basic moral and religious concepts. Freedom to the individual versus concentration of power, which would destroy freedom, is the central issue in all societies.

We believe the definition of marriage is a union between one man and one woman.

We believe in the sanctity of innocent human life from conception until natural death. We must protect the right to life to preserve the rights to liberty and property.

We oppose abortion. In the event that the mother's life is in danger, we support all measures aimed directly at saving the life of the mother.

We oppose euthanasia (intentionally ending a life) and physician-assisted suicide.

We believe that since the beginning of time, man's ability to provide food, fiber, and fuel for himself and his dependents has determined his independence, freedom and security.

We believe that a strong and viable agricultural industry is one of the most important cornerstones in the foundation of our national security, and the importance of that role in society must never be taken for granted. Economic progress, cultural advancement, ethical and religious principles flourish best where men are free, responsible individuals. The exercise of free will, rather than force, is consistent with the maintenance of liberty. Individual freedom

and opportunity must not be sacrificed in a quest for guaranteed "security".

We believe that America's system of private ownership of property and the means of production has been, and is, one of the major foundation stones of our republic. This element of our economic system and the personal rights attendant to private property, including grazing and water rights, must be maintained and protected.

Ownership of property and property rights are among the human rights essential to the preservation of individual freedom. The right to own property must be preserved at all costs.

We will take every opportunity to publicize, defend and promote our position, and we will stand firm on basic constitutional rights.

We believe in government by law, impartially administered, and without special privilege.

We support agricultural programs and organizations that give equal opportunity for developing skills, knowledge and leadership ability.

We believe in the representative form of government; a republic as provided in our Constitution; in limitations upon government power; in maintenance of equal opportunity; in the right of each individual to worship as he chooses; in separation of church and state as set forth in the First Amendment to the Constitution; and in freedom of speech, press, and peaceful assembly.

The U.S. Supreme Court imposed one man one vote rule should be overturned and return the United States to the republican form of government that was envisioned by the framers of the Constitution. Individuals have a moral responsibility to help preserve freedom for future generations by participating in public affairs and by helping to elect candidates who share their fundamental beliefs and principles.

We oppose the use of public funds for financing political campaigns. People have the right and the responsibility to speak for themselves individually or through organizations of their choice without coercion or government intervention.

We believe in the right of every man to choose his own occupation; to be rewarded according to his contribution to society and to save, invest, spend, or convey his earnings to his heirs. These rights are accompanied by the responsibility that each man has to meet the financial obligations he has incurred.

We support a society free of drug abuse.

We support English as the official language of Idaho and the United States.

We support English as the language that students should learn and use in public schools.

We support that public schools start the day with reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

The Constitution

Stable and honest government with prescribed and limited powers is essential to freedom and progress. The Constitution of the United States was well designed to secure individual liberty by a division of federal authority among the Legislative, Executive and Judicial branches. The Tenth Amendment assures that liberties are further secured for the states and the people through the retention of those powers not specifically delegated to the federal government. The constitutional prerogatives of each branch of government should be preserved from encroachment.

We support the Constitution as the supreme law of the land. Changes should be made only through constitutional amendments, not by federal policy or regulation. One of the greatest dangers threatening our republic and system of private, competitive enterprise is the socialization of America through the centralization of power and authority in the federal government. The centralization of power and responsibility in the federal government violates constitutional purposes. It has usurped state sovereignty and individual freedom and should be reversed. In defense of our Constitution, and of the sovereignty of the U.S.A., we oppose the centralization of power worldwide into one world government.

States' Rights and Sovereignty

We support the protection and defense of states' rights and state sovereignty over all powers not otherwise enumerated and granted to the federal government as specified in the 10th amendment to the

constitution. The federal government must respect state laws and state agencies. All lands within the boundaries of Idaho, excluding those lands as allowed by Article 1, Section 8, Clause 17 of the U.S. Constitution and ceded to the federal government by the Idaho Legislature, shall be subject solely to the laws and jurisdiction of the state.

Religious Life

Our nation was founded on spiritual faith and belief in God. Whereas the Constitution of the United States was founded on moral and religious principles, moral, ethical and traditional family values should get equal support and consideration in the public schools as do the atheistic and humanistic views.

We support the right to have religious beliefs and symbols of those beliefs presented in our communities.

1. We vigorously support retention of:
 - 1.1. "So Help Me God" in official oaths;
 - 1.2. The phrase "In God We Trust" on our coin;
 - 1.3. The fourth verse of the "Star Spangled Banner;"
 - and 1.4. The phrase "Under God" in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Capitalism-Private Competitive Enterprise

We believe in the American capitalistic, private, competitive enterprise system in which property is privately owned, privately managed, operated for profit, individual satisfaction and responsible stewardship.

We believe in a competitive business environment in which supply and demand are the primary determinants of market prices, the use of productive resources, and the distribution of output.

We support the continuing freedom of the people of Idaho to manage, develop, harvest and market the useful products of our natural resources.

We believe in man's right to search and research to select the best ways of maintaining quality production of food and fiber.

We believe every individual in Idaho should have the right to a job without being forced to join or pay dues to any organization.

Government operation of commercial business in competition with private enterprise should be terminated.

We also believe that no element of society has more concern for, understanding of, or a greater stake in, the proper husbandry of poultry, livestock, fur-bearers, game animals and aquaculture than the producer.

Economy in Government

We consider the proliferation of government with its ever increasing cost to the taxpayer a major problem.

State expenditures and growth of personnel on the public payroll should not be allowed to expand faster

than the population and should be compatible with the percentage of economic growth of the state.

We believe that Article 8, Section 1, "Limitation of Public Indebtedness" of the state Constitution is the main reason for the healthy financial condition of Idaho's government. We will oppose any attempt to amend this section of the Constitution.

Tax exemptions granted by the state Legislature that reduce county income should at the same time require appropriation of sufficient funds to replace county revenue losses caused by such exemptions.

We support economy at all levels of government.

Education

We believe that agricultural education is critical in creating and maintaining a strong and viable agricultural industry.

We believe education starts with the parent or guardian and is extended to the schools as a cooperative partnership in which parents and guardians have the right to review any and all methods and materials used in the educational processes of school systems.

We believe parents have the right to choose how best to direct the upbringing and education of their children.

We believe local school boards must be elected by the people to maintain control of public school systems and must have authority to establish policy for dress standards, personal conduct standards, testing standards, fiscal controls and curriculum.

We believe all school systems must be accountable to provide opportunities for all students to obtain proficiency in the basics of reading, writing and mathematics. Parents and guardians must be kept informed by the school system of the educational progress of their children.

We believe parents and guardians have an inherent right and obligation to discipline their own children.

Political Parties

Strong, responsive political parties are essential to the United States system of elective government.

We recommend that Farm Bureau members support the political party of their choice.

We believe that government should in no way be involved directly in the political process but should lay down certain rules to assure fair and proper elections.

We strongly favor retaining the county central political committees composed of county precinct committee people and their existing functions within the party structure.

We are opposed to shifting the functions of county committee to a district committee.

COMMODITIES

(1) Agrichemicals/Pesticides

We oppose establishment of zones of agricultural land in which any kind of legal application or storage of agricultural chemicals is curtailed without sound, scientifically validated evidence to warrant curtailment.

We support increased research and labeling for minor-use pesticide registrations.

We recommend that compliance with federally approved label instructions should absolve farmers or commercial applicators from liability claims of environmental pollution.

We support the continued use of approved pesticides and/or related products until conclusive scientific evidence proves there is an unacceptable risk.

We oppose fumigant buffer zone limitations proposed by the EPA without research giving substantial evidence that current practices are negatively affecting bystanders.

(2) Commodity Commissioners

We support commodity commissions that collect more than \$5,000,000 annually have a board elected solely by the growers.

(3) Commodity Diseases

We urge the Idaho State Department of Agriculture to do all within its power to prohibit the importation of Anthracnose virus into Idaho.

We support the quarantine of all sources of the potato wart virus.

We support active research and the dissemination of information to all interested parties related to rhizomania and urge that any imposed restrictions be based on scientific data.

We support any phytosanitary action taken by the Idaho Department of Agriculture to protect the Idaho potato industry from the threat of the "Pratylenchus Neglectus" nematode.

We support the re-write of the Idaho Plant Pest Act to include language to protect growers from being subject to unnecessary search and seizure without probable cause and advanced warning to enter a premises.

We support a federal and state PCN (Pale Cyst Nematode) program that is based on good science, stakeholder participation, and minimal impact to grower operations.

(4) Commodity Promotion

We support the organization of commodity commissions for promotion and research purposes of any commodity.

We support compulsory deduction of funds if pro-

ducers can establish the commodity commission through referendum, with assessments being established or increased by a majority vote of the producers, or if producers can easily obtain refunds of their assessments.

We support a periodic referendum if assessment is made mandatory.

We support the exclusion of crops and livestock from compulsory deductions to commodity commissions when producers or growers come under regulation from quarantinable pests or diseases.

We support commodity commission efforts to build a grower data base by collecting producer names and addresses from the first point of sale.

(5) Commodity Sales

We support expansion of Idaho agricultural markets, domestic and foreign. We also support trade missions abroad to better inform our producers and the hosting of foreign delegations to our state in efforts to increase our market share.

We support changes to crop insurance that truly reflect a safety net.

We oppose double discounts by grain dealers.

We support licensing and bonding of all commodity brokers by the State of Idaho.

We support amending the Idaho Pure Seed Law to fully disclose the contents of all seed lots by requiring the tag or label to list each plant species therein by name and rate of occurrence.

(6) Commodity Testing Equipment

Commodity buyers' moisture meters and other commodity testing equipment for the purpose of grading should be certified for accuracy by the ISDA Bureau of Weights and Measures.

(7) Environmental Studies

We recommend that any individual or group doing environmental studies be held accountable for claims or assertions of damage by agricultural practices to the environment. Claims or assertions should be treated with skepticism until they have been subjected to critical peer review and tested by practical application.

(8) Fair Trade

We support strict adherence to bilateral and multilateral trade agreements to which the United States is a party to prevent unfair practices by competing nations and to assure unrestricted access to domestic and world markets. All trade agreements should be continuously monitored and enforced to ensure they result in fair trade.

(9) Field Testing Biotechnology Products

We support effective field testing of new biotechnology products to promote commercial use of products that will benefit agriculture and the general public.

We oppose any law or regulation requiring registration of agriculture producers who use or sell biotech-based products or commodities.

We oppose any law or regulation requiring registration or labeling of agricultural products containing GMOs (Genetically Modified Organisms).

We oppose attempts to restrict or prohibit planting of biotechnology crops on either a statewide or county by county basis.

We support scientifically accurate consumer education about the safety and benefits of genetically engineered crops.

(10) Food Safety/Government Accountability

We strongly believe a government agency making public health decisions that result in product recalls, product seizures or destruction of perishable goods must be held accountable when such decisions prove false. Such agencies must be required to compensate or indemnify individuals and companies for the monetary losses that occur because of poor or false regulatory decisions.

We support laws and regulations that exempt farmers and ranchers from liability from food contamination when best practices or food safety programs have been followed and no gross negligence has been shown.

(11) Forage/Soil Sample Testing

We recommend that action be taken to set uniform guidelines for all testing labs in the analysis of forage and soil samples, with the Idaho Department of Agriculture to administer them.

(12) Hay Certification

We support a uniform state noxious weed free hay certification program.

(13) Industrial Grade Hemp

We support legalizing the production of industrial grade hemp with 0.3% THC (Tetrahydrocannabinol), or less in Idaho, and to authorize the University of Idaho and the Idaho Department of Agriculture to conduct research and pilot programs to determine suitable varieties to meet market demand.

We support the requirement that growers of industrial grade hemp register their fields with the appropriate regulatory or enforcement agency.

(14) Lien Law

We oppose any attempt to alter the system of centralized filing or first-in-time, first-in-right system of lien priorities, either in revised UCC Article 9, or any other legislation.

Delivered feed shall not be encumbered by a blanket lien from a financial institution until the grower/supplier is paid in full.

LIVESTOCK

(15) Animal Care

We support:

1.1. The rights of owners and producers to raise their animals in accordance with commonly accepted animal husbandry practices.

1.2. Fines and/or reimbursement for animal research lost and all costs and damage incurred, when farms or research facilities are willfully damaged. Responsible persons or organizations should pay all costs.

1.3. The role of a licensed veterinarian in the care of animals and support current licensing standards for veterinarians.

1.4. The Idaho Veterinary Practice Act and oppose any efforts to weaken it or the licensing standards.

1.5. Punishments for those with non-service animals who attempt to portray them as service animals.

2. We oppose:

2.1. Any legislation, regulatory action or funding, whether private or public, that interferes with commonly accepted animal husbandry practices.

2.2. Legislation that would give animal rights organizations the right to establish standards for the raising, marketing, handling, feeding, housing or transportation of livestock and production animals and any legislation that would pay bounties to complainants.

2.3. Any livestock and production animal care legislation that would impose a stricter penalty than the 2016 law.

2.4. The creation of an Idaho livestock care standards board.

2.5. Requiring a licensed veterinarian for docking, dehorning, castration and any routine livestock healthcare management practices.

2.6. Comfort animals having the same rights and privileges as service animals covered by the Americans with Disabilities Act.

(16) Animal ID

We support procedures and or equipment for an animal ID program that makes it possible to trace an animal back to its original location.

We support the right of the owner to choose among the acceptable methods of identification and to leave their animals unidentified prior to movement from the premises of origin.

We support having the Idaho State Department of Agriculture determine acceptable methods of identification, including hot or cold brands, for the state.

(17) Bovine Tuberculosis

We support an ISDA surveillance testing program for Bovine Tuberculosis and its continued funding.

(18) Brucellosis

We oppose all efforts to eliminate the mandatory vaccination law and require its complete enforcement.

We insist that the National Park Service eradicate brucellosis in Yellowstone and Grand Teton Parks.

We support regulations requiring the appropriate state and federal agencies to control and eradicate this disease in wildlife.

We oppose separating the state into zones for definition of brucellosis-free status.

We oppose the establishment of any herds of free roaming buffalo outside of Yellowstone National Park.

(19) CAFO Regulations

We support efforts by all livestock associations to create MOUs with the appropriate state and federal agencies.

Matters pertaining to CAFO regulation other than siting should be under the jurisdiction of the state.

(20) Cattle Liens

Liens should not be attached to livestock until ownership can be proven and verified.

(21) Data Confidentiality

We support the confidentiality of data collected on farms and feedlots. Only final reports or conclusions should be made a matter of public record. No data collected from individual operations should be made public.

(22) Domestic Cervidae

We support the right of domestic cervidae owners to use private trophy ranches as a means to ethically harvest their animals.

We support the right of domestic cervidae owners to breed, raise, harvest, and market all members of the cervidae family indigenous to Idaho that can be legally acquired.

(23) Equine

We oppose any attempt to eliminate the right of the equine owner or BLM to the minimal stress slaughter of their equine for consumption or any other purpose.

We support construction of new slaughtering facilities and/or use of existing processing facilities in Idaho to slaughter equines without duress.

We support the right of individuals and non-governmental organizations to save horses from slaughter as long as they take possession of the horses and are responsible for their care and feeding.

We support the continued classification of equines as marketable livestock and oppose any efforts to classify them as pets or companion animals.

When an equine is in the custody of a government agency and an adoption has not been able to take place within 6 months, that equine should be harvested or euthanized with minimal stress and without delay.

We support funding for USDA food service inspectors in facilities that harvest horses.

(24) Federal/State Inspectors of Small Meat Processing Plants

We support federal meat inspectors being made available to small meat processors.

We support state certified meat inspectors.

(25) Foot and Mouth/BSE Disease

We support stringent controls to protect Idaho's livestock industry from foot and mouth disease and bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE). In addition, the United States must impose restrictions on importation of animals and animal products that could carry other contagious infectious diseases.

We oppose importation of live cattle over 30 months of age until sound science proves this does not threaten to spread BSE to the United States.

We oppose any announcement to the media of BSE suspects in the United States until the final scientific determination is made whether they are positive or negative.

We support allowing entities to voluntarily test all slaughtered animals for bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE) in order to ship products to countries that require individual tests.

(26) Law Enforcement Training

We support law enforcement officers being trained in proper livestock herding techniques and how to properly euthanize livestock as part of the Idaho Peace Officers Standardized Training.

(27) Livestock Brands

We support the concept that livestock may be left unbranded at the discretion of the owner except for those livestock grazing on federal/state managed lands.

(28) Livestock Theft

We support a mandatory prison term, fine, and restitution as a minimum sentence for a felony livestock theft conviction.

(29) Manure Management

We believe that manure and manure/compost are nutrient-rich residue resources.

1. We support:

1.1. Research on manure management including such areas as odor reduction and waste and nutrient management.

1.2. Programs that educate livestock operators on techniques regarding properly managed organic nutrient systems, especially if implemented with consistent Best Management Practices (BMPs) developed by extension, university and the livestock industry.

1.3. The Idaho State Department of Agriculture allowing certification of third-party soil sampling for nutrient management plan compliance purposes.

1.4. We support changing ISDA phosphorous management rules to include Phosphorous Site Indexing.

2. We oppose:

2.1. Manure being classified as industrial, solid, or hazardous waste or as raw sewage.

(30) State Veterinarian

We believe the Animal Health Division of the Idaho Department of Agriculture should be administered by a licensed veterinarian.

WATER

(31) Aquifer Recharge

We support the beneficial use of managed basin-wide aquifer recharge with the state being involved with both financial support and implementation.

(32) Artesian Wells

We support the current law regarding artesian wells, if adequate funding for the cost-sharing of well repairs is provided.

We oppose the designation of the heat value from a geothermal source as being the only beneficial use.

(33) Bureau of Reclamation Reservoirs

Release of water in power head space in Bureau of Reclamation reservoirs shall be controlled solely by state water law.

(34) Cloud Seeding

We support the application of cloud seeding and we encourage continued investment in the application and research of cloud seeding.

We encourage the Idaho Legislature and the Idaho Department of Water Resources to study and allocate funding for cloud seeding efforts that are proving beneficial to increasing precipitation.

(35) Comprehensive State Water Plan

We urge the Governor to appoint Water Resource Board members who will be protective of the waters of the State of Idaho.

We oppose all minimum stream flows unless sufficient storage is built to supply priority needs first.

We support requiring legislative approval before establishing minimum stream flow, instream flow, reconnect permits, river basin plans and state water plans.

We support amending the Idaho Constitution, Article XV Water Rights Section 7, State Water Resource Agency to read "That any change shall become effective only by approval of the legislature."

We support a mandatory requirement for legislative approval of agreements made by state agencies with federal agencies when dealing with commitments on water.

We support the Swan Falls Agreement as originally written in October of 1984.

(36) Dams

We support legislation that would focus the attention of the Northwest Power Planning Council's authority on planning, to provide for present and future power needs of northwest power states and away from other secondary issues.

We support the construction, improvement and increased size of storage facilities that provide multiple beneficial uses of Idaho's water, and encourage mu-

municipalities, federal agencies and tribal agencies to advocate and fund additional storage to help meet their increasing demands for water, thus avoiding the need to take irrigation water from agriculture.

We support the continued existence and current usage of all dams on the Columbia and Snake Rivers. We oppose any efforts to destroy or decrease production of those dams.

We support construction of the Galloway Dam on the Weiser River.

(37) Effluent Trading

We support the concept of effluent trading.

(38) Flood Control

We recommend that steps, including additional storage facilities, increased recharge and land transfers from federal to state ownership, be taken to control future flooding within the state of Idaho.

We support Idaho water law that denies flood control releases as being considered a beneficial use.

(39) Moratorium

We support the current Idaho Department of Water Resources moratoriums on critical groundwater development.

(40) Outstanding Resource Waters

We support the Basin Advisory Groups (BAGs) and Watershed Advisory Groups (WAGs) process, recognizing that Outstanding Resource Waters (ORWs) are part of this process.

We oppose nominations of ORWs by parties other than BAGs and WAGs.

(41) State Purchase of Water Rights for Mitigation

We support having the State of Idaho purchase water rights for mitigation purposes to be held by the State Water Board, so water trade may benefit recharge and pump conversions.

(42) Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLS)

We support mandating Idaho's Department of Environmental Quality to conduct an Economic Impact Analysis of an area's businesses (including the agribusiness and agricultural operations of that area) before initiating a TMDL process for that geographic area. The analysis shall be provided to the Watershed Advisory Group before consideration is given to develop and implement a TMDL. A copy of the analysis shall also be provided to the germane committees of the Idaho Legislature.

(43) Transfer of Water Rights

We oppose the transfer of water rights to the Bureau of Reclamation (BOR).

We oppose the taking of water for fish flushing. Water held by the Idaho Water Resources Board will be held and used for purposes intended and in accordance with state law.

We believe all water in Idaho should be used beneficially. In the event the BOR or IDWR desires use of water they would have to negotiate on a yearly basis for rental-pool water in accordance with state water law.

We oppose out-of-basin transfers of irrigation water from lands enrolled in the federal cropland set-aside program for use on lands that have not historically been used for agricultural development.

We oppose the continued use of the 427,000 acre-feet of water for flow augmentation.

(44) Waste Management

We oppose mandatory facility construction without scientific proof of environmental on an individual basis.

(45) Water Development on New Non-Ag Development

We support legislation that would require developers to supply water and water-delivery systems using existing water rights or gray water to new developments.

(46) Water Quality

1. We support:

1.1. The continued management of water quality, both underground and surface, by utilizing "Best Management Practices" (BMPs) as contained in USDA's "Natural Resource Conservation Services Field Office Technical Guide" and Idaho's "Forest Practices Act". Changes in these BMPs should be based only on scientifically monitored data rather than "best professional judgment."

1.2. The development of BMPs for recreational uses.

1.3. The efforts of canal and irrigation districts to halt unwanted drainage into their water systems.

2. We oppose:

2.1. The Forest Practices Act Streamside Retention Rule (Shade Rule) unless accompanied by fair market appraised value compensation to landowners for loss of property rights.

2.2. The DEQ having the authority to arbitrarily impose penalties on landowners without first identifying the problem and giving the landowner an opportunity to correct the problem. If there is a difference of opinion concerning the extent of the problem, a reasonable and cost-effective appeal process of the DEQ decision should be available to the landowner.

2.3. Levying fees associated with State NPDES programs implementation, operation and permit issuance on agriculture and aquaculture producers.

(47) Water Quality Standards

Water quality standards must be site specific and realistically achievable for each water body. These standards must at least partially support designated beneficial uses.

(48) Water Rights

1. We support:

1.1. State ownership and control of Idaho water held in trust for the residents of the State of Idaho, and will

oppose any policy, program, or regulation, including Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) relicensing, which would infringe on this right.

1.2. Defining local public interest, under water right law, to give priority to beneficial uses and agricultural viability, with local vested interest and use, a priority.

1.3. Sanctions upon any party making frivolous claims against water right applications. Frivolous claims are not reasonably grounded in fact or law causing unnecessary delay, increased cost, or harassment.

1.4. Permittees on federal land being recognized and acknowledged as the owners of stock water rights in their allotments as their livestock provide beneficial use under state law.

We support legislation codifying the holding in the Joyce decision that stockwater rights are an appurtenance of the base property.

1.5. Requiring that minimum stream flows not jeopardize water rights and being financed by the benefit recipients.

1.6. The continued wise development of all Idaho's rivers and their tributaries as working rivers.

1.7. First in time, first in right, and state control of water issues within appropriate Idaho agencies without federal regulatory or legislative intervention.

1.8. The privatization of Idaho irrigation canal systems.

1.9. The protection of canal and drain ditch easements from arbitrarily being taken over by cities, counties, states, federal or private developers or private landowners and developed into green belts or bike paths.

1.10. The concept of conjunctive-use management when scientific evidence is available to support such management.

1.11. Efforts by local groundwater districts to provide supplemental or water bank water to senior surface water users to prevent curtailment of junior water rights. Irrigation districts shall have no net loss of irrigated acres due to growth and development.

2. We oppose:

2.1. The Water Resources Board accepting any further applications for water rights on surface stream water of the state that has been over decreed and adjudicated. Adequate water for domestic and agricultural purposes should have priority over other uses when the waters of any natural stream is insufficient, as per Article 15, Section 3 of the Idaho Constitution.

2.2. Changing the historical beneficial use of water rights when that change will have a negative impact on other water right holders.

2.3. The federal government changing the historic priorities and uses of water storage reservoirs.

2.4. Any diminishment of storage fill rights due to flood control or other discharge prior to season use including efforts by any entity that would count flood control releases against the storage rights of water right holders.

2.5. Any federal agencies' use of priority dates, in regard to water rights, that are not in accordance with Idaho Water Law.

2.6. The adoption of source water protection plans/ordinances by local government that create land use

policies prohibiting generally accepted farming and animal agriculture practices/activities.

2.7. Indian tribes requiring/requesting water right encroachment permits on state waters.

2.8. Agreements between water groups that neglect the first in time, first in right and treat senior, junior, trust and expansion rights near-equal.

2.9. The 5-year averages that were used to determine the quantity of water that is allowed to be pumped by a user in the future.

(49) Water Spreading

We support voluntary conservation of water use by updating irrigation systems. Increases in irrigated acres (water spread acres) due to redesigning or re-modeling irrigation systems or development of areas within a recorded water right, should not be excluded from irrigation. Conservation should not adversely affect the full use of an irrigation water right.

We support legislation and rule making that will protect the full use of an irrigation water right.

(50) Water Use - International Water Agreements

We support renewal of the Columbia River Treaty with Canada in such a manner as to maintain its original focus upon flood control and power generation.

LAND USE

(51) Conservation Reserve Program – Grazing

We support managed grazing every three years or other mid-management tools of CRP acres to enhance the health of vegetation at the discretion of local committees.

We support the separation of haying and grazing on CRP acres and the use of both as separate management tools.

(52) Experimental Stewardship Program

We support and encourage the continuation and expansion of the Experimental Stewardship Program and Coordinated Resource Management Program, (CRMP) as long as producer control is maintained in all decisions concerning range management.

(53) Government Land Transactions

1. We support:

1.1. No net loss of private property.

1.2. Enactment of legislation to require prior legislative approval for any state land acquisition on a parcel-by-parcel basis.

1.3. Prohibiting the sale of state land to the federal government or agencies of the federal government, except for the purpose of building federal facilities or structures.

1.4. When land is to be sold, the current grazing permit holder must have the first right of refusal. If there is no permit holder, the adjacent landowner should be given the first right of refusal based on appraised value. When federal land is sold, traded, or exchanged, all holders of grazing preference must be fairly compensated.

1.5. Requiring any entity which acquires property from the federal government, to compensate grazing preference holders on the former federally admin-

istered lands for the loss of their property rights if that entity does not continue to maintain and protect those rights.

1.6. The enactment of legislation to ensure that none of the valid existing private rights are lost in any land exchange between Idaho and the federal government or in the transfer of federal lands to Idaho.

1.7. Amending the Idaho Constitution to mandate that any federal land conveyed to the state in any manner from the date of the passage will be managed for multiple use and sustained yield; that all valid existing rights will be honored; and allow for the sale of the isolated, landlocked, and uneconomical parcels with the first right of refusal going to the adjoining landowner(s) at fair appraised value.

2. We oppose:

2.1. Any land exchanges involving publicly owned land unless there is strong local support.

(54) Government-Managed Lands

We support multiple-use management of federal and state lands with due regard for the traditional rights of use.

We urge county governments to have a land-use management plan with which both state and federal agencies would coordinate in order to protect the land within their tax base.

We support a study of the Payment in Lieu of Taxes formula to determine if it is meeting its purpose and is equitable in its distribution of funds.

We urge the legislature and the governor to assert their authority and take all necessary measures to protect the citizens and counties of the state of Idaho from federal agency overreach.

We support the equal-footing doctrine and insist on the passage of legislation to establish a deadline for complete transfer of public land back to state jurisdiction and management.

We support the Idaho Legislature joining with other states in the West, in an interstate compact, with respect to the transfer of public lands.

Holders of grazing permits or leases should not be penalized or removed from allotments because of administrative errors or omissions of the landmanagement agency.

On state and federal government grazing permits and/or lease rules, the word "grazing" needs to be further defined as livestock consumption of forage and brush for livestock production with benefits of weed and fire control.

We support grazing contracts on non-grazed public lands to reduce excess fuel that contributes to range or forest fires.

We support the timely salvage of trees in burn areas within our state.

We support legislation that would promote harvest

of trees and forage on federal and state land to help prevent and control wildfire.

We encourage the release of federal, state and local government held lands for development or private use.

(55) Grazing Fees

We support the current state grazing fee formula and the PRIA formula concept.

(56) Grazing Permit Transfer

We oppose the U.S. Forest Service ruling that will prevent transferring grazing permits for 25 head or less.

(57) Idaho Forest Practices Act

We support the Idaho Forest Practices Act except where it infringes on private property rights.

(58) Idaho Grazing Land Conservation Initiative (GLCI)

We support the Idaho Grazing Land Conservation Initiative.

(59) Landfills on BLM Lands

We encourage the development of new, as well as the continued use of, county landfills on BLM lands.

(60) Local, State or National Land Designation

We oppose any infringement upon private property rights through any designation of land by any government entity, including highway scenic byways/corridors, National Heritage Areas, National Monuments and National Parks. We oppose any change to federal or state land designation when there is the potential to harm agriculture.

We oppose Craters of the Moon becoming a national park.

(61) Mineral Rights

We support legislation that would transfer government-retained mineral rights to current landowners (at no expense to the landowners), where there has been no meaningful mineral activity for 10 years.

We support requiring that property deeds state the name and address of the person or entity who owns the mineral rights for each property. If mineral rights are sold or transferred, the deed should be updated. The surface owner should be notified and offered first right of refusal.

(62) Mining

We support the continuation of mineral extraction in Idaho as long as the appropriate mine reclamation and environmental protections are in place and followed.

(63) Notification of Property Damage

We support notification to landowners when fences or property sustain damage due to accidents.

(64) Open Range

We oppose any changes to Idaho open range and

fence laws.

(65) Pest Control

We support enforcement of current laws to give counties authority to spray and control insect infestations on private land, with the cost of the spraying to be assessed to the current tax base of the present owner of the land.

We support safe and effective county and state pest control programs when landowner property rights are respected and commodity production is not adversely affected by the program(s).

We support legislation that requires local, state and federal governments to manage their lands and control their noxious weeds and pests so that no harm is done to adjoining lands, crops and animals.

(66) Protecting Farm Land

We ask all units of government to give high priority to the protection of farmland and/or grazing land when considering other uses of such lands for public purposes. There should be no governmental taking of private property rights by restriction of use without just and due compensation.

We support the federal and state "takings" law in support of the U.S. Constitution, Article V.

We oppose any infringement of private property rights caused by regulation of rivers and dams for endangered species.

We oppose infringement on private property rights caused by highway districts and transportation departments.

(67) Range Management Plans

We believe that range management plans developed by the Idaho Department of Lands, BLM or U.S. Forest Service should be based on current factual information. If any plan is proposed without current information, we will join with others to persuade BLM and U.S. Forest Service or Idaho Department of Lands to revert to the pre-existing plan until current factual data is obtained.

We support voluntary forage monitoring and oppose mandatory forage monitoring by livestock permittees on federal lands as proposed by the Federal Land Management Policy Act.

We support the development of a certification process recognized by the Idaho Department of Lands, BLM, and U.S. Forest Service which would allow grazing permit holders to submit monitoring data that must be recognized and considered in the development and creation of range management plans.

(68) Rangeland Resource Commission

We support the Rangeland Resource Commission and the fees assessed.

(69) Regulation of Agricultural Practices

1. We support:

1.1. Long-standing sound agricultural practices such as field burning, including grass seed, straw, residue burning, timber slash burning and animal-waste disposal, cultivation and harvest practices.

1.2. Farmer participation in voluntary airshed quality programs.

1.3. The farmer's right to farm by being able to carry on sound farming and forestry practices and to be free from environmental regulations that are not proportionately beneficial to the implementation cost.

2. We oppose:

2.1. Any legislation or regulations that would segregate any agricultural industry, agricultural crop, cropping practice or geographical area and would impose a higher air quality, water quality or environmental standard than is required of any other person, entity, industry or geographical area within the state.

2.2. Regulations on agricultural practices that are not validated by sound peer reviewed scientific process and supported by scientific fact.

2.3. The Idaho State Department of Agriculture having the authority to impose sanctions on livestock operators without first identifying specific problems and giving the operators an opportunity to correct said problems.

2.4. Mandatory registration or licensing of farms and ranches.

(70) Right to Farm

We support the right-to-farm law, and the concept behind it, and encourage legislative changes to strengthen the law so it can be enforced at the local governmental levels through conditional use permits or other permitting processes.

We support local, state, and federal agriculture exemptions from dust rules.

(71) Riparian Management

Proper multiple-use management of riparian areas is essential.

We believe these highly productive areas can be properly harvested with modern forest or livestock Best Management Practices (BMPs) and still improve riparian habitat for all uses.

We believe these areas should be properly used but not abused. However, management of the entire allotment should not be governed by forage utilization of riparian areas.

We support the concept that all existing roads along Class 2 streams be given grandfather rights approval.

(72) Sheep Grazing

We believe that sheep grazing is a valuable use of Idaho forage and resist attempts to terminate grazing permits and/or move domestic sheep because of their proximity to bighorn sheep.

We support the Best Management Practice concept for dealing with this issue.

(73) State and County Noxious Weed Control

We support stronger enforcement of Idaho's noxious

weed law by the state and counties, together with appropriate use of special management-zone provisions.

We urge that Idaho Transportation Department weed control policies, at both the state and district levels, be changed to require that the ITD be in compliance with the Idaho noxious weed law each year, by controlling all infestations each year in a timely and effective manner and by controlling noxious weeds on the full width of all rights of way.

We urge the Idaho State Department of Agriculture to require timely and effective noxious weed control by all railroads on their rights of way within the state.

We urge that state and county authorities direct more emphasis to rights of way.

We request that the Idaho Department of Agriculture add dog rose (*Rosa canina*) and sweet briar (*Rosa eglanteria*) to the Idaho noxious weed list.

(74) Timber Management

We support all efforts by the Department of Lands to optimize the timber yields and stumpage prices as mandated by the Idaho Constitution.

We oppose actions by the Land Board or Department of Lands that would inhibit or further restrict these processes, including, but not limited to, habitat conservation plans and conservation easements.

(75) Timber Trespass

We support legislation that would award delivered log values to landowners with no deduction for logging for incidental timber trespass. Additional penalties would be established for intentional trespass.

(76) Wilderness and Restrictive Zones

We oppose all dedication of land in Idaho for wilderness and roadless areas and support the release of lands currently held in Wilderness Study Areas (WSA) back to multiple-use management. All lands designated as non-suitable for wilderness must be immediately released from WSA status.

We support the traditional balanced multiple-use practices on all federal/state lands and that access to existing wilderness be free and accessible for everyone.

We oppose designation of lands in Idaho as biosphere reserves, corridors or buffer zones, using the Lands Legacy Initiative, the Antiquities Act and the National Monument Declarations by the executive branch of the government.

We support adding adequate fire breaks in existing wilderness areas.

We oppose any expansion of the boundaries of the Sawtooth National Recreation Area (SNRA).

We oppose any reinterpretation of the mandates of the SNRA which would impose further use restrictions.

We oppose the reduction or curtailment of any grazing or farming activity for the creation or recognition of wildlife corridors.

(77) Wildfire Control

1. We support:

1.1. Changing fire-control policy to put out any fire upon arrival or as soon as safely possible. Local entities (such as counties, fire districts, and forest or rangeland protective associations) and private landowners and individuals need to be allowed to act as first responders. When the protection of the health, safety, and property of the citizens are in jeopardy, the local protective associations must be allowed to act beyond the first response and initial attack phase of a fire. Local landowners must be allowed to protect private property.

1.2. Changing state and federal wildfire policy to require that state and federal fire managers and incident commanders coordinate with county and local fire departments and landowners.

1.3. A provision that state and federal agencies will allow forest or rangeland protective associations in neighboring states, that meet the requirements of their home state, to enter into mutual aid agreements with forest and rangeland protective associations across state lines.

1.4. An increase in management activities, such as thinning and grazing, to achieve federal agency goals of reducing the potential for catastrophic wildfires.

1.5. A provision that state and federal agencies maintain a fire break strategically located to protect private property and to control large wild fires.

1.6. An aggressive initial attack and suppression on all forest and rangeland wildfires on public land and firefighting suppression activities in addition to fire management, in order to protect our water basins and watersheds.

2. We oppose:

2.1. Landowners being held accountable for fire suppression costs except in cases of gross negligence.

2.2. Efforts by the Idaho Department of Lands to include small forestry and/or hazard management operations to be defined as "Forestry Operations."

FISH AND WILDLIFE

(78) Animal Damage Control

We support animal damage control programs to control and manage predators, rodents and destructive wildlife.

(79) Animal Threat and Public Safety

It shall be the responsibility of U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services and any state agencies, that manage predatory or proven problem animals, to notify all residences within a 5-mile radius using a 911 reverse calling system of potential conflict in their area.

(80) Emergency Feeding of Wild Game

We oppose feeding big-game animals except in emergency situations defined by criteria such as snow depth, temperature, wind chill, and available forage.

All money collected by Fish and Game for the emergency feeding of wild game should be used only for feed and feeding, fencing for haystack protection, and control of predators that are displacing big game animals and preying on them.

(81) Endangered Species Act

We believe that modern society cannot continue to operate on the premise that all species must be preserved at any cost.

We believe basic requirements of human life have priority over protection of other species, including threatened or endangered (T/E) species. A thorough consideration of all potential adverse impacts to human economic and social welfare should be an integral part of any consideration to list any T/E species.

1. We support:

1.1. A revision of the ESA to include a more thorough consideration of agriculture, mining, logging and tree farming in such a manner that these activities will be sustained and made part of any recovery plan. Recovery of (T/E) species should not receive higher priority than human uses or rights.

1.2. Anadromous hatchery fish and wild fish being treated equally under the ESA. Hatchery fish should be counted toward recovery of the species.

1.3. Eliminating the marking of hatchery fish.

1.4. The right of landowners to protect themselves, their families, livestock and properties from all predators including grizzly bears and wolves without legal retaliation.

1.5. Congress providing depredation funding for losses or damage resulting from endangered species and to mandate responsibility to deal with such losses.

1.6. Livestock grazing as an effective tool to reduce wildfires and enhance plant and wildlife habitat.

2. We oppose:

2.1. Any effort to create a State Endangered Species Act (ESA).

2.2. Road closures and restrictions imposed on land and water in the name of critical habitat.

2.3. Implementation of the endangered species pesticide labeling program, other than in critical habitat.

2.4. The listing of the Giant Palouse Earthworm (*Driloleirus americanus*) and the Greater Sage Grouse (*Centrocercus urophasianus*) and Slick Spot Peppergrass (*Lepidium papilliferum*) as an endangered species.

2.5. Listing any species before its critical habitat is identified within its scientifically established historical range. Habitat site specific assessments and recovery plans must include comprehensive appreciation and inclusion of the protection of private property rights.

2.6. Any critical-habitat designation until it has been established beyond scientific doubt that the species in question is actually present and that endangered or threatened status is actually warranted. The data to satisfy the scientific criteria should meet the guidelines of the Data Quality Act under federal state uses sections 3504(d)(1) and 3516 of title 44, United States Code. The agency, organization or individual requesting the critical-habitat designation must bear the cost of proving presence of the species and this

must be done through the use of the best available peer reviewed science.

3. If lethal action is taken against any threatened or endangered species for the preservation of public safety, all investigations should be conducted by the local officials of the county involved. All applicable state and government agencies are to be notified so as to provide assistance when called upon.

(82) Fish and Game Department

1. We support:

1.1. The department using good-neighbor management practices on the land they now own, including fences, pests, noxious weeds, and providing sportsmen with guidance and marked boundaries.

1.2. The Fish and Game Department controlling the concentration of wildlife numbers on all lands and being prohibited from entering into agreements to limit access to any area, without approval of the local governing authority.

1.3. Retaining the December 2016 composition and selection method of the Idaho Fish and Game Commission.

1.4. Implementing a requirement for non-resident mentored youth hunts where both the non-resident mentor and the mentored youth must purchase matching species tags. Non-resident tags should cost more than resident tags.

1.5. A Habitat Improvement Program and request Idaho Fish and Game Commission to reflect strong emphasis on multiple use.

1.6. Reducing the depredation deductible. Compensation by IDFG for crop loss due to depredation shall be for actual loss minus the one-time deductible and should be expeditiously paid with no pro-rating. 1.7. Oversight of the depredation account by the Idaho Department of Agriculture with technical support provided by Idaho Fish and Game.

1.8. Using leftover depredation funds to build a one-year reserve to be used in heavy loss years.

1.9. Fish and Game being responsible and pay for damages caused by management decisions.

1.10. Idaho Fish and Game issuing emergency depredation permits to ag producers and landowners to harvest animals that are causing verifiable damage to crops, livestock and property. The issuance of these depredation permits by IDFG and other actions by IDFG to relieve depredation shall be free of conditions that landowner must allow hunting on their land. Landowners should be allowed to determine who hunts and they should be allowed to receive compensation for allowing hunts on their private property. Emergency depredation permit holders should have the option to retain possession of harvested animals.

1.11. Creating depredation areas for landowners who are annually affected by depredating animals and support mechanisms for quicker response in those areas.

1.12. The Landowner Appreciation Program (LAP) being made available to anyone owning 320 acres or more and recipients of these tags should be free to do what they wish with the tags.

1.13. Investigating transactions between the Idaho Fish and Wildlife Foundation and the Idaho Department of Fish and Game to determine if there is a conflict of interest.

2. We oppose:

2.1. The acquisition of additional land by the Fish and Game Department.

2.2. Any increase in funding for the Idaho Department of Fish and Game from either the general fund or license fees without showing a specific need or use for the funds.

2.3. The erection of either permanent or temporary hunting or viewing blinds within 100 feet of a developed livestock watering site on public lands.

(83) Fish and Game – Prior Notification

The Idaho Department of Fish and Game must have permission from the landowner before entering private property.

(84) Fish and Game – Private Reservoir Companies

Fish and Game Department shall pay private reservoir companies for the use of that reservoir for fish habitat. The Department should also pay up-keep assessments on reservoirs in which they own water.

(85) Fish and Game / U.S. Fish & Wildlife Responsibility

We support reform of the Idaho Department of Fish and Game to create local management of the wildlife of Idaho. This program should be site specific to control damage caused from over populated species of both game and non-game animals.

We oppose the relocation of wild game and non-game species without proper notice being given to residents and property owners in the area where they are released. Local county officials must receive official notice at least 30 days prior to any relocation or release, into the wild, of any species raised in captivity.

We oppose relocation or release into the wild of wolves or grizzlies that have been raised in captivity. The Idaho Fish and Game Department should not engage in activities that encourage only non-consumptive uses of fish and wildlife species in Idaho.

The state or federal wildlife personnel shall be required to file an environmental and economic impact statement before they can release non-native insects or plants in Idaho or make regulations that affect the counties and/or the state.

We support the Idaho State Department of Agriculture's ban on the release of deleterious exotic animals into the State of Idaho.

All state and federal agency personnel must go through the elected county sheriff for all law enforcement.

(86) Fish Species Population Management

We support alternative scientific applications to modify fish species population without affecting contractual agreements or causing detrimental effects on flood control, irrigators, recreation and economies.

(87) Grizzly Bear

We support the delisting of the grizzly bear from the endangered species status.

We support a hunting season on the grizzly. The costs associated with grizzlies, including triple damages for depredation costs, should be borne by the federal government, and its agencies such as U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services.

Compensation should be paid to state and local agencies when any assistance in the management, control, or defense of the public is needed from such agencies. Compensation to state and local agencies should be paid regardless of whether a request has been made by a federal agency for assistance until such time as the current grizzly bear policy can be changed to allow less conflict with humans and livestock namely the delisting of the grizzly bear and transfer of management to individual states' authority.

We support requiring the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services to coordinate all grizzly bear related activities with the Idaho Fish and Game and local county officials.

(88) Invasive Species

We support efforts to remove Asian clams from the waters of Idaho.

We support the listing of quagga mussels as an invasive species.

We support adequate state funding for inspections of all water craft and other vessels to prevent the spread and infestation of quagga/zebra mussels in Idaho waters.

(89) Sage Grouse

We support predator control as a method to increase sage grouse populations. We encourage the use of bounties to control all non-protected sage grouse predators.

We support grazing on public lands as a primary method of increasing sage grouse populations by controlling the amount of vegetation that fuels wild fires.

We support private sector rearing and releasing of sage grouse.

(90) Introduction of Salmon

We oppose the introduction of salmon above the Brownlee Dam.

(91) Salmon Recovery

We support the following salmon-recovery alternatives:

1. Physically modifying the dams rather than tearing them down or lowering water levels.
2. Improving barging such as net barge transportation.
3. Privatizing salmon fisheries for stronger fish.
4. Controlling predators of salmon.
5. Utilizing new hydroelectric turbine technologies to achieve the goals of increased power production

and reduced hazards to fish.

6. Regulating harvest of off-shore and instream fish.

(92) Snake River Basin Snails

We support the delisting of snail species in the Snake River Basin and the grouping of snail species based on taxonomic/biological similarities.

We oppose the future listing of new snail species.

(93) Wolves

We support hunting and trapping of wolves in all hunting units including:

1. Allowing an earlier start time for open foothold trapping in all units open to wolf trapping;
2. Longer check time on all lethal sets;
3. Allowing outfitters to sell wolf trapping trips;
4. Making it legal to shoot wolves over baits
5. Eliminating regulations requiring diverters on snares;
6. Allowing year-round hunting and trapping statewide with emphasis in high depredation areas; and/or
7. Allowing an increase in wolf tags per person. We support enforcement of Idaho Code that requires the Idaho Fish and Game to coordinate with local government.

We support a mandate for the Idaho Fish and Game Department to collar wolves for depredation management.

We support Idaho Fish and Game directing Wildlife Services in taking control actions for wolves in chronic depredation areas during winter months when the use of aircraft can be more successful. The costs associated with wolves, including triple damages for depredation costs, should be borne by the federal government, and its agencies such as U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services.

We support adding wolves to the IDF&G depredation list so that depredation on livestock can be paid by the IDF&G Big Game Depredation and Prevention Fund.

We request that all wolf carcasses be presented for testing for communicable diseases, especially the tapeworm *Echinococcus granulosus* which causes Hydatid Disease in livestock, elk, deer and humans.

EASEMENTS

(94) Conservation Easements and Scenic Easements

We support continuation of conservation easement agreements and scenic easements or agreements only if the real property involved remains on the tax rolls according to use.

We oppose the Yellowstone to Yukon Conservation Initiative (Y2Y).

ENERGY

(95) Affordable Energy

We support:

1. Transparency in how energy monopolies plan

to incur expenses and make investments that are passed on to ratepayers;

2. Thorough, fair and publicly involved process for evaluating rate requests and setting rates; and
3. Increased focus on removing barriers to widely available and affordable sources of energy.

(96) Alternative Energy

We support the development of alternative energy.

We oppose a broad moratorium on alternative energy projects.

We support county control in the siting of these projects.

We support sales tax incentives to assist in the development of alternative energy projects of less than one megawatt constructed on or by existing agriculture operations.

We support that alternative energy should not receive subsidies beyond the bulk market rate. Any such contracts shall be allowed to expire.

(97) Bonneville Power Administration Credit

We support some type of BPA credit that allows all citizens of Idaho to benefit from the BPA's use of Idaho water for power generation.

(98) Electrical Energy

Hydroelectric Dams:

As future demands for electrical energy increase, we support the continued careful use of water as one of our renewable natural resources through existing and the construction of new hydro projects.

We encourage the adoption of hydro projects to generate power for sale.

We support the relicensing of dams, including the Hells Canyon Complex, using a least cost mitigation plan reflecting the desire of the customers to have a reliable power resource at reasonable rates.

Renewables:

We encourage utilities operating in Idaho to develop economically feasible renewable energy portfolios.

We support the construction of economically feasible power generation facilities in Idaho, including those that use plant and/or animal residue or logging slash.

We support an annual true-up for net metering rather than a monthly true-up.

Regulations:

We encourage state agencies to remove barriers that prevent utilities from increasing Idaho's power generation capacity.

We oppose any deregulation, reorganization, merger or consolidation of power generation or transmission which could result in loss of water rights, less service or increased rates.

We support current laws that require coal fired plants be held to strict standards in the construction, operation and retirement of the facility.

We oppose the sale of any public utility company operating in the state of Idaho to an entity either partially or wholly owned by a foreign government.

Transmission:

We support upgrades in transmission and distribution. Routing of utility corridors should be placed on public land first and then to the areas of least impact to private property owners.

We support the initiation of on and off ramps in transmission lines within the State of Idaho.

(99) Farm Produced Fuel

We support grants, cost share programs and bio-fuel production tax credits for farm-scale bio-fuel projects.

(100) Fossil Fuels

We support the mining and drilling of fossil fuels.

We support the legislature ensuring that rules for oil and natural gas production safeguard the water aquifers for all citizens and protect property owners' rights to use their property. If a local government entity bans the development of mineral rights in its jurisdiction, it should be considered a property rights "taking" and compensation should be provided to the property owner.

(101) Nuclear Energy

We support the generation of electricity from nuclear reactors in meeting our future energy needs and urge the development of permanent disposal sites for radioactive waste material where it will not endanger the aquifer in Idaho.

We support research and development of further usage of radioactive waste materials and safer ways of storage.

We support development of the fast burn sector of nuclear technology which massively reduces or eliminates the need for nuclear waste disposal.

We support the utilization of the Idaho National Laboratory to provide the lead role in advancing the continued development of this technology.

(102) Power Demand Control Program

We support demand control programs as long as current water rights and power usage contracts are protected. These programs must remain on a voluntary basis.

(103) Renewable Fuels

We support the promotion and use of alternative fuels made from agricultural products, as long as they are driven by open markets and not economically supported by mandates and government subsidies.

We encourage all state and local governments to assist in developing renewable fuel projects in Idaho.

We support the availability of low-cost fuels, including off-road bio-fuels, for the operation of farms and ranches.

(104) Utility Companies

Utility companies that damage public roads should be responsible for restoring roadways to their original state for at least a period of two years.

LABOR

(105) Legal Aid

We oppose state funding of Idaho Legal Aid Services.

We oppose the uninvited presence of Legal Aid personnel soliciting business on private property.

(106) Minimum Wage

We oppose any state minimum wage that is higher than the federal minimum wage.

(107) New Hire Reporting

We support changes in the Idaho New Hire Reporting Law to extend the reporting date to 60 days.

We support not having to report seasonal temporary workers that work less than 45 days in a year.

(108) Unemployment Insurance

Eligibility requirements should be made realistic to reflect agriculture's seasonal employment practices.

(109) Workers Compensation

Workers compensation for agricultural employers should provide:

1. Cost control measures and fair base rates;
2. Mediation for agricultural concerns;
3. Protection from third party lawsuits; and
4. Employer protection from worker caused injuries (i.e. drug & alcohol).

We support changes in the existing Workers' Compensation Law that would take into consideration the employee's responsibility when an accident occurs.

We support having the settlement reduced by the percentage that was determined that the worker was responsible.

TAX

(110) Agricultural Property Tax Shifts

We are opposed to shifting property tax to agricultural real estate.

(111) Assessed Value of Ag Production Land

We believe all land being used for commercial agricultural production should be appraised for tax purposes according to its current use, eliminating any consideration of its speculative value, using realistic productivity figures, realistic cost deduction, including government mandated control of noxious weeds, taking into account the USDA's annual report on farm real estate values in Idaho and that only the landlord's net share of production be used in computing value for tax purposes, as prescribed by Idaho State Tax Commission rules and regulations.

We support assessed values being capped at a 5% increase in any given year.

We support the retention of the five-acre minimum productivity option and the Bare Land & Yield Option for forest lands.

(112) Budget Caps

We oppose the loosening, removal or alteration in any way or the granting of an exemption from limitations and restraints placed by present Idaho law on units of local government, community colleges, school districts, etc., in increasing local property taxes.

We oppose the creation of additional tax entities that could be exempt from such limitations and restraints.

(113) Fuel Tax

We oppose repealing the refund of tax paid on fuel used off-road.

We oppose taxing dyed fuel.

(114) Impact Fees

We support local impact fees on new or expanding developments to pay for the services required to support growth.

We support simplification of current impact fee rules and procedures.

(115) Investment Tax Credit

We support retention of the current three percent investment tax credit provisions, or an increase in the credit.

(116) Local Option Taxation

We support local option taxation when used specifically for projects that would have been paid for with property tax dollars.

(117) Maximum Levy Rates

We oppose raising the maximum statutory levy rates for any taxing authority.

(118) Personal Tax Privacy Rights

We oppose the county tax assessor's office requiring personal tax information to establish land use.

(119) Property Tax

We oppose budget increases and foregone balances that current Idaho State Law allows for local governments.

We support limiting yearly property assessment increases to a maximum of the state inflation rate.

We support legislation that would allow county tax assessments and collection on property that has been purchased by non-profit groups and placed in tax exempt status, such as a tax code that covers environmental tax exempt classification.

We support exempting all equipment used in the production of agricultural commodities from personal

property tax.

(120) Property Tax - Funding Local Government and Schools

We support gradually reducing the property tax burden to fund public schools and local government.

We are opposed to judges being allowed to levy taxes.

We support legislation mandating that plant facilities levy monies can be used only for capital expenditures related to school operation and maintenance.

We oppose school districts carrying over these funds to finance the construction of new buildings or the acquisition of additional property.

We support removing the school budget stabilization levy that was authorized in the 2006 Special Legislative Session, unless it is supported by a local vote.

We support the creation of standardized mandatory full disclosure of the school district's revenues and expenditures that are related to extracurricular activities; separated into curriculum and athletics, and budgeted in standard categories of salaries, transportation, supplies and capital expenditures.

We oppose indefinite or permanent supplemental school levies on taxpayers, regardless of the number of consecutive levies passed.

(121) Sales Tax

We oppose removing the sales tax exemption on production items.

We support legislation that would exempt non-profit organizational fund-raising from paying sales tax on those receipts.

We oppose the collection of use tax on out-of-state goods purchased by Idaho residents.

(122) Services Tax

We oppose all tax on services.

(123) Special Taxing Districts

We support a requirement that all new taxing districts must be approved by a 66-2/3% majority vote of the registered voters within a district.

We support legislation allowing special taxing districts to be funded by a household fee. All taxing districts that charge fees should be under the same three percent cap that applies to counties and municipalities.

We support giving library districts the option to be funded by a household fee rather than through an ad valorem tax. If the library district chooses the household fee option, any bonds they pass must also be paid through household fees.

We support a 10 year sunset on all special taxing districts, after which they would require re-authorization by the voters to continue.

(124) State Budget

We support zero-based budgeting.

We support a constitutional amendment limiting state spending to a calculation determined by population growth and economic growth of the state.

We oppose balancing budget shortfalls by any tax increase.

We oppose any state funding of Planned Parenthood.

(125) Super Majority

We support retaining the 66-2/3% majority vote as required in the Idaho State Constitution for bond levies.

We oppose circumventing the required two-thirds majority by creative financing options.

(126) Tax Compensation for Federal and State Managed Lands

We recommend that a fee in lieu of taxes be assessed on all lands removed from tax rolls by state or federal agency management.

We favor an annual fee equivalent to local private property tax on land.

(127) Tax Liens

We oppose the recording of federal tax liens (IRS) by the county recorder without due process of law.

(128) Tax Refund Extension

We support income tax assessments and income tax refunds having the same statute of limitations.

(129) Taxing Districts Sharing Administrators

We encourage similar taxing districts to share administrators and secretaries on a county-wide or multi-district basis to help ease the tax burden of administration.

(130) Urban Renewal Districts

We support the repeal of urban renewal laws.

(131) Young Farmers and Ranchers Tax Credits

We support legislation to allow agricultural asset owners to earn tax credits for leasing their assets (agricultural land, depreciable machinery or equipment, breeding livestock, buildings, etc.) to young farmers or ranchers.

We support tax credits as an incentive for hiring beginning farmers and ranchers to perform contract labor.

LOCAL AFFAIRS

(132) Annexation

We are opposed to areas adjacent to a city being annexed into the city unless a two-thirds majority of those owning property in the area proposed for annexation vote in favor of the annexation.

(133) County Commissioners

We encourage county commissioners to develop a Natural Resource Plan per NEPA guidelines that clearly state the objectives and policies of the county in regards to management of the natural resources located on public lands in their county.

We encourage county commissioners to invoke the "coordination mandate" of Congress set forth in federal statutes with the public land management agencies plans and actions that may negatively impact the county's economy, culture and heritage.

We support the formation of a formal ANRAC (Agriculture & Natural Resources Advisory Committee) or NRAC (Natural Resources Advisory Committee) within each county.

(134) Distribution of Federal Fines

We support legislation that would require public notification of the distribution of fines collected by the governmental agencies in that county.

We support legislation that would require federal agencies to return a portion of federal fines collected in the county where the infraction occurred.

(135) Elections

Idaho residents who own real property in a taxing district should be allowed to vote on any tax proposal in that district.

We support restricting local school bond and levy elections to primary and general election dates.

We support a mandatory pre-registration requirement to be eligible to vote in all local bond elections.

We support requiring photo identification, proof of residency and proof of U.S. citizenship for new voter registration.

Pay raises for elected officials shall not take effect until the official stands again for election.

We support changing the number of members of the Idaho redistricting commission to 7 with the majority on the commission reflecting the current partisan makeup of the legislature.

(136) Emergency Response Fees

We oppose the imposition of a "crash tax" to cover the cost of cleaning up spills at the site of an accident.

We favor reducing regulatory burdens which prohibit low-cost clean-up solutions.

(137) Indigent Care Funding

We support the use of the interest from the tobacco settlement monies to reduce the indigent care deductible now being paid for by the property owners. The deductible should continue to decrease incrementally as the settlement monies increase, not to

drop below \$1,000. The reduced deductible for tobacco-related illnesses should be expanded to include a reduced deductible for all health-related situations.

(138) Notice of Zoning Change

Water-right holders or recipients of water delivered through property that is proposed to be rezoned should receive the same notification of public hearings as surrounding landowners.

(139) Public Hearings

Public hearings that affect a given area of the state must be held in the area that is affected, at a reasonable time and date for those impacted.

(140) Zoning

County commissioners should control all zoning in the county. Zoning should be site specific within the county; we oppose the use of blanket zoning ordinances, including sustainable development and smart-growth initiatives.

We recognize and encourage the use of planning tools allowed under state law to encourage planned and orderly growth in or near agricultural areas.

EDUCATION

(141) Adolescent Nutrition

We support school districts offering dairy products, healthy nutritional snacks and fruit juices in vending machines on school premises.

(142) Ag in the Classroom

We support "Ag in the Classroom" in school curriculum to increase student literacy of agriculture.

We support an increase in funding for Ag in the classroom.

(143) Career Technical Education

We support enhanced funding for Idaho's Career & Technical Education, Agricultural Science and Technology courses and programs.

(144) Contracts for Teachers

We recommend that the tenure system for school teachers be eliminated and replaced with contracts based on evaluation and performance.

We support the concept of incentive pay that will improve teacher excellence.

School teachers should have the option of being able to negotiate their own contract with the school district as a private contractor.

(145) Education Funding

We support that funding be made available from the state endowment fund's reserve account to be used to maintain/replace existing buildings and facilities in school districts throughout the state.

Endowment funds designated for public schools should be used for school funding only.

(146) Education Standards and Assessments

We support using:

1. Professionally established standards and assessments that can be modified to reflect locally recognized educational values, goals and philosophy.
2. Standards to ensure the progression of a student that reflect a comprehension of the subject.

(147) Knowledge of Constitution

We support requiring students graduating from Idaho schools to have a thorough understanding of the Constitution and the form of government that it gives us in accordance with the original intent of the founders.

(148) Local Control of Education

We encourage the State Board of Education and the Idaho Legislature to refuse federal funds aimed at promoting control of educational programs in public schools by the federal government.

We support the repeal of the federal education program, Common Core and SBAC testing, in the State of Idaho.

We oppose the gathering of personal information of students that is not related to their academic education without parental consent.

(149) Mandatory Agriculture Education Class

We support state legislature's approving legislation requiring all high school students to take Ag-Ed in order to graduate, utilizing current STEM classes already available.

(150) No Increase in School Time

We oppose increasing required school hours beyond 990 hours per year.

(151) Parental Choice in Education

We support the voucher system for education.

We support the continuing freedom, of Idaho parents, to choose private school, parochial school, home school, public charter school or public school as prescribed in the Idaho Constitution and in the Idaho Code.

We support optional kindergarten.

We oppose public funding of pre-kindergarten.

We support legislation amending the Blaine Amendment, Section 5, Article IX of the Constitution of the state of Idaho to provide for an educational system of grants or monetary assistance in which the money follows the child.

(152) Veterinary Students

We support an increase from eleven (11) to fifteen (15) seats per year for Idaho residents in the Washington-Idaho Cooperative Veterinary Medical Education Program.

STATE AFFAIRS

(153) Agricultural Research and Extension

We support the University of Idaho Agricultural Research and Extension Service and urge the Legislature to adequately fund this vital program.

We support adequate funding to the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences to allow research to develop new improved varieties of seed that are classed as public varieties.

We request the legislature examine the role of the University of Idaho as the land grant college, and take steps to ensure the university honors its commitment as our agricultural research facility. The university should be on the same budgeting system as the State of Idaho.

We support expanded research and education in all crop areas relative to Idaho. This must also include new and improved plant and animal varieties along with effective insect, pest, disease and weed controls.

We also support an informational exchange and cooperative effort within the tri-state area in agricultural registration and research as well as plant/animal variety improvement research.

Every effort should be made by state and county officials and the University of Idaho to retain an agricultural extension agent in each county as an extension service of our land grant university.

Strong pressure must be exerted to revitalize and improve the agricultural information and education programs.

We recommend that extension activities assist farm programs on a first-priority basis, including the integrated Farm Management Program.

We also believe that county agents should be first and foremost county agricultural agents.

We support the hiring of new extension educators in the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences with primary training and experience in commercial agriculture and forestry.

We support full funding, from both federal and state governments, for operations and research at the current U.S. Sheep Experiment Station, including continuous research on the effects of grazing and sage grouse habitat, and the relationship between wildfire and grazing.

(154) ATV Safety

We oppose the creation of a mandatory class or special license for the ability to ride an ATV on private or public land.

We oppose efforts to require the transporting of firefighting equipment that would present a hazard to the safe and effective operation of ATV and other OHV recreational equipment.

(155) Bicycle Safety

We support bicyclists using public roadways be sub-

ject to the same laws that motorists must obey.

(156) Cell Phone Use

We oppose any legislation that would ban cell phone use in vehicles for voice communication.

(157) Commercial Auction Company Bonding

We support legislation that would require licensing and bonding of commercial auction companies.

(158) Constitutional Defense Fund

We support adding another leadership position to the existing four-member council when voting on the distribution of Constitutional Defense Funds.

(159) County Fairs

We support the review and revision of all county fair related state statutes to better reflect current year round fairground operations under the administration of local appointed fair boards even above the 200,000 county population limit.

(160) Cross Deputization of Law Enforcement Officers

We believe that cross deputization of county sheriffs and any tribal law enforcement officers should be voluntary.

(161) Definition of Agricultural Buildings

We support changes to Idaho Code to define agricultural buildings as follows:

1. They are buildings where agricultural products are stored, housed or grown.
2. They are buildings where agricultural equipment, including licensed vehicles that are used in the production of agriculture can be fixed, repaired or stored.
3. They are buildings that are used for the normal servicing of an agricultural business.
4. They can be used by employees as a place of employment as well as a place to have meals and take bathroom breaks as required by GAAP (Generally Accepted Agriculture Practices).

(162) Executive Branch MOU/MOA

We oppose actions by the governor entering into Memorandums of Understanding or Memorandums of Agreement without legislative oversight and approval.

We support granting the legislature the ability to override a governor's veto after the session is adjourned.

(163) Falsifying Reports

Knowingly filing a false report and/or complaint to any agency shall be considered a misdemeanor and the perpetrator should be required to pay damages and/or expenses to the individual that was falsely accused as well as the investigating agency.

(164) Hazardous Waste

We believe that each state should, to the extent possible, take the responsibility for treatment and disposal of hazardous waste generated in its state and that these waste products be disposed of in the

most feasible manner that will not endanger life or resources.

We believe that hazardous material and hazardous waste should be kept separate in the law.

We support a statewide hazardous materials clean-up day.

(165) Health Insurance

We support private optional health insurance.

We oppose the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act and fines for individuals and employers who refuse to carry health insurance.

We support legislation that permits, promotes, and/or assists:

1. In the inclusion of out-of-state health insurance companies participation in the marketplace of health insurance in Idaho;
2. In individual health savings accounts with tax free withdrawals for all health insurance premiums;
3. In free market solutions to health care costs and access;
4. In the establishment of defined contribution programs as opposed to defined benefit programs;
5. In free clinics funded by local community/ faith-based organizations; and
6. In development of Direct Primary Care in Idaho supporting the offering of wraparound health insurance policies.

We support health insurance as a risk management tool by reducing and/or eliminating the number of mandated services.

We oppose any legislation to require employers to carry health insurance on their employees whether they are seasonal or full-time.

(166) Judicial Confirmation

We support the repeal of the "Judicial Confirmation," Title 7, Chapter 13, Idaho Code, for ordinary and necessary expenses.

(167) Legislative Testimony

We support accepting testimony at legislative hearings via remote audio/visual technology to be managed by the sponsorship of a legislator.

(168) Liability and Tort Claims

We support current Idaho Statutes dealing with liability and tort claims and will resist any effort to weaken or erode them.

(169) Medicaid

We oppose Medicaid expansion.

(170) PERSI

We support changing the formula for retirement benefits to reflect total contribution in a fiscally responsible way that protects the taxpayers of Idaho and is fair to public employees who have contributed to the fund.

(171) Private Property Rights/Eminent Domain

Private property should be defined to include, but not be limited to, all land, crops, timber, water rights, mineral rights, all other appurtenances and any other consideration associated with land ownership.

Landowners having lands adjacent to federal and or state lands should not be forced through coercion/ or fear of imprisonment to allow new easements across their land for public access to federal and state lands. The taking of property or easements should be permitted only when there is eminent domain.

We oppose the use of eminent domain for recreational purposes, for private economic development or to expand the land holding of wildlife agencies.

We support an Idaho Constitutional Amendment defining public use as found in the eminent domain doctrine to prohibit the condemnation of private property for economic development or any use by private parties. If private property is taken, compensation must be prompt, just and adequate.

In the cases of partial taking of real property, the landowner must be compensated when government-imposed regulations cause a loss in value of private property. Landowners or tenants shall not be held liable for any damages incurred as a result of the condemnation. Entities condemning property shall assume liability for any damages incurred by landowners.

(172) Proof of Citizenship

We support the identification of U.S. citizenship on Idaho drivers licenses.

(173) Proprietary Information

We oppose laws requiring insurance companies or other private business entities to provide proprietary information to state or federal agencies.

(174) PUC Rates

We oppose any action by the PUC to move in the direction of inverted block rates or in any major rate design revision that would be detrimental to agriculture.

(175) Public Employees Bargaining

We believe that public employees, when negotiating contracts, should be separate entities in themselves, and by statute not allowed to delegate or reassign their negotiating rights to professional negotiating forces.

(176) Public Trust Doctrine

We oppose the use of the Public Trust Doctrine to force private property owners to allow trespass and/ or hunting/fishing on their private property.

(177) Re-Establish Congressional Lawmaking Responsibility

We support the state legislature in its efforts to encourage Congress to reclaim its constitutional responsibility of making law.

Proposed rules or regulations by federal bureaus or agencies should have congressional approval before becoming law.

Presidential directives or executive orders should be limited in scope and subject to congressional approval in a timely manner.

We support passage of legislation ensuring that no treaty can supersede the Constitution or reduce the protections we enjoy under the Constitution.

(178) Refugees in The United States

We oppose sheltering refugees who do not agree to uphold American constitutional government and values.

We oppose any refugee program that adds increased stress to local services. We support any county that chooses to refuse or remove refugee programs in their county.

(179) Regulation Reform

We support:

1. Complete review of existing regulations to determine their effectiveness and appropriateness prior to assigning more restrictive regulations.
2. Peer review of the existing regulations to determine their potential to mitigate the problems they address.

(180) Regulatory Fines

The remedy for any violation of federal and state agency rules should be to fix the problem rather than to pay fines unless the violation rises to the level of a felony.

(181) Rights-of-Way

Easement rights-of-way obtained by public or private sectors shall not be committed to any new or additional purpose, either during their original usage or after abandonment, without consent of the owner of the land underlying the easement. Upon abandonment of railway or utility rights-of-way or leases, all property and rights associated with such rights-of-way or leases should revert to the current owner of the original tract.

We urge enactment of legislation to require that adjacent landowners be given priority to purchase at fair market value lands that have been vacated by railways, power companies, roadways, etc. And require that public agencies obtaining title to abandoned rights-of-way be responsible for maintaining fences, drainage systems, all field and road crossings and for controlling weeds on any such acquired rights-of-way.

We support access to or through federal lands using RS2477.

We support allowing county commissioners the ability to determine the validity of an RS2477 claim, the right to move an RS2477 when it occurs on private land and the ability to temporarily close an RS2477 for resource reasons. To prevent the misuse of

RS2477 claims, we recognize the superiority of a property's title over RS2477 claims.

We will not support the use of RS2477 as a tool for the taking of private property without just compensation as prescribed in the Constitution.

Any party who controls a railroad right-of-way for use as a trail or any other purpose that prevents the corridor from reverting back to the adjacent landowners, must continue to honor all historical maintenance agreements that the railroad formerly performed including fencing, weed control and any other agreement that may have been in existence before the corridor changed management.

(182) Right to Bear Arms

We oppose any abridgment of the Second Amendment to the U.S. Constitution which protects the right to keep and bear arms.

We support current law that allows law-abiding citizens the right to bear arms and be free from legal jeopardy when protecting themselves, their families and their property.

We oppose the retaining of personal records collected by the FBI as a result of firearms purchase background checks. The dangerous weapons code should be updated to reflect these rights in the home, the place of business or in motor vehicles.

We declare all firearms and ammunition made and retained in-state are beyond the authority of the federal government.

We support expanding the reciprocity with other states for concealed carry permits.

(183) Road Closures

We believe that when a federal or state agency closes a road, commodity production use on these roads should be exempted from the closure.

We oppose the closure of any existing roads.

(184) State Agencies

1. We support:

1.1. The Soil Conservation Commission or successor entity advising and aiding local Soil Conservation Districts by providing technical support and a mechanism to receive financial support at no less than fiscal year 2010 levels.

1.2. Representation by an agricultural producer on the Board of Regents for Idaho's land grant university and on the Idaho Fish and Game Commission.

1.3. Legislation to require that government rules and regulations, wherever applicable, be based upon supportive disciplinary peer reviewed scientific data and that wherever policies, rules or regulations do not meet this standard the responsible individual and/or individuals can be held liable.

1.4. When a state law enforcement agency makes an arrest there should be a means provided to reimburse the county for all costs associated in maintaining the prisoner.

1.5. The legislature reviewing agency rules. In order to approve a new rule, both the House and Senate must agree. A rule shall be rejected if either the House or Senate does not approve.

2. We oppose:

2.1. Combining, splitting or changing government agencies without the approval of users of the services.

2.2. Regulating any phase of farm and ranch business by any state agency that does not have an agricultural representative as a member of its policy making board or committee.

(185) State Building Code

We support amending the State Building Code to prevent infringement on private property rights through excessive permit requirements.

(186) State Hatch Act

We favor restoring the State Hatch Act, 67-5311 Limitation of Political Activity, to its original form and content.

(187) State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO)

We oppose the expansion of the authority of the SHPO and oppose any state funding.

(188) State Legal Reform

We support reform of the state's civil justice system, which would cure or substantially solve many of the problems farmers face with hostile, harassing legal services lawsuits. Any person or organization that sues to prevent livestock operation siting, or the use of agriculture or resource management practices, should be required to post a bond in a reasonable amount, which will be forfeited to the defendant to help defray their costs in the event that the suit is unsuccessful.

We support legislation by the Idaho Legislature that would require any entity bringing such lawsuits to post substantial bonds based on the potential harm of the lawsuit. Individuals who file complaints against an agricultural operation and request an investigation must pay a fee to cover administration costs.

Complete names, addresses and phone numbers are required on each complaint.

We support legislation to restore the election of district judges.

We support the open and full disclosure of the actions of the Idaho Judicial Council.

Entities from outside the jurisdiction of taxing districts that file lawsuits against public entities should be required to pay all legal expenses.

We support legislation to amend Idaho State Statutes and the Equal Access to Justice Act to make it clear that state courts may award attorney fees against the United States.

We support Idaho courts only use the United States and Idaho Laws in the court system.

As a matter of equity, we support that when a private party must act in the place of the Attorney General to enforce and protect the Idaho Constitution and statutes, the Idaho Legislature must reimburse the party for all reasonable attorney fees and costs if the courts fail to do so.

We support requiring judges to inform jurors of the legality of jury nullification.

(189) States' Rights and Sovereignty

We support a law stating that Idaho and all political subdivisions of the state are prohibited from using any personnel or financial resources to enforce, administer or cooperate with an executive order issued by the President of the United States that has not been affirmed by a vote of the Congress of the United States and signed into law as prescribed by the Constitution of the United States.

(190) Term Limits

We oppose term limits on statewide offices, legislative offices and county and local levels, with individual counties given the choice to adopt or oppose term limits.

(191) Transportation

1. We support:

1.1. Continuation of independent road districts without oversight by county commissioners.

1.2. The Idaho Department of Transportation utilizing revenue sources efficiently to maintain and construct Idaho roads.

1.3. The Idaho Department of Transportation increasing their cost saving efforts.

1.4. The sales tax collected from vehicles (vehicles, batteries, tires and other general parts) going to road maintenance.

1.5. Increases in gross weights with axle weights non-changing.

1.6. The continued use of long combination vehicles (LCVs).

1.7. The Idaho Department of Transportation policy of issuing oversize load permits for Idaho public roads.

1.8. The continued improvement of Idaho's agricultural roadways.

1.9. Accountability of highway transportation department's engineers for the cost over-runs and/or miscalculations for wrongful designs of highway projects.

1.10. Increasing permit fees on loads exceeding 200,000 GVW to be comparable with fees in surrounding states.

1.11. The review of current Idaho Transportation Department policies regarding economics of maintenance versus new construction of roadways.

1.12. Expenses for environmental studies and the expenses required to meet the mandated environmental standards being calculated and tabulated on an environmental budget and not included in the Highway Construction and Maintenance budget.

1.13. Construction and/or improvement of a North-South Highway to the Canadian border.

1.14. Port districts in Idaho that help move agricultural commodities.

1.15. Semi-trucks and/or trailer brake systems con-

forming to the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Act safety standards of the year of manufacture of each unit. Any rules, regulations or requirements adopted by the Idaho Transportation Department cannot exceed federal requirements.

1.16. Access of agricultural implements of husbandry and vehicles to any and all local, county and state roads/highways in Idaho, and oppose the imposition of any minimum speed requirements.

2. We oppose:

2.1. A tax or fee increase on fuel.

2.2. A tax or fee increase on vehicles.

2.3. The removal of the Port of Entry system from the Department of Transportation.

(192) Trespass

We support programs to educate the public about private property rights and about trespass laws.

Landowners retain the right to refuse access within the current law.

IDFG shall make a concerted effort to educate hunters about private property rights and the location of private property in their hunting regulations and maps. It is the hunters' responsibility to know where they can hunt and not the landowners' responsibility to mark or post their property.

We support making it unlawful to enter any facility, legally or illegally, to use or attempt to use a camera, video recorder, or any other video or audio recording device without permission from the owner or authorized agent.

We support a law placing the burden of trespass on the trespasser instead of the landowner.

We support the implementation of a trespassing policy that would make it necessary for a person or entity accessing private property for the purpose of gathering data of any type to first get permission to enter the property in written format from the property owner.

(193) Unfunded Mandates

All new laws passed by the legislature that put financial burdens on the counties or cities should be funded by the state.

(194) Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs)

We support the commercial use of UAVs for natural resource management and for agricultural use.

(195) U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals

We support the division of the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals to add a new northwest U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals.

(196) Welfare Reform

Believing that all people should productively engage in providing for their own sustainability, we support elimination of welfare in Idaho replacing it with work programs.

DUVALL

Continued from page 2

to relieve the burden on farm and ranch families with the review of the flawed 2015 Waters of the U.S. rule and a new tax law that has brought farm families additional relief from the estate tax. We hope that this is only the beginning of a transformative time for policies that support agriculture and rural America.

President Trump concluded his remarks to all of us gathered in Nashville by signing two executive orders to improve rural broadband access across the countryside. Rural America has been left behind when it comes to broadband access. But thanks to the president's actions, rural Americans soon will be just one click away from medical services, educational

resources and business tools that for too long have been hundreds or thousands of miles away.

The president also pledged his full support of a robust farm bill, including risk management tools like crop insurance. Farm policy also was top-of-mind for Farm Bureau delegates as they met to vote on our policy agenda for 2018 at our annual business session following the convention. It's time we ensure that the next farm bill works for all farmers and ranchers, so that the business of agriculture can remain sustainable for generations to come. We've heard from our friends in the dairy and cotton sectors, and we are committed to fixing the problems in those programs

as well as improving the Agriculture Risk Coverage program to address disparities across counties.

All Americans need a stable and predictable food supply. This year we are eager to work with Congress and the administration to produce a 2018 farm bill that ensures a continued supply of the safe, affordable and high-quality American-grown products we all enjoy.

While the policy reforms we've been calling for won't come overnight, we're confident that the seeds planted at our annual convention to strengthen U.S. agriculture and our rural economy will bring a bountiful harvest.

KELLER

Continued from page 2

The following are excerpts from his address:

"The people gathered here today, our nation's farmers, are just the most incredible people... You're seeing it like nobody else --- regulation, death tax, so much... You're really producing like nobody else. So, I just want to thank you for that"

"We know that our nation was founded by farmers. Our independence was won by farmers. Our continent was tamed by farmers. Our armies have been fed by farmers and made of farmers. And throughout our history, farmers have always, always, always led the way. You have led the way. Great people."

"The men and women in this room come from different backgrounds and from all across our land, but each of you carries the same title that's been proudly borne by patriots and pioneers, inventors and entrepreneurs, the title of - very proudly - American farmer. Thank you very much."

"You embody the values of hard work, grit, self-reliance and sheer determination

we need to make America great again."

For America, there is no task too great, no goal too large, no dream beyond our reach. We are witnessing a new era of patriotism, prosperity, and pride. And at the forefront of this exciting new chapter is the great American farmer. Thank you.

"We see the promise of tomorrow in the incredible young farmers who have joined us today - students who are achieving incredible things through amazing organizations like FFA and 4-H. Great people. Great people. Great people. It's the future of our country. Their devotion to our nation inspires us all. Really does."

"A phrase that I've heard all my life, but I will repeat right now - very simple, but very, very accurate and concise: Farm country is God's country. So true."

Collectively, America's farmers and ranchers responded favorably to the President's address, but even more so, America's farmers and ranchers have responded positively to many of this administration's actions. Actions such as reduc-

tion in heavy regulations, taxes that have burdened our farming operations during a time when our businesses are expected to produce food and fiber like never-before, and reversing burdensome regulations like WOTUS.

We appreciate the President's remarks and actions; however, it is farmers and ranchers' engagement which is making much of this possible. It's thanks to your engagement that Congress passed tax reform last year - giving farmers a new 20 percent deduction on their business income, doubling the estate tax exemption, preserving tax credits that farmers depend on, and lowering the individual tax rate."

Other issues continue to burden American agriculture, such as immigration, trade and a farm bill or food security bill. With your engagement with this Administration and Congress, Farm Bureau will continue keeping America's farmers and ranchers in the forefront addressing agriculture's needs. Our engagement will continue to inspire positive words and actions from our nation's leaders.

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SEARLE

Continued from page 2

However, a solid effort led by Farm Bureau to generate public comment on the issue, coupled with President Trump's common sense approach to governing, put WOTUS on ice. The battle is not yet won because a new – common sense - rule must still be written. Farm Bureau's sound policy development process and nationwide network made a big difference. Details on how Farm Bureau members can continue to support the WOTUS rulemaking process are forthcoming.

In addition, President Trump, who also spoke during the AFBF Convention, reported that 22 rules or regulations have been repealed for every new rule adopted. I believe those are results of our sound policy development process and the strength of Farm Bureau. We should all be proud. It feels good for agriculture to have a seat at the table in American government. But we must remain persistent.

Secretary Perdue said it's his goal to establish ongoing communications to give producers and consumers a voice on the implementation of new regulations and avoid unintended consequences associated with undermining a science-based approval process. Secretary Perdue also presented the findings of an Interagency Task Force on Agriculture and Rural Prosperity during the AFBF Convention. An Executive Order was signed that specifies over 100 recommendations to help improve life in rural American. The recommendations center around five areas: E-connectivity or broadband,

“No doubt, rural America has struggled under burdensome regulations with no voice in Washington”

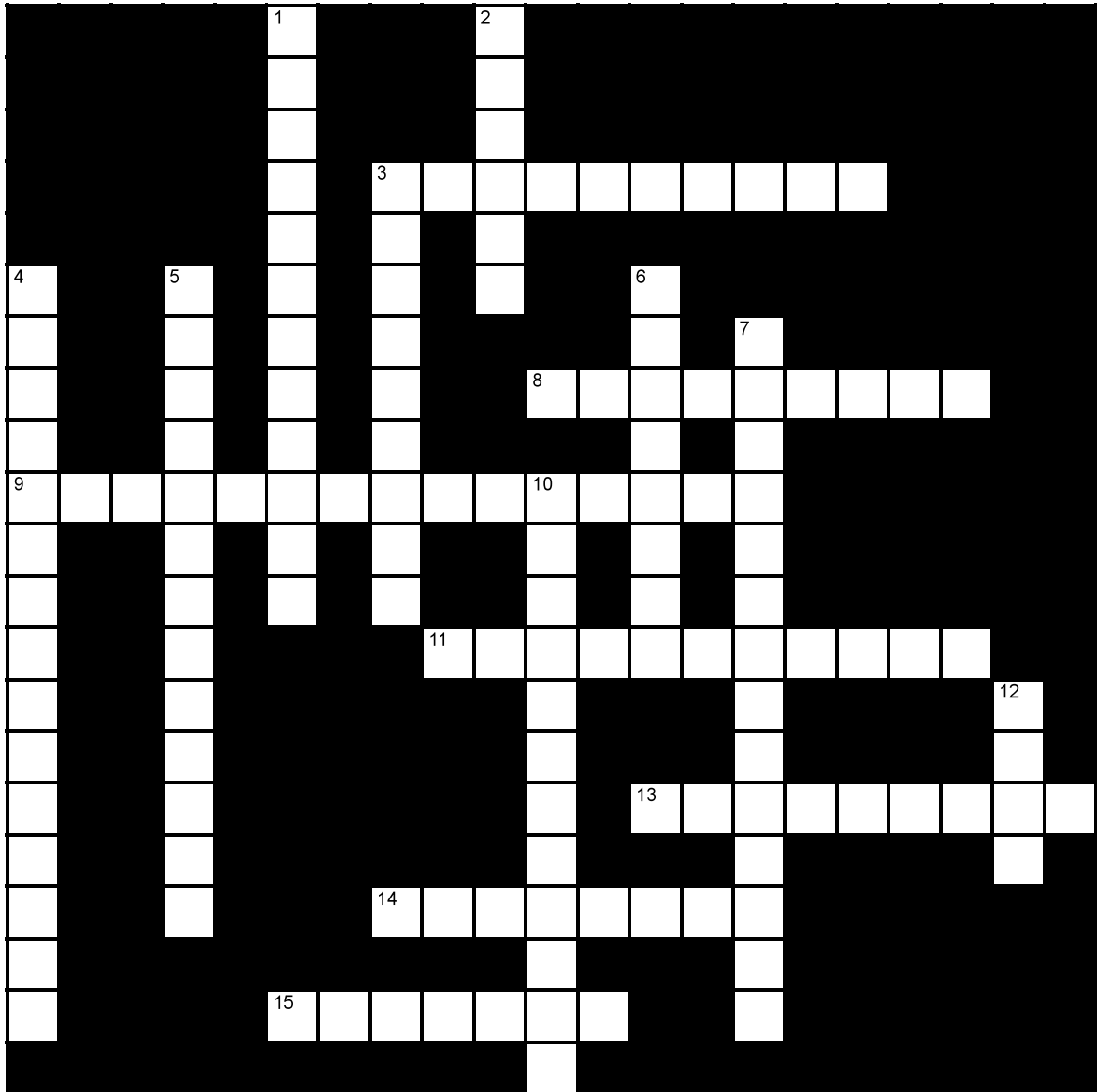
Quality of Life, Rural Workforce, Technology and Economic Development.

Details on the plan to reinvigorate rural areas can be found at this link: <https://www.usda.gov/ruralprosperity>

Secretary Perdue stated the following: “While the task force worked tirelessly to identify solutions to the problems plaguing our rural communities, there is more work ahead. No doubt, rural America has struggled under burdensome regulations with no voice in Washington, but under President Trump's leadership, and with the work of this task force, we can turn that around and restore rural prosperity once and for all.”

President Trump was the first president to speak during an AFBF convention since the early 1990's. He received resounding support from rural areas during the election of 2016. Being politically active and involved through our policy development process has earned us a seat at the table and a voice in the process of governing. Let's make certain we remain vigilant and maintain the momentum.

CROSSWORD PUZZLE: WINTER OLYMPICS 2018



Across

3. Glide down a ramp at 90km/h to jump and fly as far as they can go
4. This game is played on an enclosed sheet of ice called a rink
9. Skating competition that takes place on a 111.12m track in a 60x30m ice rink
11. Host city for Olympics in 2018

13. Ride a steerable sled down an ice track
14. Combines cross-country skiing and rifle shooting
15. Athletes throw the stone in the order of lead, second, third, and skip

Down

1. Gliding across a snow-covered field in the shortest possible time

2. Skier slides down snow-covered slopes on skis with fixed heel bindings
3. A board attached to rider's feet to speed down a slope
4. Artistic competition performing aerial acrobatics while freely gliding down a slope
5. Athletes wear bladed skates and perform different specific acrobatic movements
6. A toboggan is used and the

- athlete is lying on the sled head first, face down
7. A package of cross-country skiing and ski jumping
10. Start simultaneously and compete speeding on a 400m ice track.
12. A small sled on which the athlete sleds on while lying down face up and feet-first

ANSWERS ON PAGE 32

Focus on Agriculture

A Guy You Want on Your Side

He was named “the most dangerous man on the planet” by environmental activists in 2003 when his face appeared on a “wanted” poster at a global warming conference he was attending in Milan, Italy. Fifteen years later, Sen. James Inhofe (R-Okla.) received the 2018 Distinguished Service to Agriculture Award from the American Farm Bureau Federation. Two very different recognitions for the same man.

Inhofe gained notoriety during a congressional hearing by asking, “Could it be that man-made global warming is the greatest hoax ever perpetrated on the American people?” He also was a leading opponent of cap-and-trade legislation to curb carbon emissions. Farm Bureau honored him for being a leader in the Senate to remove burdensome federal regulations and for his support of agriculture in other ways.

The Republican senator hardly resembles a master villain like Dr. No or Goldfinger from the James Bond films. He’s been married to his wife Kay for 58 years, and they have 20 children and grandchildren. He was a builder and developer who got into politics to shrink the size of government and help save the free enterprise system.

But he admits to playing the role of the “bad guy” on global warming. He was put off by what he described as the hys-

teria in Hollywood and the media about it. “The world is coming to an end, and it is coming to an end because of man-made gases,” is what he was hearing.

“We’ve actually won that fight with the American people. They know better,” says Inhofe referring to public opinion polls indicating less concern. Global warming has since been repackaged as “climate change,” which he agrees is happening.

“Climate is changing, and it always will be changing,” he says. “That is not the same thing as the world is coming to an end because of anthropogenic gases or man-made gases.”

AFBF was glad to have Inhofe on its side in opposing the 2015 Waters of the United States rule proposed by the Environmental Protection Agency and the Army Corps of Engineers. The Trump administration took executive action to have the rule rescinded. It would have greatly expanded the interpretation of navigable waters so that almost any water running across a farm field would be subject to federal jurisdiction.

“Senator Inhofe was one the first people to recognize the impact of this crazy over-reach on the definition of navigable waters. He stood up early when few other people were standing up,” says Rodd Mo-



Oklahoma Senator James Inhofe

esel, president of Oklahoma Farm Bureau. “He’s a guy you want on your side. There is no better bulldog. There is no better warrior fighting for your issues.”

Inhofe compiled a list of 66 regulations that were reversed by executive order or congressional review act in the first year of the Trump administration. It is on his official website and he is keen to show it to visitors.

His concern about government over-regulation has long been shared by Farm Bureau. If Inhofe is a dangerous man it’s because he is a danger in the Senate to those who favor a larger, more intrusive and meddlesome federal government.

Stewart Truelsen is a food and agriculture freelance writer and a regular contributor to the Focus on Agriculture series.

INSURANCE MATTERS

MIKE MYERS — *Farm Bureau Mutual Insurance Co. of Idaho*

Home Heating Safety

Did you know: more than 30 percent of Americans use fireplaces, wood stoves and other fuel-fired appliances as primary heat sources in their homes? That percentage is even higher in Idaho, where the winters can be a little longer and quite a bit colder. Unfortunately, many people are unaware of the fire risks when heating with wood and solid fuels.

Heating fires account about 40 percent of residential home fires in rural Idaho each year. Often these fires are due to creosote buildup in chimneys and stovepipes. All home heating systems require regular maintenance to function safely and efficiently. If your home is primarily heated by wood, pellets or other fuel-fired means, knowing some basic maintenance tips could help save your life.

Keep Fireplaces and Wood Stoves Clean

Have your chimney or wood stove inspected and cleaned annually by a certified chimney specialist.

Clear the area around the hearth of debris, decorations and flammable materials.

Always use a metal mesh screen with fireplaces. Leave glass doors open while burning a fire.

Install stovepipe thermometers to help monitor flue temperatures.

Keep air inlets on wood stoves open and never restrict air supply to fireplaces, otherwise you may cause creosote buildup that could lead to a chimney fire.

Use fire-resistant materials on walls around wood stoves.

Safely Burn Fuels

Never use flammable liquids to start a fire.

Use only seasoned hardwood. Soft, moist wood accelerates creosote buildup.

DO NOT burn pressure treated lumber or



Space heaters, whether portable or stationary, accounted for 45 percent of home heating fires between 20011 and 2015.

railroad ties. They emit carcinogens and produce large amounts of residual buildup in your chimney and flume.

Build small fires that burn completely and produce less smoke.

Never burn cardboard boxes, trash or debris in your fireplace or wood stove.

When building a fire, place logs at the rear of the fireplace on an adequate supporting grate.

Never leave a fire in the fireplace unattended.

Extinguish the fire before going to bed or leaving the house.

Soak hot ashes in water and place them in a metal container outside your home.

Protect the Outside of Your Home

Stack firewood outdoors at least 30 feet away from your home.

Keep the roof clear of leaves, pine needles and other debris.

Cover the chimney with a mesh screen spark

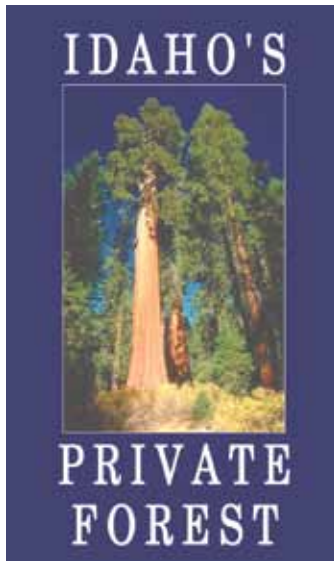
arrester.

Remove branches hanging above the chimney, flues or vents.

Other Heat Sources

You know that an open flame can get out of hand quickly, but are you aware of the common dangers associated with electrical heat sources such as baseboard heaters, space heaters or even your home furnace?

The fact is, if it creates enough heat to keep your home warm, there is a chance of it becoming a fire hazard. According to the National Fire Prevention Association (NFPA), space heaters, whether portable or stationary, accounted 45 percent of home heating fires and 85 percent of home heating fire deaths between 20011 and 2015. Placing household items (toys, blankets, boxes, etc.) too close to the heat source is the number one mistake. For more information, you can download the NFPA's basic safety tip sheet for home heating, or contact your Farm Bureau Agent.



New Data from Idaho Family Forest Owners

By Chris Schnepf

Family forests total approximately 1.7 million acres in Idaho. They are one of Idaho's largest private land uses, particularly in the northern end of the state (e.g., 44 percent of the combined forests of Boundary, Bonner, Kootenai, and Benewah counties are held by family forest owners).

Family forests are often an important source of logs for Idaho lumber mills. For example, Idaho family forests provided 26 percent of the state's timber harvest from 1993-2003. Family forests are also important to many other public values such as wildlife, water quality, and recreation. Family forests tend to be more concentrated near key locations for ecosystem functions (e.g., along lakes, streams, and in low elevation wildlife habitats).

Those of us working to help family forest owners improve their management always welcome additional data on family forest owners to help sharpen and refine our efforts. Over the last 50 years, there have been many national and state family forest owner surveys. But social science research is more useful to the extent it is current and focused locally, and the last survey of Idaho forest owners was in 1987. Over the last two years, Dennis Becker and Phil Cook, with the University of Idaho Policy Analysis Group, completed a large survey



Idaho Master Forest Stewards can strengthen peer-to-peer interactions between forest owners.



Consulting foresters are an important assistance source for Idaho family forest owners

of Idaho family forest owners, with support from the Idaho Department of Lands (IDL), University of Idaho Extension, and the University of Idaho Social Science Research Unit. The primary objective of the research was to “better understand family forest owners’ management decisions and preferences, and to compare management activities of landowners who have participated in forestry extension and technical assistance programs with those who have not.”

One of the most critical aspects of surveying family forest owners is getting a solid handle on who forest owners are and how to reach them. That is not as easy as it might sound. One can focus on landowners in Idaho’s forest land property tax categories, but that approach leaves out forest owners whose forestland is in bare land grazing or some other tax category. This survey used data from IDL fire protection

assessments, which elegantly cuts across all forest owner tax categories. They identified a total of over 36,000 family forest owners in Idaho who own between 5 and 5,000 acres of forest land.

Using that data base, 2,869 Idaho forest owners were randomly selected to receive a 14-page questionnaire in the mail. Thirty-six percent of these forest owners returned completed surveys (a reasonably good response rate for mail surveys in recent years). Here are some survey highlights:

Over half of Idaho’s family forest land owners are at least 65 years old.

The average size of Idaho’s family forest ownerships is 66 acres.

Most family forest owners live on or near their forests and visit them often.

The most important reasons for owning

family forests in Idaho are: to enjoy beauty or scenery, for personal privacy, to protect or improve wildlife habitat, and to protect nature.

Timber products were cited as important or very important by 25 percent of forest owners, but 33 percent of the respondents had harvested timber commercially.

Most forest owners have actively managed their forest in some way.

Idaho’s family forest owners are more active managers than those in other parts of the country.

Family members and friends were the most-used sources of information in decision-making about forests (69 percent of owners).

Twenty-eight percent of owners indicated

See UI FORESTRY, page 31

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UI FORESTRY

Continued from page 29

they were likely to sell or give away a portion of their forest land within the next 5 years.

In the last 5 years, 20 percent of owners were assisted by an IDL service forester and 23 percent received information or assistance from UI Extension.

Only 28 percent of Idaho's family forest owners had written management plans, but those who had plans were 1.5 times more likely to have taken actions to improve their forest conditions.

Forest owners who sought agency assistance or participated in extension programs were more active managers than those that did not, as

evidenced by more past and planned actions overall.

Landowners who have received assistance reported high levels of satisfaction, with 100 percent satisfied or very satisfied with UI Extension and 98 percent satisfied or very satisfied with IDL service foresters.

We will be assessing the survey results for different parts/regions of Idaho for years to come to gain insights regarding how we conduct forestry assistance and extension programs. For example, occasionally some believe all our communication with landowners can be shifted to inexpensive electronic tools, such as e-mail and online social media. Many landowners value those and

we will continue to use them, but these survey results indicate that most forest owners (61 percent) still prefer surface mail to receive announcements on extension programs and assistance programs such as cost sharing. The results also revealed that landowners relied heavily on forestry information from their peers. Idaho's Master Forest Stewards, who are landowners trained by UI Extension to reach out to other forest owners about forestry, are well positioned to strengthen such peer-to-peer interaction.

Effective forest management depends on solid data about forest site and stand conditions. Good forestry extension

programs, agency assistance efforts, and the work of forest owners' associations depend on meaningful data about Idaho's family forest owners. This recent survey provides that data. If you would like to learn more, the survey results will be posted this spring on the University of Idaho Policy Analysis Group's web page (www.uidaho.edu/cnr/policy-analysis-group). Results will also be submitted to professional journals for publication.

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

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	Yield	.600	.700	.800	.800	1.21	1.51	1.81	
\$ 1,000 - \$ 2,499	Rate	.650	.750	.850	.950	1.25	1.55	1.85	
	Yield	.650	.750	.850	.950	1.26	1.56	1.86	
\$ 2,500 - \$ 4,999	Rate	.700	.800	.900	1.00	1.30	1.60	1.90	
	Yield	.700	.800	.900	1.00	1.31	1.61	1.91	
\$ 5,000 - \$ 9,999	Rate	.750	.850	.950	1.05	1.35	1.65	1.95	
	Yield	.750	.850	.950	1.05	1.36	1.66	1.96	
\$ 10,000 - \$ 24,999	Rate	.800	.900	1.00	1.10	1.40	1.70	2.00	
	Yield	.800	.900	1.00	1.10	1.41	1.71	2.02	
\$ 25,000 - \$ 49,999	Rate	.850	.950	1.05	1.15	1.45	1.75	2.05	
	Yield	.850	.950	1.05	1.15	1.46	1.76	2.07	
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	Yield	.900	1.00	1.10	1.21	1.51	1.81	2.12	
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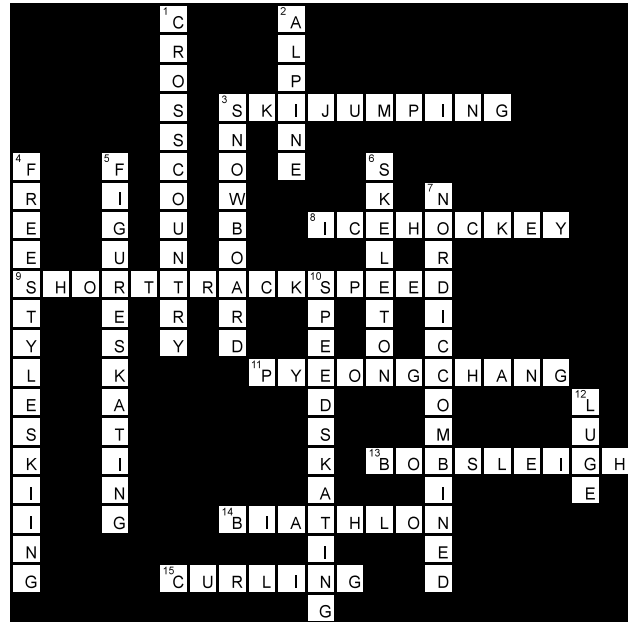
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CROSSWORD

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2017-2018 Season

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Searle Elected to AFBF Board of Directors



By Jake Putnam

NASHVILLE, Tenn. – State Delegates at the American Farm Bureau Federation’s 2018 Annual Convention elected Idaho Farm Bureau President Bryan Searle to serve on the AFBF Board of Directors.

President Zippy Duvall and Vice President Scott VanderWal were re-elected to two-year terms.

Searle, and Ron Gibson, president of Utah Farm Bureau, were elected to two-year terms on the AFBF board of directors and they will represent the Western Region.

“It’s humbling,” said Searle. “The American Farm Bureau is a great organization and to have this opportunity is an honor. You feel

the pressure but it benefits Idaho.”

Searle says that American Farm Bureau President Zippy Duvall has been on the ground in Idaho and understands western issues. He thinks that sentiment will spread to the AFBF Board of Directors.

“We now have a perfect opportunity to bring an issue before them and be heard. We can surface complicated issues and act on them in ways we haven’t in the past and we’re looking forward to it,” said Searle.

That opportunity directly benefits all Idaho agriculture according to IFBF Executive Vice President Rick Keller. He says western agriculture is different because of the land, water, and public access issues.

“Bryan will be a unique resource to the Board,” he said. “He can tell members firsthand what can be done

to help. On the other hand, when other states have problems we can help them too.”

Keller adds that Idaho has two Senators that are agreeable to Farm Bureau policy, and the American Farm Bureau can benefit from that influence to achieve AFBF policy goals.

“In the Western region there are 13 states that make up the western region and we have five of those seats and this is a big deal,” added President Searle.

Hans McPherson, president of Montana Farm Bureau, was elected to a one-year term, also representing the Western Region. Searle was also selected to serve in the AFBF Board of Directors Executive Committee.

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Federal Trucking Regulation Complicates Livestock Transportation

By Jake Putnam

Truckers hauling livestock have received a 90-day waiver from the Federal Government's new Electronic Logging Device rule.

But the trucking industry is hoping for a long-term solution to the problem.

The rule went into effect on Dec. 18 for most operators, but the U.S. Department of Transportation delayed the regulation for trucks transporting livestock until mid-March.

The new regulations require drivers to install ELDs on their trucks. Also included are hours of service restrictions on truckers, limiting them to 11 hours of driving daily, after 10 hours off duty. Plus, the ELD rules restrict driving time to 14 consecutive hours and that includes non-driving time. ELDs can cost anywhere from \$200 to \$1,000, and they record driving time, monitor engine hours, vehicle movement and speed, miles driven and location information.

Idaho Farm Bureau President Bryan Searle says livestock producers have concerns about the ELD regulations.

"If a trucker hauling livestock runs out of hours, they could be parked along the side of the road with a load of livestock," he says. "That's just won't work, it's not right for the trucker or the livestock."

Because of that, farm groups across the nation say the ELD Rule does not work for truckers hauling livestock and it's dangerous for animals.

"We think Transportation needs to take a closer look at ELD requirements. It's just a matter of time before we lose cattle, or a horse because of a stopped truck or an ELD glitch," said Idaho Humane Society of the US, Executive Director Lisa Kauffman.

The National Cattlemen's Beef Association agrees the mandate is a

huge problem for cattle producers.

"We have a living, breathing animal in the back of these trucks. They can't stop for eight hours on the side of the road," said Colin Woodall with the NCBA.

The other issue says Idaho livestock producer Luke Pearce is that the logs are running while truckers are waiting to load and unload and even if they stop for lunch.

"If they stop at a truck stop to get fuel or whatever, that meter keeps running wherever they're at," he says. "If any trucker goes over those driving limits, they're fined. Worse yet if he's been driving for 9 hours and just a few minutes away from his destination, he has to shut down for 10 hours. Where are they going to get feed and water to the livestock? This isn't going to work," said Pearce.

See TRUCKING REGULATION p.36

TRUCKING REGULATION

Continued from page 35

Another possible problem of the ELD mandate is that livestock needs to be unloaded while truckers rest. That means the co-mingling of livestock and that's an animal health issue.

"They don't have feedlots at rest stops, and even if they did, if you have spirited horses or tired cattle it's going to be impossible to reload them and then there's the disease problem," Pearce says.

The ELD rule will hurt truckers, but Pearce says it could be tough on small operators without clarification of new rules.

"They're now looking at one-ton trucks with goose-neck trailers, can you imagine haul-

ing a couple head of cattle to market or taking a kid to a horse show?" Pearce asks. "We're going to need a commercial driver's license and expensive ELD equipment for our pickups. It's crazy but it'll affect 4H groups, rodeos and county fairs and we don't always have the political power behind us to get help at the Statehouse or in Congress, I'm telling you, this is a big issue."

The Commercial Motor Vehicle Safety Enhancement Act was enacted as part of the '2012 Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century Act'. It mandated that ELDs be installed by Dec. 18, 2017. That applied to commercial motor vehicles involved in interstate commerce

when operated by drivers who are required to keep records of duty status.

The DOT has back-pedaled in recent weeks issuing a new interpretation to address concerns in its hours-of-service rules. They're now exempting any distance-logging requirement for truckers hauling livestock within a 150 air-mile radius of the place where animals were loaded. But still no word on the one-ton pickup requirement.

The new waiver will give the department time to consider the request of farm groups that haul hogs, cattle, and other livestock now exempt from December's ELDs mandate.

But farm groups say there is

still an incompatibility between transporting livestock and DOT's hours of service rules.

"We're working to find some exemptions to hours of service or some other waiver that allows us to get cattle to market," Woodall says. "So far, we have not found that but we are working several angles to figure out what we can do to show that a truckload of cattle is not the same as a truckload of toilet paper, and they need to make sure that we can get those animals to market in good health."

"We need to come up with ways to get around some of these ELD rules and make sure that livestock is cared for properly," Pearce adds.



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Trucking Shortage Persists in Idaho

By Jake Putnam

Potatoes, onions, beets, and cattle aren't finding their way to market as easy these days.

There's a truck shortage because of a lack of qualified commercial truck drivers in Idaho and across the nation.

A recent report from the American Trucking Association shows that driver shortages nationwide will continue to grow this year. The report shows that the nation will need least 50,000 drivers just to meet current shipper demands. The association says that in ten years the nation could be 250,000 drivers short. The truck shortage is felt locally.

Idaho Farm Bureau President Bryan Searle is a potato producer from Shelley. He says prices are good but getting his potatoes to market has been a challenge.

"Everything in this country is shipped by trucks. Think about it, all our food, just about everything in Walmart and Amazon. I can't blame the industry for shortages but there is competition for trucks," said Searle.

The number of truck drivers in Idaho is expected to increase 12.9 percent between 2010 and 2020—that's from 11,803 drivers to 13,232 drivers, according to the Idaho Department of Labor. But the American Trucking Association says there's still a shortage nationwide and around 96,000 new drivers will need to be hired yearly to keep pace with demand. The median salary for a truck driver in Idaho is over \$40,000.

The Idaho unemployment rate is one of the lowest in the nation at 2.9 percent. Economists say that an economy at full employment is at 3 percent and Idaho is just a handful of states that has a so-called super-

hot job environment.

"I've heard that it's improved over the past couple of weeks but there's nothing grand about it," said Searle. "We're still short, there's a driver shortage and producers need help. We lost a lot of trucks to fertilizer shipments, but we just don't know how many. It seems to me that truckers are going to where the most money is if its fertilizer they're there if it's something else they are there. You can't blame them for that but we need drivers to get our potatoes to market."

Because of the shortage trucking companies are looking to give incentives to recruit drivers in the area.

Super T Transports in Idaho Falls is offering more money per mile as well as satellite TV in the sleeper cabs of their trucks. Doug Andrus Trucking has stepped it up

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TRUCKING SHORTAGE

Continued from page 37

even further with a free car giveaway. To enter, you need to refer yourself or another driver with a commercial driver's license to Andrus Trucking.

But those incentives may not be enough for some drivers.

"The rigors that over-the-road truck drivers encounter are such that the younger generations are not coming into the industry in sufficient number to replace retiring drivers," said Lynn Fuhriman, vice president of operations for Doug Andrus Trucking in Idaho Falls. "This lack of backfill is significant by itself. Simply put – there are easier jobs where the worker can be home every

night, and not away from family and friends for up to a week or more."

The College of Western Idaho is working to train new drivers and offers a 15-week professional truck driving program complete with classroom work, topped by simulator training and even a life-like simulation where instructors throw obstacles like bad weather, tire blowouts and traffic obstacles. CWI takes the simulator to high schools and career fairs to let anyone try it out.

But trucking insiders say the hours on the road and all the new rules and regulations have helped contribute to driver

shortages in the industry. Federal regulation requires drivers to now have an electronic login account as opposed to the old standard paper logbook.

Fuhriman says there's a learning curve and a cost to complying with this requirement that will have to be passed on to shippers and ultimately the consumer.

"The driver shortage we are experiencing, and the regulatory pressures we face that makes it very difficult to find new drivers and even harder to predict future conditions," said Fuhriman.

With all the setbacks including new rules and regulations,

there are lots of trucking jobs available. Companies all over the state are offering training programs with hopes of getting new drivers. C.R. England Company is offering training classes and most companies now offer full orientation so drivers can learn the new rules and regulations when they hit the road while salaries continue to rise. But shortages continue across the state.

«This is not good, we need consistency in the potato market and this worries us. We can't go to the rails because that situation is even worse. I think it's going to get worse before it gets better,» said Searle.



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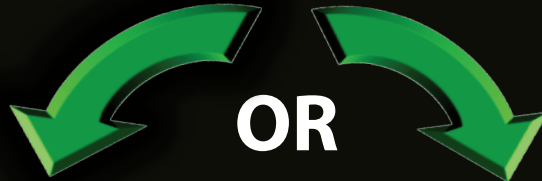
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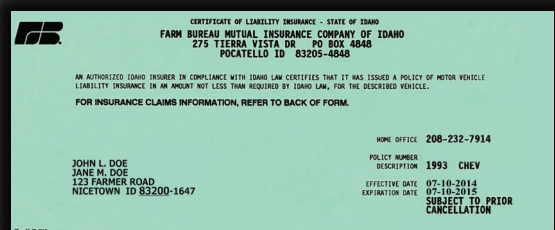
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