

# Idaho Farm Bureau. Quarterly

Spring Issue • Volume 26 Issue 2

## 2026 Elections Start With May Primaries

**Ag Feeds the  
Economy, 4**

**Friend of Ag  
Award, 10**

**IFBF PAC  
Endorsements,  
18**





## Ag labor reform is critical to America's food supply

**O**n my farm and farms across the country, nothing happens without people. Behind every harvest is a team of dedicated workers helping bring food from our fields to families' kitchen tables.

Farmers value our employees. Many of us work alongside the same people for decades, and those relationships matter. But right now, farmers are in the middle of a labor crisis that is putting that work, and our food supply, at risk.

We're seeing it every day. Crops are left to rot in the fields. Farmers are scaling back. Some are

even going out of business because they simply can't find the help they need.

Americans understand what's at stake. Seven in ten adults support farmers having access to H-2A guestworkers, and two in three recognize that without those guestworkers, the U.S. would have to rely more heavily on imported food.

Even more telling, two in three Americans understand that without access to a reliable workforce, many family farms wouldn't survive. At a time when there's growing interest in healthy

See **DUVALL**, page 6

# The President's Desk

**By Matt Dorsey**

President, Idaho Farm Bureau Federation



## The importance of voting

**A**s you no doubt noticed, this magazine is a special election edition. Farm Bureau believes voting is so important, we dedicated most of an entire agricultural magazine to it.

President Abraham Lincoln famously said, "The ballot is stronger than the bullet."

Thomas Jefferson said, "An informed citizenry is at the heart of a dynamic democracy."

President Ronald Reagan put it this way: "The right to vote is the crown jewel of American lib-

erties, and we will not see its luster diminished."

President Franklin Roosevelt said this about voting: "Democracy cannot succeed unless those who express their choice are prepared to choose wisely. The real safeguard of democracy, therefore, is education."

That's one of purposes of this special election edition. As we get close to the state's May 19 primary election, we want to offer this information on candidates who are supported by Idaho Farm

See **DORSEY**, page 7

# Inside Farm Bureau

**By Zak Miller**

CEO, Idaho Farm Bureau Federation



## Everyone should count

**C**ounting animals is hard. I've never enjoyed it, and I'm not particularly good at it. Yet from a young age, working cattle on the ranch, someone always needed a number, and the old saying holds truer than ever: "You can't manage what you can't measure."

My counting conundrum is simple: I don't like it, I'm not great at it, and I'm slow at it. But if I want to stay relevant on the ranch, I have to do it, even when I forget, even when it's inconvenient, even when I'd rather let someone else handle it.

That lesson was driven home years ago by a good brand inspector. We were standing together in the alley, counting steers about to be shipped, when I asked him what his count was.

His answer stopped me cold. He taught me a great lesson from the expectations he learned at another ranch: "If you can watch, you can count." In other words, everyone who can watch should be counting.

What a lesson and what a humbling moment.

See **MILLER**, page 7

President..... Matt Dorsey, Caldwell  
Vice President..... Doug Barrie, Idaho Falls  
Executive Vice President/CEO .....Zak Miller

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Kyle Wade ..... Downey  
Jason Fellows ..... Weston  
Kimberly Hobbs..... Franklin  
Travis McAfee ..... Howe  
Alan Clark ..... Menan  
David Philips..... Challis  
Darren Taber ..... Shoshone  
Rick Pearson ..... Hagerman  
Paul Marchant..... Oakley  
Cody Chandler ..... Weiser  
Galen Lee ..... New Plymouth  
Tristan Winegar ..... Weiser  
Marjorie French..... Princeton  
Tom Daniel ..... Bonners Ferry  
Tom Mosman ..... Craigmont  
Mitchell Searle ..... Burley  
Tess Zollinger..... Preston

**STAFF**

Executive Assistant ..... Cara Dyer  
VP of Organization ..... Justin Patten  
Operations Assistant ..... Ely MacDonald  
Director of Member Benefits ..... Betty Inskeep  
Project Manager ..... Ott Clark  
Accountant ..... Jonny Lawson  
Member Relations Assistant ..... Grace Hanning  
Dist. I Regional Manager ..... Kylee Urie  
Dist. II Regional Manager ..... Camron Hammond  
Dist. III Regional Manager ..... Zack Lanier  
Dist. IV Regional Manager ..... James Gallacci  
Dist. V Regional Manager ..... Bob Smathers  
Dist. V Regional Manager ..... Megan Parnell  
VP of Governmental Affairs ..... Russ Hendricks  
Director of Government Affairs ..... Braden Jensen  
Governmental Affairs Representative ..... Dexton Lake  
Boise Office Manager..... Anna Rose Byers  
VP of Information ..... Joel Benson  
Communications Manager ..... Kristy Lindauer  
Director of Publications ..... Sean Ellis  
Videographer ..... Jacob Christensen  
Videographer ..... Paul Boehlke

Printed by: Adams MultiMedia, Pocatello, ID

**IDAHO FARM BUREAU QUARTERLY**

USPS #022-899, ISSN #1557-1270 is published quarterly by  
the IDAHO FARM BUREAU FEDERATION,  
275 Tierra Vista Drive, Pocatello, ID 83201.

POSTMASTER send changes of address to:  
IDAHO FARM BUREAU QUARTERLY

P.O. Box 4848, Pocatello, ID 83205-4848.

Periodicals postage paid at Pocatello, Idaho,  
and additional mailing offices.

Subscription rate: \$4.00 per year included  
in Farm Bureau dues.

**MAGAZINE CONTACTS:**

Idaho Farm Bureau Federation  
EDITOR (208) 239-4292 • ADS (208) 239-4384  
E-MAIL: seanellis@idahofb.org  
ADS: advertising@idahofb.org  
web: www.idahofb.org

# Table of Contents

**4** Backbone of the economy:  
food and ag sectors

**10** Friend of Agriculture Award  
recipients

**14** Idaho ag hall of fame inducts  
new members

**18** Idaho Farm Bureau Federation  
PAC announces support for  
legislative candidates

**24** Are you prepared if the flames  
meet the forest or the range  
this summer?

**28** Sheep in the Foothills and food  
page

**32** A look at what farmers plan  
to plant in 2026

**34** Classifieds

**COVER:** Idaho's Capitol building is shown in this photo by Paul Boehlke. Idaho's primary election is May 19.

# Backbone of the economy: food and ag sectors

By Sean Ellis

*Idaho Farm Bureau Federation*

POCATELLO – The combined food and agriculture sectors have a combined massive impact on the U.S. economy, according to a recently released report.

According to the 2026 Feeding the Economy report, the two sectors together generate more than \$10.4 trillion in economic value to the U.S. economy. That represents almost 20 percent of the nation's overall economy.

The annual report, which was released March 23, shows that America's food and ag sectors support 48.7 million jobs across the country, including more than 24 million direct jobs in farming, manufacturing, processing, distribution, retail and foodservice.

It also found that the two industries generate more than \$3 trillion in wages for American workers, \$177 billion in exports and \$1.35 trillion in tax revenue for federal, state and local governments.

According to the report, food manufacturing in the United States employs more than 2.28 million workers.

The report did identify several challenges faced by the sectors.

It reported: "Direct employment in production agriculture and food manufacturing remained largely flat year-over-year, reflecting pressures on farmers, producers and rural communities."

It also found that export values declined, in inflation-adjusted terms, over the past decade, "further demonstrating the importance of stable and reliable international markets for U.S. agriculture."

The annual report is sponsored by 35 food and agriculture groups, including American Farm Bureau Federation.

In one of his weekly columns, AFBF President Zippy Duvall called the report a

"powerful reminder that what starts in our fields reaches into every part of American life."

"The work farmers do sets off a chain reaction that touches every community," he added. "Food moves from farms to processing plants, onto trucks and into stores and restaurants. Along the way, it creates jobs, generates income and supports the service we all rely on."

It all starts on the farm, but it doesn't end there, Duvall wrote.

"Whether you farm 5 acres or 5,000, you're part of something bigger than your own farm," he said. "You're helping support jobs, strengthen communities and power an economy that reaches every corner of this country."

The report breaks down the impact of the food and agriculture industries by state. It shows the two sectors account for 395,375 total jobs and \$23.5 billion in wages in Idaho.

In addition, it shows the sectors account for \$94.5 billion in total economic output in Idaho and \$11.2 billion in business taxes.

"Wow, those are some really big numbers and confirm what many people involved in agriculture already know: that the combined food and agriculture sector is one of the major players in the Idaho and U.S. economy," said Idaho Farm Bureau Federation President Matt Dorsey.

Dorsey, who farms in Canyon County, encouraged farmers and other involved in the industry to share these numbers, particularly with lawmakers and other elected officials.

According to the report, the economic impact of the two sectors begins on the country's nearly 2 million farms and ranches.

From there, it expands rapidly, "powering innovation, manufacturing, transportation, retail and foodservice across every state."



It adds that almost 200,000 food manufacturing, processing and storage facilities employ millions of food scientists, production workers, logistics experts, truck drivers, engineers and others "who keep supply chains resilient and responsive."

"The impact continues at more than 1 million restaurant and foodservice establishments and roughly 200,000 retail food stores, where food and agriculture products drive consumer spending in communities nationwide," the report states.

The ripple effects extend even further.

"Wages earned across the food and agriculture supply chain are reinvested locally, supporting housing, health care, education, small businesses and infrastructure,"



**FEEDING THE ECONOMY**



## US FOOD & AG INDUSTRIES Economic Impact in Idaho

● <b>Total Jobs</b> 395,375	● <b>Total Wages</b> \$23.47 Billion	● <b>Total Output</b> \$94.50 Billion	● <b>Business Taxes</b> \$11.17 Billion
● <b>Direct Jobs</b> 177,108	● <b>Direct Wages</b> \$8.23 Billion	● <b>Direct Output</b> \$44.49 Billion	● <b>Exports</b> \$1.30 Billion

### United States

● <b>Total Jobs</b> 48,732,652	● <b>Total Wages</b> \$3.01 Trillion	● <b>Total Output</b> \$10.42 Trillion	● <b>Business Taxes</b> \$1.35 Trillion
● <b>Direct Jobs</b> 24,299,234	● <b>Direct Wages</b> \$1.08 Trillion	● <b>Direct Output</b> \$4.33 Trillion	● <b>Exports</b> \$177.36 Billion

Learn more at [Feedingtheeconomy.com](https://Feedingtheeconomy.com)

the report adds. “In many rural communities, food and agriculture’s economic activity is the backbone of the local economy.”

The 2023 report breaks down the food and ag sectors’ economic impact by county.

For example, it shows that in Canyon County (population 238,000) the two sectors support 34,518 jobs, \$1.9 billion in total wages and \$8.3 billion in total economic output.

Even in comparatively small Fremont County – population 14,000 and change – the industries support 2,294 jobs, \$132 million in wages and \$352 million in economic output.

To view that county-level data online, go to: <https://feedingtheeconomy.com/county-level-data/>.

The following are quotes from leaders of organizations involved in sponsoring the report that are included at FeedingTheEconomy.com:

“This report is a leading resource to help Congress, the administration and agricultural stakeholders understand the simple truth that the food and agriculture sectors are powerful economic engines that drive growth and opportunity across both rural and urban America.” – John Newton, American Farm Bureau Federation

“Each year, the Feeding the Economy report shows how American food and agriculture power the engine of U.S. prosperity. From producers and processors to retailers, chefs, manufacturers, transportation professionals and the scientific community, agriculture and the people who build on it form a pillar of the U.S. economy.” – John Bode, president and CEO, Corn Refiners Association

“Agriculture is a cornerstone of the U.S. economy.” – Christy Seyfert, president and CEO, Farm Credit Council

“Agriculture is the backbone of the U.S. economy and these numbers illustrate just how critical the women and men of the food and farm sector are to the overall picture.” – Sam Kieffer, CEO, National Association of Wheat Growers ■

*Continued from page 2*

food and how it's grown, these numbers matter. Families want fresh, American-grown food. But that only happens if farmers have the workforce to produce it.

The current system isn't keeping up with the realities of modern agriculture. Farmers need workers both seasonally and year-round, but the H-2A program doesn't fully meet those needs.

At the same time, domestic labor shortages remain severe. When these jobs are posted, less than 1% are ever filled by a domestic applicant, and even fewer stay through the season.

On top of that, farmers face rising costs, complicated regulations and uncertainty around wages and compliance. It's a system that hasn't been modernized by Congress in decades. Our labor shortage is holding agriculture back, and it's threatening the future of our American-grown food supply.

The good news is that we're starting to

*'At the end of the day, this is about more than our farms. It's about keeping grocery store shelves stocked, supporting rural communities and making sure families across this country continue to have access to safe, affordable, American-grown food.'*

see some movement. Senator Ted Budd recently introduced legislation to codify the administration's interim final rule on H-2A wages. This is an important step to bring more certainty and clarity for farmers.

We're also encouraged by ongoing work from House Agriculture Committee Chairman Glenn "GT" Thompson following the final report of the bipartisan Agricul-

tural Labor Working Group.

We've been working closely with Chairman Thompson and his team and are hopeful to learn more on his next steps soon. Farmers need action, and we appreciate leaders who are stepping up to address this challenge.

Farm Bureau is also proud to co-chair the Agriculture Workforce Coalition, a group of more than 100 organizations representing agricultural employers across the country. Together, we're raising our voice to make sure lawmakers understand the urgency of the ag labor crisis.

When agriculture speaks with one voice, we can achieve results that strengthen farms of all sizes and commodities in every region.

Farmers are ready to be part of the solution. We want a system that works—for farmers, for our workers, and for the future of our food supply.

That means updating guestworker visa programs to meet agriculture's workforce needs, streamlining regulations, providing long-term certainty, and creating workable solutions that allow experienced, skilled workers to continue contributing to American agriculture.

At the end of the day, this is about more than our farms. It's about keeping grocery store shelves stocked, supporting rural communities and making sure families across this country continue to have access to safe, affordable, American-grown food. ■



Photo by Colorado Farm Bureau

*Continued from page 2*

Bureau Federation based on their voting records.

The choice of whom to vote for is a deeply personal one and of course it is up to you to choose the representatives you want to represent you. The intent of providing this information is that it will help with that decision. We encourage you to do your own research on the candidates as well.

In these pages, you will find representatives who have received IFBF's Friend of Agriculture award, which is given to legislators who have shown strong support of agriculture.

You will also read about lawmakers who are supported by Idaho Farm Bureau Federation PAC, which is IFBF's political action committee. This committee, with significant input from the state's 38 county Farm Bureau organizations, supports candidates it believes best align with Farm Bureau policies and values.

IFBF policies were developed and voted on by the organization's grassroots members. These policies must pass muster with Farm Bureau voting delegates across the state. IFBF PAC uses these policies as the standard for the candidate selection process.

The Idaho Secretary of State's office has made personalized sample ballots available for all registered voters. These can be found at [VoteIdaho.gov](http://VoteIdaho.gov). These sample ballots will be a specific

*'The United States of America is a representative republic. Power in the U.S. is derived from the people, but it's up to us to elect the people we believe will make the best laws and policy decisions on our behalf.'*

ballot and will look like the ballot you will receive at your assigned voting location.

Remember, it's our duty to elect officials who we believe will best represent our values and stances on certain issues.

The United States of America is a representative republic. Power in the U.S. is derived from the people. It is our duty to elect the people we believe will make the best laws and policy decisions on our behalf. ■

*Continued from page 2*

Why would I stand idle while someone else tallied my livelihood? Two sets of eyes on the same animals only make the final number more accurate.

It was simple wisdom, and it made me feel a little foolish for not doing it all along. I still forget sometimes, but forgetting is never a real excuse, because if I'm not counting, who will?

What's true in the alley is just as true at the ballot box

In Idaho, the May primary is where our voices matter most. Regardless of party affiliation, the primary races here determine nearly every outcome that will shape agriculture, water rights, land use, and life across this state.

The general election, for most of these contests, is a formality. The real decision that counts happens in May.

Far too many Idahoans make the same mistake I used to make, counting cattle: they step back and let others do it for

*'Staying home isn't neutrality. It's handing your count to someone else and hoping they get it right with your businesses, land, water, and your way of life all on the line.'*

them. They tell themselves it's too complicated, that their vote won't make a difference, that someone else will handle it. I've used every one of those excuses. None of them holds up.

There are strong candidates across Idaho who genuinely want to do right by farmers, ranchers, and rural families. Some candidates have no business anywhere near the levers of power, people who don't understand, and may not even care about, what it means to make a living from this land.

Whether the right ones get elected

comes down to whether you and I show up.

Staying home isn't neutrality. It's handing your count to someone else and hoping they get it right with your businesses, land, water, and your way of life all on the line.

Wise ranchers count every head. They stand in that alley, and they count, because a wrong number has real consequences.

Vote in the Idaho primary this May because the numbers and choices matter, and everyone should be counted. ■



Check Out Our  
New Website

www.FBFinanceCo.com

Now offering a secure customer portal



DOWNLOAD OUR APP FROM  
THE GOOGLE PLAY STORE OR  
APPLE APP STORE!

1-888-566-3276  
275 Tierra Vista Dr, Pocatello, ID 83205

Some restrictions apply. All loans applications are subject to credit approval. The rates listed on our website are our best available rates, actual rates may vary depending on your individual credit history.

# LOW INTEREST LOANS FOR IDAHO SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION

3% - 4% - 5%  
Terms 7-15 Years  
Up to \$600,000

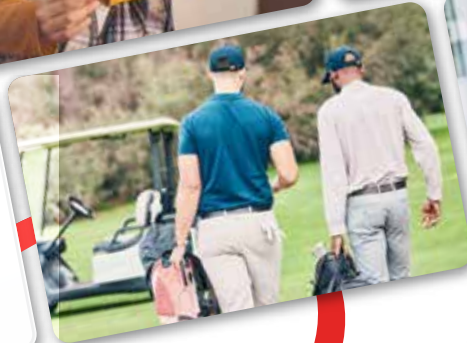
- Sprinkler Irrigation
- No-Till Drills
- Fences
- Livestock Feeding Operations
- Solar Stock Water Pump Systems



swc.idaho.gov

(208) 332-1790

## Look out for them. We'll look out for you (\$25).



Get  
**\$25**  
WHEN A FRIEND YOU  
REFER PURCHASES A  
POLICY FROM US

Scan the code for complete details.





Life insurance is cheaper than you think.  
**WHY WAIT?**

For less than \$1 a day, you can make sure your family will have money to pay for things like a mortgage, tuition and everyday expenses. Don't wait until it's too late.

**Contact your Farm Bureau agent today.**



# Idaho Farm Bureau

# FRIEND OF AGRICULTURE

## Award Recipients

The following legislators have earned the Idaho Farm Bureau Friend of Agriculture Award.

The Friend of Agriculture Award recognizes legislators who have consistently supported or opposed bills in harmony with Farm Bureau member positions over the 2025 and 2026 legislative sessions. The following individuals voted in alignment with Farm Bureau positions at least 95% of the time on the 20 selected bills over the past two legislative sessions.



**District 1**  
**Senator**  
**Jim Woodward**



**District 6**  
**Representative**  
**Lori McCann**



**District 9**  
**Senator**  
**Brandon Shippy**



**District 10**  
**Senator**  
**Tammy Nichols**



**District 12**  
**Senator**  
**Ben Adams**



**District 12**  
**Representative**  
**Jeff Cornilles**  
Also earned in 24



**District 14**  
**Senator**  
**C. Scott Grow**  
also earned in 24



**District 15**  
**Senator**  
**Codi Galloway**  
**Retiring**

**FRIEND OF AG CONTINUED**



**District 18  
Senator  
Janie Ward-Engelking**



**District 21  
Senator  
Treg Bernt**



**District 22  
Senator  
Lori Den Hartog**  
also earned in  
16,18,22,24



**District 22  
Representative  
John Vander Woude**  
also earned in  
14,16,18,20,24  
**Retiring**



**District 24  
Representative  
Steve Miller**  
also received in 18



**District 26  
Representative  
Jack Nelson**  
**Retiring**



**District 27  
Senator  
Kelly Anthon**  
also earned in  
20,24



**District 27  
Representative  
Doug Pickett**



**District 27  
Representative  
Clay Handy**



**District 28  
Senator  
Jim Guthrie**  
also earned in  
14, 18, 22



**District 28  
Representative  
Dan Garner**



**District 30  
Senator  
Julie VanOrden**  
also earned in  
14,16,18,24

**FRIEND OF AG CONTINUED**



Earned Every  
Time Eligible  
**3 TERMS!**

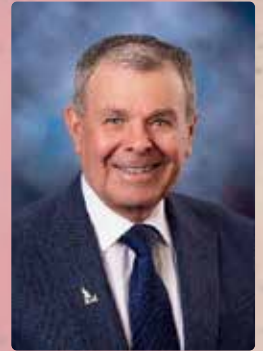
**District 30  
Representative  
David Cannon**  
also earned in  
22, 24



**District 30  
Representative  
Ben Fuhrman**



**District 31  
Senator  
Van Burtenshaw**  
also earned in  
18, 24



**District 31  
Representative  
Jerald Raymond**



**District 31  
Representative  
Rod Furniss**  
also earned in  
24

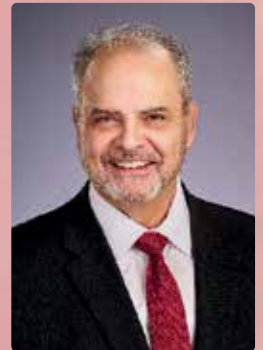


Earned Every  
Time Eligible  
**3 TERMS!**

**District 32  
Senator  
Kevin Cook**  
also earned in  
22, 24



**District 32  
Representative  
Stephanie Mickelsen**



**District 33  
Senator  
Dave Lent**  
also earned in  
24



**District 34  
Senator  
Doug Ricks**  
also earned in  
22



**District 34  
Representative  
Jon Weber**



Earned Every  
Time Eligible  
**5 TERMS!**

**District 35  
Senator  
Mark Harris**  
also earned in  
18, 20, 22, 24



**District 35  
Representative  
Josh Wheeler**

# **We encourage you to support these legislators who are running for re-election!**

20 bills were used for our Legislative scorecard during the 2025 and 2026 sessions. Bill subjects included property rights, immigration, wolf hunting and trapping, direct-to-consumer food sales, cloud seeding, industrial hemp, large energy loads, and other important issues.

“We sincerely appreciate those Legislators who take the time to learn about the issues and make informed decisions, especially when it concerns agriculture. We express our gratitude to each of these Legislators for their outstanding support of Idaho agriculture and Idaho Farm Bureau Federation policies.”

- Matt Dorsey, President of the Idaho Farm Bureau



Photo by Sean Ellis

Six people were inducted into the Eastern Idaho Agriculture Hall of Fame during an awards banquet in Fort Hall March 20.

## Idaho ag hall of fame inducts new members

*“There’s a saying: If you want to go fast, go alone. If you want to go far, go together.”*

– Jeff Siddoway, 2026 Hall of Fame inductee

By Sean Ellis  
Idaho Farm Bureau Federation

FORT HALL – Former Idaho Farm Bureau Federation CEO Rick Keller was among six people inducted into the Eastern Idaho Agriculture Hall of Fame March 20.

During an awards banquet in Fort Hall, Keller was inducted along with Jeff and Cynthia Siddoway of Terreton, Shawn Walters of Newdale, Dennis Lake of Blackfoot and David Crapo of St. Anthony.

Formed in 1972, the EIAHF honors men and women who have made extraordinary and lifelong contributions to agriculture and Eastern Idaho.

Since then, 264 people have been inducted into the Hall of Fame.

“Welcome to the Eastern Idaho Ag Hall of Fame,” EIAHF board director Rick Phillips told the inductees.

Keller started with Idaho Farm Bureau Federation in 1979 as a regional manager and later served as the organization's CEO for 21 years, making him the longest-serving chief executive officer in IFBF history. He worked for the state's largest general farm organization for a total of 41 years.

"What a glorious opportunity," he said about his time with Farm Bureau that started with what he thought would be a temporary job. "It turned out to be one of the greatest blessings we ever had ... and we never looked back."

"We got to work with the best people in the world," said his wife, Alene. "It's just been a dream come true for all these years."

Keller said one of his best memories during his time with Farm Bureau "is just the many, many good people," and he still stays in contact with IFBF members.

Like many other inductees over the years, Walters, whose father received the same honor 34 years ago, said he was "humbled and surprised" to be included in the Hall of Fame among so many titans of Idaho agriculture.

Lake played down his role in receiving the honor and credited others, particularly family and employees, for much of his success.

"Usually, the person who receives the honor is not the person who deserves it," he said.

Besides thanking their families, this year's inductees also made sure to credit their employees.

"No farm is built by family alone," Crapo said, thanking the operation's "hard-working, dedicated employees over the years. We could not have built what we have without them."

"To a great extent, they are the ones who make things happen in our operation," Walters said about his operation's employees. "I count on them every day."

During interviews with IFBF before the banquet, as well as during the banquet itself, inductees offered some advice to the younger generation of farmers and ranchers who are just getting started in the industry.

Hard work and staying committed to agriculture were main themes.

"You just put one foot in front of the other and eventually you get there," Lake said.

Keller said farmers are very good at working on their own farms, within their fence lines.

"But there's so much that can happen to their farm outside their fence lines and that's why they need to belong to an organization, whether it's a commodity organization or a group like Farm Bureau," he said. "They need to be involved because that will help them protect what's going on within their farm."

Speaking of long-term success, Jeff Siddoway stressed the importance of depending on family, friends and employees.

"There's a saying: If you want to go fast, go alone. If you want to go far, go together," he said.

Inductees also acknowledged the hard work and commitment of those that came before them and forged paths for Idaho agriculture.

"I'm grateful to those who came before us," Crapo said. "I'm proud of the legacy they built."

The 2026 Hall of Fame inductees:



**Rick and Alene Keller**

Keller devoted 41 years of service to Idaho agriculture through Idaho Farm Bureau Federation.

Total IFBF membership increased during 39 of the 41 years Keller served the organization. Under his leadership, Farm Bureau membership grew from 49,000 to more than 80,000.

He also expanded agricultural marketing efforts, strengthened media outreach and fostered collaboration among commodity groups statewide, according to his bio.

In 2021, Keller received IFBF's President's Cup award, the organization's highest honor.

"Rick became a trusted advocate for farmers and ranchers at the county, state and national levels," his award bio states.



**Jeffery and Cynthia Siddoway**

"Jeff and Cindy Siddoway ... represent generations of agricultural stewardship in Eastern Idaho," their award bio states.

Their operation manages between 4,000 and 12,000 breeding ewes across more than 400,000 acres of private, state and federal grazing lands.

"Together, the Siddoways implemented innovative management practices to strengthen their sheep operation, including relocating lambing operations, modernizing facilities, improving turnout methods, and working closely with the BLM and U.S. Forest Service to consolidate grazing allotments," their award bio states.

Jeff served 12 years in the Idaho Senate and Cindy was the first female president of the American Sheep Industry Association.

"The Siddoways are widely respected leaders and advocates for agriculture," their bio states.



### Shawn and Patrice Walters

According to his award bio, Walters for four decades helped grow Walters Produce into a diversified farming and potato shipping operation growing potatoes, wheat, barley and alfalfa.

“Shawn is known for embracing innovation in mechanization, irrigation and crop management to improve sustainability and productivity,” his award bio states. “He led efforts to transition to water-efficient pivot irrigation and helped modernize potato grading and shipping through advanced optical technology.”

He has served in leadership roles with the Idaho Grower Shippers Association and the Idaho Potato Commission and was named Madison County Farmer of the Year in 2024.

“A strong advocate for water stewardship, Shawn led a long-term cooperative effort to modernize the Enterprise Canal system, significantly reducing water loss and improving reliability for area producers,” his bio states.



### Dennis and Luann Lake

According to his award bio, “Dennis learned the cattle business early, trailing cattle with his grandfather and developing a deep respect for hard work and stewardship.”

He joined Basic American Foods in 1959, where, according to this bio, “his ingenuity led to the creation of Snake River Livestock, which initially fed potato byproducts to livestock.”

Lake built and operated a 1,900-head feed yard near Moreland and the Old Harris feedlot with a capacity of 9,000 head. He was also a longtime owner and partner in the Blackfoot Livestock Auction.

“Known for his disciplined financial management and cau-

tious approach to debt, Dennis successfully navigated decades of market volatility while supporting local farmers, grain mills and potato warehouses,” his bio states.

He served in the Idaho Legislature from 1996-2012, serving as chairman of the House Revenue and Taxation Committee.



### David and Patsy Crapo

As president of Crapo Ltd. for more than 35 years, Crapo, alongside his brothers and extended family, helped grow a 40-acre farm into one of the Northwest’s largest vertically integrated agricultural enterprises, according to his award bio.

Today, Crapo Farms encompasses tens of thousands of acres, a major fresh-pack potato operation – Sun-Glo of Idaho – a cow-calf operation and Crapo Trucking.

“Within his role at Sun-Glo, David developed new transportation routes between the U.S. and Canada, opening new markets for Idaho-grown commodities,” his bio states.

He has worked closely with state and federal officials on agricultural issues, including predator management and water conservation efforts.

His operations employ more than 250 Eastern Idaho residents and he has been a supporter of 4-H, FFA, youth activities and community organizations.

“David’s impact is felt through people,” his bio states.

During the EIAHF’s recognition dinner, five farm and ranch owners-operators received the Ed Duren Memorial Young Producer Award, which recognizes agricultural producers under the age of 45 for production innovations, leadership and having a positive impact on the Eastern Idaho ag industry.

The award was established by the Eastern Idaho Agriculture Hall of Fame in 2018 to honor the memory of inductee and former board member Ed Duren (1935-2017), who spent his 39-year career as a University of Idaho Extension livestock specialist, educator, author, and mentor to hundreds of young farmers, ranchers and ag industry professionals.

According to the EIAHF, “Ed spent a 39-year career (and many more years as a professor emeritus) providing education, outreach and leadership to producers and organizations across Idaho and beyond. His impact on agriculture in Idaho is beyond measure.”

The Ed Duren award recipients this year are:



**Jade Scott Searle of Searle Land and Cattle**

According to his award bio, Searle began building his own cow-calf herd at age 12 and became a full-time farmer and rancher at 21. His operation includes potatoes, grain, hay, cattle and a large-scale straw business.

He utilizes fall cover crops to improve soil health and provide fall feed for his cattle.



**Colby Ward of Ward Farms**

Ward is a second-generation farmer whose foundation, according to his award bio, was built through hands-on experience working alongside family and other mentors.

“He is committed to efficient water use, soil health, no-till farming practices and collaboration with neighboring farmers,” his bio states.



**Taylor Smith of Taylor Farms**

Smith, a third-generation farmer from Idaho Falls, “has built a progressive agricultural operation focused on row crop and cattle production,” according to his bio.

He began farming at an early age and launched his own custom combining business while in high school.



**Shayman Munns of Munns Ranch**

His bio says he was born to ranch and began his own cattle herd at age 8.

*“Boy, it’s fun to see the next generation of agriculture come up in Eastern Idaho.”*

*–Rick Phillips, EIAHF board director*

“Shayman has demonstrated ingenuity and hands-on problem-solving through improvements to his cattle operations, including the design and construction of custom feedlot facilities and livestock equipment,” his bio states.



**Ryan Gould of R & D Gould Farms**

Gould grew up working on his family’s farm in Teton and now serves as partner-owner and manager of the operation.

“Since starting full-time on the farm, Ryan has helped purchase more than 800 acres of additional farmland,” according to his bio. “He oversees irrigation, fertilizer management and commodity marketing for potatoes and wheat across thousands of acres.”

“Boy, it’s fun to see the next generation of agriculture come up in Eastern Idaho,” Phillips said while the Ed Duren award recipients were honored. ■

Hall of Fame inductee photos by Jacob Christensen; Ed Duren award recipient photos submitted

# Idaho Farm Bureau Federation PAC Announces Support for Legislative Candidates

The Idaho Farm Bureau Federation has a Political Action Committee named Idaho Farm Bureau Federation PAC. The purpose of Idaho Farm Bureau Federation PAC is to assist state legislative candidates who are philosophically aligned with Farm Bureau policies and positions to win their election. Based upon recommendations from county Farm Bureaus, the following legislative candidates have demonstrated a commitment to Idaho agriculture, limited government, less regulations and lower taxes and have been endorsed by Idaho Farm Bureau Federation PAC.

**We encourage you to support them at the polls in May!**

**District 1**  
Boundary & Bonner  
Counties



Senate Seat  
Jim Woodward

**District 1**  
Boundary & Bonner  
Counties



House Seat A  
Mark Sauter

**District 2**  
Bonner, Kootenai, Benewah,  
Shoshone & Clearwater Counties



House Seat B  
Todd Perry

**District 3**  
Kootenai County



Senate Seat  
Doug Okuniewicz

**District 4**  
Kootenai County



House Seat A  
Joe Alfieri

**District 4**  
Kootenai County



House Seat B  
Christa Hazel

**District 5**  
Kootenai County



House Seat A  
Ron Mendive

**District 6**  
Latah, Lewis & Nez Perce Counties



Senate Seat  
Lori McCann

**District 6**  
Latah, Lewis &  
Nez Perce Counties



House Seat B  
Brandon  
Mitchell

**District 7**  
Adams, Idaho  
& Nez Perce Counties



Senate Seat  
Cindy Carlson

**District 7**  
Adams, Idaho  
& Nez Perce Counties



House Seat B  
Charlie Shepherd

**District 8**  
Boise, Custer, Elmore &  
Valley Counties



House Seat A  
Rob Beiswenger

**District 8**  
Boise, Custer, Elmore &  
Valley Counties



House Seat B  
Brian Beckley

Idaho Farm Bureau Federation PAC endorsed candidates continued

**District 9  
Canyon, Payette &  
Washington Counties**



**Senate Seat  
Brandon Shippy**

**District 9  
Canyon, Payette &  
Washington Counties**



**House Seat A  
John Shirts**

**District 9  
Canyon, Payette &  
Washington Counties**



**House Seat B  
Judy Boyle**

**District 10  
Ada & Canyon Counties**



**Senate Seat  
Tammy Nichols**

**District 10  
Ada & Canyon Counties**



**House Seat A  
Mike Moyle**

**District 10  
Ada & Canyon Counties**



**House Seat B  
Bruce Skaug**

**District 11  
Canyon County**



**Senate Seat  
Camille Blaylock**

**District 11  
Canyon County**



**House Seat B  
Debbie Geyer**

**District 12  
Canyon County**



**Senate Seat  
Ben Adams**

**District 12  
Canyon County**



**House Seat A  
Jeff Cornilles**

**District 12  
Canyon County**



**House Seat B  
Jaron Crane**

**District 13  
Canyon County**



**House Seat A  
Brent Crane**

**District 13  
Canyon County**



**House Seat B  
Kody Daffer**

**District 14  
Ada County**



**Senate Seat  
C. Scott Grow**

**District 14  
Ada County**



**House Seat A  
Ted Hill**

**District 14  
Ada County**



**House Seat B  
Josh Tanner**

**District 15  
Ada County**



**House Seat B  
Dori Healey**

**District 16  
Ada County**



**Senate Seat  
Soñia Galaviz**

**District 16  
Ada County**



**House Seat A  
Megan Woller**

**District 17  
Ada County**



**House Seat B  
Megan Egbert**

**District 18  
Ada County**



**Senate Seat  
Janie Ward-Engelking**

**District 19  
Ada County**



**House Seat B  
Chris Mathias**

**District 20  
Ada County**



**House Seat A  
Joe Palmer**

**District 20  
Ada County**



**House Seat B  
James Holtzclaw**

**District 21  
Ada County**



**Senate Seat  
Treg Bernt**

**District 21  
Ada County**



**House Seat A  
James Petzke**

**District 21  
Ada County**



**House Seat B  
Jeff Ehlers**

**District 22  
Ada County**



**Senate Seat  
Lori Den Hartog**

**District 22  
Ada County**



**House Seat A  
Kelly Walton**

**District 22  
Ada County**



**House Seat B  
Jason Monks**

**District 23  
Ada, Canyon &  
Owyhee Counties**



**Senate Seat  
Todd Lakey**

**District 23  
Ada, Canyon &  
Owyhee Counties**



**House Seat A  
Melissa Durrant**

**District 23**  
Ada, Canyon &  
Owyhee Counties



**House Seat B**  
Shawn Dygert

**District 24**  
Camas, Gooding &  
Twin Falls Counties



**Senate Seat**  
Brent Reinke

**District 24**  
Camas, Gooding &  
Twin Falls Counties



**House Seat A**  
Alexandra Caval

**District 25**  
Camas, Gooding &  
Twin Falls Counties



**Senate Seat**  
Casey Swensen

**District 25**  
Camas, Gooding &  
Twin Falls Counties



**House Seat B**  
Cherie Vollmer

**District 26**  
Blaine, Jerome &  
Lincoln Counties



**Senate Seat**  
Ron Taylor

**District 26**  
Blaine, Jerome &  
Lincoln Counties



**House Seat A**  
Mike Pohanka

**District 27**  
Cassia, Minidoka &  
Oneida Counties



**Senate Seat**  
Kelly Arthur Anthon

**District 27**  
Cassia, Minidoka &  
Oneida Counties



**House Seat A**  
Douglas Pickett

**District 27**  
Cassia, Minidoka &  
Oneida Counties



**House Seat B**  
Clay Handy

**District 28**  
Bannock, Franklin &  
Power Counties



**Senate Seat**  
Jim Guthrie

**District 28**  
Bannock, Franklin &  
Power Counties



**House Seat A**  
Richard Cheatum

**District 28**  
Bannock, Franklin &  
Power Counties



**House Seat B**  
Dan Garner

**District 29**  
Bannock County



**Senate Seat**  
James Ruchti

**District 29**  
Bannock County



**House Seat A**  
Dustin Manwaring

**District 29**  
Bannock County



**House Seat B**  
Tanya Burgoyne

**District 30**  
Bingham & Butte  
Counties



**Senate Seat**  
Julie VanOrden

**District 30**  
Bingham & Butte  
Counties



**House Seat A**  
David Cannon

**District 31**  
Clark, Fremont, Jefferson  
& Lemhi Counties



**Senate Seat**  
Van Burtenshaw

**District 31**  
Clark, Fremont, Jefferson  
& Lemhi Counties



**House Seat A**  
Jerald Raymond

**District 31**  
Clark, Fremont, Jefferson  
& Lemhi Counties



**House Seat B**  
Rod Furniss

**District 32**  
Bonneville County



**Senate Seat**  
Kevin Cook

**District 32**  
Bonneville County



**House Seat A**  
Stephanie Mickelsen

**District 32**  
Bonneville County



**House Seat B**  
Erin Bingham

**District 33**  
Bonneville County



**Senate Seat**  
Dave Lent

**District 33**  
Bonneville County



**House Seat A**  
Barbara Ehardt

**District 34**  
Madison County



**Senate Seat**  
Doug Ricks

**District 34**  
Madison County



**House Seat A**  
Jon O Weber

**District 34**  
Madison County



**House Seat B**  
Britt Raybould

**District 35**  
Bannock, Bear Lake, Bonneville,  
Caribou & Teton Counties



**Senate Seat**  
Mark Harris

**District 35**  
Bannock, Bear Lake, Bonneville,  
Caribou & Teton Counties



**House Seat A**  
Mike Veile

**District 35**  
Bannock, Bear Lake, Bonneville,  
Caribou & Teton Counties



**House Seat B**  
Joshua Wheeler



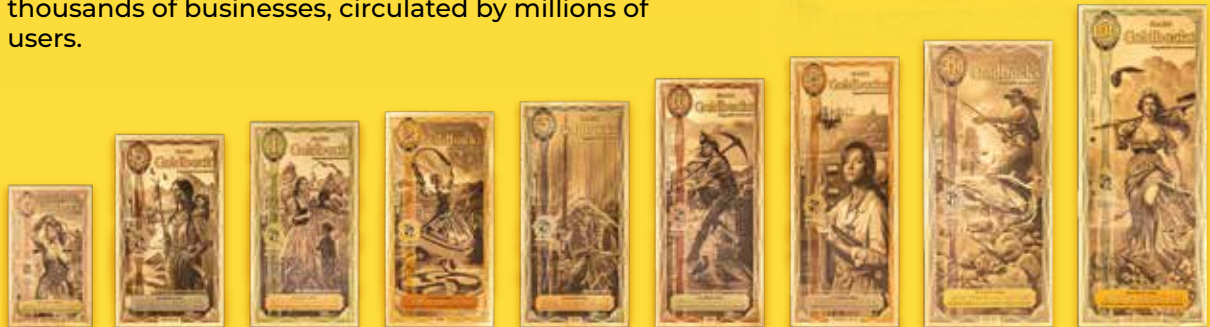
# THERE'S A NEW *Gold Rush* in Idaho.

Introducing Goldbacks, Idaho's local gold currency.



- > **PURE 24-KARAT GOLD**
- > **NINE SPENDABLE DENOMINATIONS**
- > **UV-REACTIVE INK FOR INSTANT VERIFICATION**
- > **ARTWORK INSPIRED BY REAL IDAHO HISTORY**

Sold by hundreds of distributors, accepted by thousands of businesses, circulated by millions of users.



**GET YOUR FIRST GOLDBACK COMPLETELY FREE**  
[freegoldback.com](http://freegoldback.com)



**JOIN HUNDREDS OF IDAHO BUSINESSES BY ACCEPTING GOLDBACKS AT YOUR STORE.**  
[goldback.com/become-a-merchant](http://goldback.com/become-a-merchant)



# ARE YOU PREPARED if the flames meet the forest or the range this summer?

**By Randy Brooks**  
*University of Idaho*

**A**s we move into the 2026 growing season, conditions across Idaho are raising concern among farmers, ranchers, and forest landowners.

A dry winter, low snowpack, and warmer temperatures have set the stage for a challenging summer. While drought is not new to Idaho, the combination of factors this year suggests an increased risk of wildfire and added pressure on working lands.

This past winter did not deliver the snowpack Idaho typically relies on. In many parts of the state, snow accumulation was well below average, and what did fall melted earlier than usual. Snowpack acts as a natural reservoir, slowly releasing moisture into the soil and streams as temperatures warm.

When that system falls short, the impacts carry forward into spring and summer.

Soils are already drying earlier than normal in some areas. Range and pasture conditions may decline faster, and dryland farmers could see reduced moisture during key parts of the growing season.

In forested areas, the lack of moisture stresses trees and understory vegetation, making them more susceptible to fire. These early signals do not guarantee severe drought everywhere, but they do point to a year where conditions could shift quickly.

When land dries out early, it creates a chain reaction. Grasses cure sooner, meaning they turn from green to dry and highly flammable earlier in the season. Fine fuels like grass and small branches are often the first to carry fire, especially during windy conditions.

At the same time, forests that have already experienced years of stress from insects, disease, or past drought are more vulnerable. Even if large timber does not ignite easily,

Conditions across the West are ideal for wildfires this summer. Even if the fire isn't close, we may still be impacted by smoke. Photo by Bo Brooks



the buildup of smaller fuels can allow fire to move quickly across a landscape.

Another concern is the length of the fire season. In years like this, fire activity can begin earlier in late spring and continue well into the fall. That extended window increases the chances of human-caused fires from equipment, vehicles, or burning activities, as well as lightning starts during summer storms.

Even landowners who do not experience fire directly may still deal with smoke impacts. In recent years, smoke from fires in neighboring states has affected air quality across Idaho, sometimes for weeks at a time.

For producers, these conditions bring both direct and indirect challenges. Reduced forage production can affect grazing plans and stocking rates. Irrigated operations may face increased demand on water supplies, particularly if runoff is lower than expected.

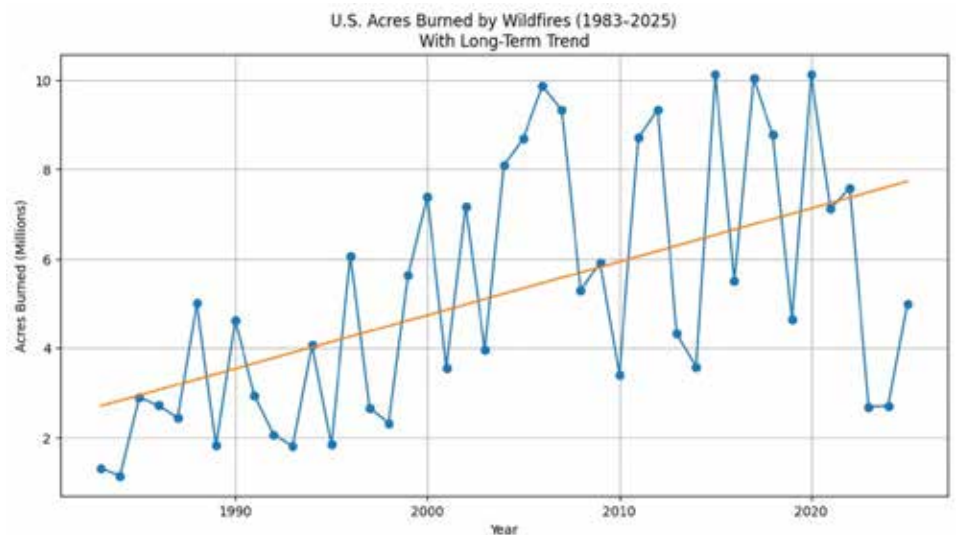
Fire risk also becomes a management issue. A single ignition can quickly move through dry grass or crop residue, threatening not only one property but neighboring lands as well. In agricultural areas, equipment use during harvest or haying can become a source of concern if conditions are hot and dry.

The reality is that wildfire is not just a forest issue. It is a landscape issue that affects rangeland, cropland, and rural communities alike.

One of the most important actions is creating and maintaining defensible space around homes, shops, and outbuildings. This means clearing vegetation, removing debris, and reducing the amount of material that could carry fire to a structure. Keeping grass mowed and moving firewood or other combustible materials away from buildings can make a meaningful difference.

Managing vegetation across the property is also key. In pasture and rangeland settings, early grazing or mowing can help reduce fuel loads before grasses fully dry out. In timbered areas, thinning small trees and removing excess slash can reduce the intensity of a potential fire.

Equipment use is another area to consider. During the hottest and driest parts of the day, it may be wise to limit activities that could produce sparks, such



**Average U.S. acres burned over the last 40 years. 2020 had the most acres ever burned in the U.S. with over 10 million acres burned. Will 2026 see a rise in the graph?**

as mowing, welding, or operating certain machinery. Making sure equipment is in good working order and equipped with spark arrestors can help reduce the risk of accidental ignition.

Access is often overlooked but becomes critical during an emergency. Roads and driveways should be wide enough and clear enough for fire equipment to reach structures if needed. Clearly marked addresses and visible property entrances can save valuable time for responders.

Finally, having a plan matters. Knowing how you would evacuate family members, move livestock, and communicate with neighbors can reduce confusion during a fast-moving situation. Even a simple plan discussed ahead of time can make a difference.

The Idaho Department of Lands works closely with private landowners on wildfire prevention and preparedness. They provide information on safe burning practices, defensible space, and forest management. Local offices can often provide guidance specific to your area.

University of Idaho Extension continues to be a strong partner for landowners across the state. Extension educators and specialists offer workshops, field visits, and practical guidance on managing forests, rangeland, and agricultural systems under changing conditions.

The Natural Resources Conservation Service offers cost-share programs that can help offset the expense of fuel reduction,

thinning, and other conservation practices. Programs like EQIP are designed to support working lands while improving resilience.

In addition, the Firewise program provides tools and resources for individuals and communities looking to reduce wildfire risk. Many local fire districts also offer home assessments and can provide recommendations tailored to specific properties.

Taking advantage of these resources can help landowners make informed decisions and spread the cost and effort of preparation.

No one can say with certainty how this fire season will unfold. Conditions can change, and a few well-timed storms can make a difference. At the same time, the signals we are seeing suggest that this is not a year to take lightly.

For Idaho landowners, preparation is simply part of good stewardship. The same care that goes into managing crops, livestock, or timber applies to reducing wildfire risk and adapting to dry conditions.

The goal is not to eliminate risk entirely, which is not possible, but to reduce it where we can and be ready when conditions change. In a year like this, that approach may be one of the most valuable investments a landowner can make. ■

*(Randy Brooks is a University of Idaho Extension forestry specialist. He can be reached at [rbrooks@uidaho.edu](mailto:rbrooks@uidaho.edu))*

# Idaho Farm Bureau. **MEMBER BENEFITS**

## Being a Member has its Benefits

- Unlock exclusive savings with your Idaho Farm Bureau membership. Enjoy discounts on travel, insurance, entertainment and more--making it easy to save more while doing the things you love.



Farm Bureau Members Receive a

**\$500** Exclusive Cash Reward\*

on an Eligible New\* Ford Truck or Ford Blue Advantage™ Certified Used\* Vehicle.

The Farm Bureau Exclusive Cash Reward\* is now compatible with AXZD-Plans.



Ford Super Duty\*

\*Visit [FordRecognizesU.com/FarmBureau](https://FordRecognizesU.com/FarmBureau) today for complete offer details!



### IDAHO FARM BUREAU MEMBER ONLINE EXCLUSIVE

**Good Any-Day Single Day Ticket**  
**\$76.95 + Tax**  
(plus online service fees)

*A savings of \$23.00 off the regular rate at Lagoon's ticket windows. Tickets are valid any one day of Lagoon's 2026 Season.*

[IDFB.INFO/2026LAGOON](https://IDFB.INFO/2026LAGOON)

[www.idahofbstore.com](https://www.idahofbstore.com)



Alamo



Enterprise



National



ENJOY EXCLUSIVE  
MEMBERS-ONLY DISCOUNTS

## SHOP, COMPARE, & SAVE

- ✓ Book Now
- ✓ Save on great low rates
- ✓ Experience exceptional customer service

Follow the link to savings:  
[partners.rentalcar.com/idaho-farm-bureau](https://partners.rentalcar.com/idaho-farm-bureau)



25% ON PAINT AND  
SUNDRY ITEMS.

PresenttheCash Acct#  
9061-3888-8

at the checkout when paying for items.



FARM BUREAU®  
MEMBERS SAVE

15% OFF DO-IT-YOURSELF  
LAWN FERTILIZER SUBSCRIPTON

Have your lawn care program delivered. The lawn fertilizer you need for a healthy yard delivered to your door when it's time to apply.

Use promo code: **FARBUREAU**

Visit [SWARDYARD.COM](https://www.SWARDYARD.COM) for more details



[www.idahofbstore.com](https://www.idahofbstore.com)

# Sheep in the Foothills: A celebration of agriculture and community

By Liz Wilder

*Idaho Wool Growers Association*

On May 9, the Idaho Wool Growers Association, in partnership with Avimor and the Idaho Rangeland Resource Commission, hosted Sheep in the Foothills, an annual one-of-a-kind celebration of rural life, agriculture, and the region's deep connections to the sheep industry, at the Howell Station Event Center.

Set against the stunning background of the foothills, this event brought together locals and visitors alike for a fun-filled day of family-friendly activities, educational experiences, and a chance to learn about the rich history of sheep ranching in Idaho.

Sheep in the Foothills is not just an event; it's a celebration of the traditions that have shaped the community for generations. For attendees, it offered an opportunity to engage with the region's agricultural roots, taking a look at a day in the life of sheep producers, while making memories and having fun. From demon-

strations to hands-on activities, this event highlighted the vital role that sheep production plays in Idaho's history and economy.

## Fun for all

From 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., attendees saw sheep being shorn, working dog demonstrations, taste-tested lamb, explored an educational kids zone, and were able to shop sheep, lamb, and wool products from local sheep producers.

One of the attractions attendees most enjoyed was the sheep shearing demonstration. Visitors watched Brad and Seth Clark skillfully shear and expertly trim the wool from the sheep in a process that is as much an art as it is a vital part of sheep production. These demonstrations provided a fascinating look at how wool is harvested, offering insight into the sustainable practices that keep this craft alive. For those interested in wool itself, there were demonstrations on wool spinning and weaving by the Handweavers Guild Treasure Valley.



*Recipe from the  
American Lamb Board*

## Citrus & Balsamic Grilled American Lamb Skewers

PREP TIME: 1 Hour | COOK TIME: 20 MIN | SERVINGS: 4

### INGREDIENTS:

2 lbs American Lamb kabobs	2 tbsp dijon mustard
1 cup beef stock	2 tbsp olive oil
FOR THE MARINADE:	
½ cup balsamic vinegar	1 tbsp fresh rosemary
Zest and juice from 1 orange	1 tbsp fresh thyme
Zest and juice from 1 lemon	1 tbsp bbq seasoning

### DIRECTIONS:

1. Place all the marinade ingredients in a large bowl and mix well. Add the kabob pieces and let marinade for at least an hour.
2. Preheat your grill to high heat.
3. Skewer the pieces. Place remaining marinade in a small saucepan and add the beef stock.
4. Place saucepan on grill, bring to boil and cook for 10 minutes, until the sauce begins to thicken.
5. Place the skewers on the grill and cook, rotating every 2 minutes, until internal temp of 145F is reached.
6. Remove from the grill, brush on the sauce and rest. Enjoy!

# Greek Lamb Burger with Tzatziki

PREP TIME: 10 MIN | COOK TIME: 10 MIN | SERVINGS: 6

## INGREDIENTS:

2 lbs Ground Lamb	4 oz feta
2 tsp dried oregano	lettuce
2 tsp minced garlic	tomato, slices
1 tsp black pepper	Tzatziki
6 buns	

## DIRECTIONS:

1. Combine ground lamb, oregano, garlic and black pepper. Form into 6 even sized patties.
2. Grill patties on medium high heat for 5 minutes per side or until desired temperature is reached. Careful when flipping! When done, pull off and rest.
3. Assemble the burgers on the buns with lettuce, slice of tomato, tzatiki and top with feta. Enjoy!



*Recipe from Boise River Lamb*

In addition to the farming-focused attractions, Sheep in the Foothills had local artisans and vendors, with a wide variety of booths showcasing handmade goods, crafts, and locally sourced lamb. Children and families had plenty to enjoy as well. The Idaho Rangeland Resource Commission brought their IROAM trailer for educating young minds about our public lands and rangeland. For the foodies, Sheep in the Foothills offered a lamb taste-testing, showcasing the delicious and nutritious flavor profile.

### New this year

With the help of sponsors, Sheep in the Foothills added new festivities to the lineup, including a sheep dog demonstration, a kids zone activity station, a scavenger hunt, and a demonstration stage.

Presented by Ada County Farm Bureau, participants took part in a scavenger hunt, learning about public lands, livestock grazing, plant identification and livestock production. The demonstration stage, presented by Canyon County Farm Bureau, featured in-depth discussions and displayed hands-on activities such as a lamb cooking class and wool spinning.

The kids zone featured a hands-on activity – planting a flower in a pot, using wool pellets. Did you know wool can protect and enhance your garden soil? Wool is a completely organic material, easily breaking down and releasing soil amending nitrogen in the process. Wool is also highly water absorbent, reducing overall water usage and helping regulate the moisture content of the soil.

Wool pellets are a pelleted form of raw wool, great for potted plants.

### Going back to its roots

Avimor wasn't always a housing development in the vast Boise Foothills. The 23,000 acres have a long and vast history of ranching and grazing on the range. The McLeod family purchased the property in 1916 and began to operate a sheep and cattle ranch known as the Spring Valley Ranch. In early 2000, the McLeod family decided to develop the Spring Valley Ranch and build a place that would sustain future generations for years to come.

Today, Avimor encompasses 661 single-family homes on 840 acres. Over 60% of the community is preserved as open space. Avimor has made a commitment to preserving open spaces and developing trails to encourage both residents and the public to recreate on public lands. They have also made the use of public lands for multi-species grazing a priority for the hills surrounding their community.

Each spring, the hills surrounding Avimor are covered in sheep from local producer, John Peterson of Emmett, leisurely grazing in the warm spring sunshine. Sheep in the Foothills highlights the collaboration and commitment between Avimor and Idaho's sheep industry and celebrates the rich heritage in a day full of fun, learning, and connection to the land. ■

# Stop the Spread: How Boaters Can Protect Idaho from Invasive Species

Sydney Kennedy, Idaho State Department of Agriculture

It's that time of year, the weather is warming up and days are growing longer, making it time to get back out on the water. From our 93,000 miles of rivers to our beautiful lakes and reservoirs, Idaho offers some of the best recreational waters in the country, and protecting them from invasive species is our top priority.

Whether you are launching an inflatable kayak for a peaceful afternoon or heading out on a motorized boat for a full day on the water, every Idahoan and every visitor plays a role in protecting our waters. One of the biggest threats to Idaho's waterways is the spread of invasive species, including quagga and zebra mussels. Established infestations lead to severe economic and environmental damage as pipes clog, infrastructure is encrusted, and our native species are out-competed for the resources they need.

That is why the Idaho State Department of Agriculture (ISDA) Invasive Species Program is reminding all boaters to stay vigilant and follow a few simple but critical steps.

In Idaho, stopping at watercraft inspection stations is not optional. It is the law. All watercraft and water-related equipment, regardless of size or propulsion, motorized or non-motorized, are required to stop when passing an open inspection station. Idaho law also requires all out-of-state watercraft to be inspected and decontaminated at a watercraft inspection station prior to launch.

Watercraft owners can help prevent the spread of invasive species by following three simple steps:

- **CLEAN** all equipment before leaving any waterbody, removing visible plants and animals.
- **DRAIN** water from all compartments, including motors, live wells, and boats. Pull the boat's bilge plug and allow water to drain.
  - \*Idaho law requires that all drain plugs be removed and all water emptied before travel. This includes water from bilges, ballast tanks, live wells, motors, and any other compartments.
- **DRY** all equipment thoroughly before using the watercraft in a different waterbody.

Protecting Idaho from invasive species is a clear priority to the state of Idaho. In 2025 alone, more than 173,000 watercraft inspections were conducted across the state. Since quagga mussels were detected in the Snake River in 2023, inspection efforts have increased by 67 percent statewide.

When entering Idaho, keep an eye out for road signs and electronic message boards directing you to inspection stations. By stopping at inspection stations and following the Clean, Drain, Dry steps, you are helping preserve the lakes and rivers that make Idaho such a special place to live and explore.

Watercraft inspection stations serve as the first line of defense against invasive species. A widespread quagga mussel infestation would clog water infrastructure, leading to hundreds of millions of dollars in direct and indirect costs, including higher energy and water bills for everyday Idahoans.

For more information, or to schedule a free watercraft decontamination, boaters can contact the ISDA Invasive Species Hotline at 877-336-8676 or visit [InvasiveSpecies.Idaho.Gov](https://www.invasivespecies.idaho.gov).



*Watercraft inspection station staff decontaminate a boat at the Marsing watercraft inspection station.*

IT'S UP TO US TO **CLEAN. DRAIN. DRY.**

IDAHO  
STATE DEPARTMENT  
OF AGRICULTURE

INVASIVE  
SPECIES OF IDAHO



**DID YOU KNOW:**  
Idaho produces more than 185 commodities from 23,000 farms & ranches

## IDAHO PREFERRED CLOSER TO HOME: FINDING IDAHO GROWN AND RAISED PRODUCTS

The Idaho Preferred website has become a trusted resource for consumers and businesses looking to find local Idaho agricultural products and experiences. In 2025 alone, the platform reached more than 7 million people, reflecting a growing interest in connecting directly with the farmers and ranchers who produce food across the state.

Led by the Idaho State Department of Agriculture (ISDA), the Idaho Preferred Program continues to expand how it supports and promotes Idaho agriculture. At the center of this effort is the Idaho Preferred Farm and Food Finder, an interactive, easy to use tool that helps users locate Idaho grown and Idaho made products, along with agritourism destinations and on farm experiences. From farm stands and farmers markets to wineries and nurseries, the Finder connects users with producers in communities across Idaho.



This resource is supported by digital directories and seasonal guides that highlight local products and experiences throughout the year. Idaho Preferred has also recently launched three updated directories, including the Farmers Market Directory, Farm Stand Directory, and Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) Directory, making it even easier for consumers to find and support local producers. Choosing Idaho grown and Idaho made products helps keep dollars in local communities, supports farm families, and strengthens the long term sustainability of agriculture across the state. Together, these tools make it simple to discover what is grown and made near you, plan visits to local farms and markets, and support Idaho agriculture in a way that fits your everyday life.

### 2026 LOCAL IDAHO PREFERRED GUIDES



**Farmers Market Directory:**

Makes it easy to find nearby markets, explore local vendors, and plan your next outing to shop fresh, seasonal Idaho products.

<https://idahopreferred.com/products/farmers-markets/>



**Farm Stand Directory:**

Helps you discover roadside stands and on-farm markets across the state, so you can buy directly from the people who grow and raise your food.

[idahopreferred.com/products/farm-stands/](https://idahopreferred.com/products/farm-stands/)



**Community Supported Agriculture Directory:**

Connects you with local farms offering seasonal subscriptions, making it simple to get fresh farm raised foods directly at your home.

[www.idahopreferred.com/community-supported-agriculture](https://www.idahopreferred.com/community-supported-agriculture)

# A look at what farmers plan to plant in 2026

By Sean Ellis

*Idaho Farm Bureau Federation*

POCATELLO – Idaho and U.S. farmers are plowing ahead with their normal planting intentions this year despite rising input costs, lower farm-level prices for their commodities and uncertainty in the Middle East.

According to USDA, Idaho farmers plan to plant 4.16 million acres of principal crops this year, about 2 percent more than they planted last year.

Principal crops include corn, potatoes, wheat, barley, oats, dry edible beans, chickpeas, sugar beets and canola, which are all grown in Idaho. They also include rice, soybeans, peanuts, sunflowers and cotton, which are not grown commercially in Idaho.

U.S. farmers plan to plant 310 million acres of principal crops, down less than half a percent from 2025, according to USDA's annual Prospective Plantings report, which is the first official look at what U.S. farmers say they plan to plant in a given year.

The acreage estimates by USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service are based on surveys conducted during the first two weeks of March with nearly 74,000 farm operators across the nation.

This year's report, which was released March 31, shows that Idaho farmers plan to plant a little more wheat, barley, dry beans, canola and hay this year and fewer acres of corn, sugar beets and chickpeas.

NASS will release official potato acreage estimates for 2026 in late June. For the USDA Prospective Plantings report, NASS carried over the same amount of spud acres as 2025.



Photo by Madison Arnzen

**A field is planted in this Idaho Farm Bureau Federation file photo. According to USDA, Idaho farmers plan to plant 4.16 million acres of principal crops this year, about 2 percent more than they planted last year.**

North American Potato Market News owner Ben Eborn estimates Idaho potato acres will decline by 15,000, or 5 percent, this year. If accurate, that means Idaho potato acres will fall from 315,000 last year to 300,000 this year.

Idaho potato acreage was also 315,000 in 2024 and hit 330,000 in 2023.

Idaho leads the nation in total potato production and Gem State farmers pro-

duce roughly a third of the nation's spud crop each year.

In the April 2 edition of NAPMN, Eborn also estimates U.S. potato acreage will decline by 3 percent, from 902,000 acres in 2025 to 878,000 acres this year. U.S. spud acreage was 932,000 in 2024 and 966,000 in 2023.

“The largest acreage reduction is expected in Idaho, though we also expect the

*“Growers across the country are extremely concerned about current market conditions, rising production costs, the lack of profitable alternative crops, the ability to obtain financing, increasing global competition, and limited irrigation water supplies.”*

– Ben Eborn, North American Potato Market News

planted area to decline in several other states,” Eborn wrote.

“Growers across the country are extremely concerned about current market conditions, rising production costs, the lack of profitable alternative crops, the ability to obtain financing, increasing global competition, and limited irrigation water supplies,” Eborn wrote.

“In addition,” he added, “North American growers also have a huge supply of potatoes from the 2025 crop in storage.”

Teton farmer Dwight Little said Idaho farmers will shift their crop acres somewhat as they try to figure out which crop mix might be more profitable for their farm this year.

There are not a lot of attractive options, however, as farm-level

prices for most crops are on the decrease, while overall input costs continue to hover near record levels.

“The shift (in acres) is to anywhere we might make some money,” Little said. “There isn’t much money in anything in agriculture right now, except livestock. Right now, it’s kind of dismal.”

Little plans to plant about the same amount of potatoes this year, a little more wheat and a little less barley.

Water availability, or lack thereof this year, will be a major factor in what crops Idaho farmers actually plant this year, he added.

Winter snowpack levels in most Idaho basins were low this year and water managers expect a tough water supply year for irrigators in 2026.

“Which crop’s going to use the least amount of water” will be one of the big deciding factors in Idaho farmers’ planting decisions this year, Little said. “Water’s definitely going to play a role.”

According to the USDA Prospective Plantings report, Idaho farmers plan to plant 380,000 acres of corn this year, down 12 percent from last year, and 158,000 acres of sugar beets, down 5 percent from 2025.

They also expect to plant 82,000 acres of chickpeas, down 16 percent from 2025.

Idaho farmers plan to plant 1.24 million acres of wheat, 2 percent more than last year, and 1.25 million acres of hay, up 9 percent compared with last year.

They also plan to plant 540,000 acres of barley, up 4 percent from last year, 100,000 acres of canola, a 22 percent increase compared with 2025, and 45,000 acres of dry beans, up 13 percent. ■

# MAKE THE CO-OP CHOICE



## ENERGY

Propane, bulk fuel, oils  
& lubricants

[wvenergy.com](http://wvenergy.com)

## AGRONOMY

Precision agriculture,  
fertilizer & seed

[valleyag.com](http://valleyag.com)

## RETAIL

Farm supply, clothing,  
boots, fencing & feed

[shop.valleywidecoop.com](http://shop.valleywidecoop.com)

# Classifieds

## FOR SALE

1992 Monterey 21' 5th wheel. New hitch & new tires. Rear hitch solo panel. \$2,195 obo call 208-490-1433.

King size adjustable (temperpedic) bed frame with twin mattress. Like new \$2,000. Rigby, Idaho. Call or text 208-220-4060

2006 Chevy 3500, 4wd, airpak welder, pipe press, LN25, 50hp pump, inventory. \$45,000 Salmon, ID 208-768-7396

325 Trailblazer welder plus leads in cage. Oxy & acylene bottle. Victor torch and gauges. Reelcraft hose reels \$11,200. Salmon, ID 208-768-7396

New Holland Work Master 66 621 T Loader 140 hours 4x4 \$3,400. Farmhand XL1140 loader 84" bucket forks, joystick excellent condition \$7,000. Del Morind URT HF 186 6ft like new \$3,500. Call or text 208-850-7466

## PROPERTY

Approximately 688 acres for sale, Island Park, ID, mountain

wooded acreage borders Federal property and Yellowstone. Natural springs and streams in a barbed wire fenced meadow. \$7.9M Call or email Beth: bethrhendricks@gmail.com, 208-821-6645

100 acre irrigated alfalfa farm @ 8711 Upper Ave Emmett ID. Covered Hay Storage 60x100 - enclosed equipment storage or horse arena 60x100 - 3 bay heated shop 40x60 - 3 car garage 3960 sq ft luxury home. \$4.1m. 208-891-9242 or 208-208-484-9641.

## WANTED

Wanted old Idaho Patches! Farm Bureau, Farming, Hunting, Idaho Cattlemen Assoc, Idaho Fish and Game. Top Dollar Paid! Call, email, or text pics. Rusty Kramer idahotrapguy@hotmail.com 208-870-3217

I pay top dollar for any type antique advertising signs or promotional items. Will also buy complete estates or complete collections. Let me know what you have. I also do Classic Car appraisals and Antique appraisals. Call or Text Tom 208-867-9357 I'm in Southern Idaho

Paying cash for old cork top embossed bottles and some telephone insulators as well as other vintage and antique items. Call Randy. Payette, Id. 208-740-0178.

Wanted: WWI, WWII, and Vietnam war souvenirs (medals, daggers, flags, uniforms, etc.) Located in SE Idaho. Call or text 208-201-3351.

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

## SERVICES

ROCK CHUCKS EAT YOUR PROFITS. I eliminate them — safe, precision shooting. 1,600 removed since 2024.

Retired • Independent • No fee Serving SW Idaho Rick Weidner 986-888-7051

Farmers are in a great position to take advantage of solar energy. Tired of paying utility bills? If you are interested in exploring a solar energy system which can give you FREE fuel and FREE electricity for over 30 years, please contact me 208-303-7115 John D'Angelo.

## FREE CLASSIFIEDS

Non-commercial classified ads are free to Idaho Farm Bureau members. Must include membership number for free ad. Forty (40) words maximum. Non-member cost is 50 cents per word. You may advertise your own crops, livestock, used machinery, household items, vehicles, etc. Ads will not be accepted by phone, Ads run one time only and must be re-submitted in each subsequent issue. We reserve the right to refuse to run any ad. Please type or print clearly. Proofread your ad. Ads must be received by May 18 for the June Producer.

Mail ad copy to:  
FARM BUREAU PRODUCER  
P.O. Box 4848, Pocatello, ID 83205-4848  
or email Kristy at knlindauer@idahofb.org

**Free Classified ads for Idaho Farm Bureau Members**

**Send to knlindauer@idahofb.org**



# IDAHO FFA FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIP RAFFLE

## LAST CHANCE TO WIN A **POLARIS RZR XP 4 1000 SPORT**

Or a Stihl MS 500i R Chainsaw, \$500 to D&B Supply, \$300 to Valley Wide Country Stores

Every \$20 Ticket =



**\$10**

Local FFA



**\$10**

Scholarships



*Seats  
four!*

**SUPPORT YOUR  
LOCAL FFA CHAPTER**

**Programs@GrowIdahoFFA.org**

**208-856-0288**

**Ticket sales end May 30!**



[secure.qgiv.com/event/idahoffaraffle/](https://secure.qgiv.com/event/idahoffaraffle/)

**\$289,000+ AWARDED IN COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIPS SINCE 2010**

*Must be 18+ years old to participate. Winners announced on July 7, 2026. Purchases must be made in Idaho. Polaris Inc. is not a sponsor of the drawing. Full rules apply [GrowIdahoFFA.org/raffleterms/](https://GrowIdahoFFA.org/raffleterms/)*



For Tree Baskets  
And Burlap Liners  
Now Contact

**SETTLER**

519-589-1603  
www.settler.biz



**TREE  
SPADES**



FOR A VARIETY OF CARRIERS

**BAUMALIGHT™**

**SOLD BY  
EQUIPMENT DEALERS  
FOR LOCAL SUPPORT**

Locate A Dealer Online

**BAUMALIGHT.COM**

Blake Chapman | 208-260-0522 | blake@ellisequipment.com

MFG OF MINI SKID STEERS AND A VARIETY OF ATTACHMENTS INCLUDING  
BRUSH MULCHERS | ROTARY BRUSH CUTTERS | STUMP GRINDERS | PTO GENERATORS | AUGER DRIVES  
TRENCHERS | TREE SPADES | TREE SAWS & SHEARS | PTO POWER PACKS | BOOM MOWERS | LOG GRAPPLE  
TREE PULLERS | FELLER BUNCHERS | EXCAVATOR ADAPTERS | SCREW SPLITTERS | FLAIL MOWERS