

Gem State Producer

IDAHO FARM BUREAU



July 2017 • Volume 21, Issue 6



AFBF President Duvall
Visits Idaho

Ranchers Encouraged
to Validate Stockwater
Rights

Fed Sage Grouse
Plan Under Review

Free to Farm from Sea to Shining Sea



By Zippy Duvall

You'll be hard pressed to find folks with more patriotic spirit than America's farmers and ranchers. We love this country and take great pride in working around the clock to grow the finest products in the world. From sea to shining sea, farmers know firsthand the beauty of our nation's prairies, for-

Beyond the Fencerows



ests, valleys and plains, because that's where our "offices" are. For many of us, our families have been farming and ranching in our communities for decades—and even centuries—long before housing developments began to spring up. A good day in American agriculture brings millions of jobs and nutritious meals to our nation.

Most Americans enjoying their Fourth of July cookout probably won't give much thought to where the meal came from. They don't have to worry about whether the meat is safe to eat or whether there's enough corn-on-the-cob. Thanks to the hard work of U.S. agriculture, our safe and affordable food supply is the envy of the world. But

See DUVALL COLUMN, page 6

Staying Engaged in the Political Process



By Bryan Searle

President Idaho Farm Bureau Federation

As a farmer, I know that it takes a lot to see a crop from start to finish. I can purchase the best seed, have the most fertile soil, and begin with the best fertilizer program,

but there are no guarantees. Irrigation and monitoring for disease and other deficiencies are critical. Then comes the harvest and storage and then off to the warehouse to be sorted, washed and packaged. Each step is critical in order to achieve success. I know that if I don't follow the process from emergence to maturity to marketing carefully, I could lose all of the time and money invested.

In a sense, the growing and marketing of a crop is parallel to the po-

litical process. Success comes from a strong value system, experience, and staying engaged, sometimes even to a point of dogged persistence.

In a recent meeting with Senator Mike Crapo, I asked him the question, "what can we do to help you in supporting a positive change in this country?" The Senators answer was, "ask others to stay involved even if it appears there is some positive change going on." He said

See SEARLE, page 6

Relief from Water Rights Overreach May Be Coming



By Rick Keller

CEO Idaho Farm Bureau Federation

Representative Scott Tipton (R-Colo.) has reintroduced the Water Rights Protection Act (H.R. 2939). Idaho Congressman Mike Simpson is a cosponsor. This Farm Bureau

supported legislation would protect farmers and ranchers from federal attempts to take private water rights without compensation or restrict user access to them.

The legislation is a response to previous actions by federal land management agencies to require water users (including public land ranchers) to hand over water rights (for which they have paid and developed), or risk losing their permits to operate on public lands. The U.S. Forest Service and other federal agencies have

been requiring privately-owned businesses to surrender their long-held water rights simply as a condition of receiving routine renewals in their special use permit so they can continue to operate on public land. While the Forest Service has announced that it has temporarily placed the directive on hold, this legislation will ensure that future efforts by land management agencies will not infringe upon the private property rights of water users.

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Tina Gresham, foreground, director of the USDA Pale Cyst Nematode Program, shows soil samples to AFBF President Zippy Duvall, left, his wife Bonnie, Mary Searle and IFBF President Bryan Searle. The Duvall's visited Idaho during the last week of June. Photo by Steve Ritter

AFBF President Visits Idaho

By John Thompson

Idaho is the 42nd state visited by American Farm Bureau President Zippy Duvall.

Duvall vowed to visit all 50 states during his first term in office. If travel plans come together as expected he'll reach his goal.

During the last week of June in Idaho Falls, he told a group of eastern Idaho Farm Bureau members he's here to listen to their concerns and learn about the issues they face.

"My commitment is to visit all 50 states in the first two years of my presidency and to get out in the grassroots and talk to farmers and volunteers all across the country so that I can represent their issues by experiencing it with them and hearing their stories," Duvall said. "You never know, who I might be sitting with in a week in Washington D.C., it could be a senator or a chairman of a committee, or even the President of the United States. It's great to be able to share our grassroots opinions and issues with those people."

Duvall discussed several issues including labor, trade, regulatory reform taxes, and the Trump Administration. He said Agriculture Secretary Sonny Perdue was a solid choice and he expects a strong working relationship inside USDA going forward. Perdue is the 30th U.S. Secretary of Agriculture, but only the fourth that actually farmed during his, or her adult life.

"He knows how to make payroll, he knows how to pay taxes and make a living off the land," Duvall said. "He's also educated as a veterinarian which makes him a scientist. We always say if you're going to develop policy, do it around sound science. I'm confident he will lead in that area."

The foremost issue brought up in rural areas around the country right now is labor. After that is regulatory reform. Duvall is confident these issues will improve under the Trump Administration. He's also hearing about the slow pace of appointments being made within USDA, such as undersecretaries and Farm Service Administration (FSA) state directors. Most of those appointments are expected in the September / October time frame.

Duvall mentioned the recent controversy over the Environmental Protection Agency's attempt to rewrite the Clean Water Act and redefine waters of the U.S. He warned agriculture producers to stay engaged on that issue. Although the attempt to rewrite the rule

See DUVALL VISITS IDAHO page 7

Cover: American Farm Bureau President Zippy Duvall, right and Idaho Farm Bureau President Bryan Searle, toured a potato packing shed near Shelley during the last week of June. See story on this page for more details. Photo by Steve Ritter





Beef prices are on the upswing thanks to an agreement with China. *Farm Bureau file photo*

Beef Market Bounces Back

By *Jake Putnam*

The cattle market, locked in an upswing since last fall, is seeing a lot to be optimistic about.

U.S. cattle futures recently climbed to a point not seen in several years. Beef prices usually drop in June after the Memorial Day weekend, but they're still climbing and sales are brisk.

"Any time we can move beef, it's a good thing," said cattle rancher Chris Dalley. "Whenever there is a demand, the prices go up. Opening up China definitely keeps it going. That's another outlet we can sell to, and things haven't looked this good in a while."

"When the first shipments start in July, I think it's going to help bring more stability to the market and we'll be back in the black," said producer Gerald Marchant of Oakley.

One of the reasons for higher prices is tighter supply.

University of Idaho Agriculture Extension Economist Hernan Tejada says opening the China market is just part of the beef comeback.

"Herd size across the nation has expanded and cattlemen are holding onto cattle. The summer holidays always drive up prices, but supply is tightening. There has been strong herd expansion since 2015 and

ranchers think they can sell at a higher price so they're hanging onto cattle," said Tejada.

For how long? No one knows for sure but analysts say there is renewed optimism that the market will stay strong thanks to reopening the China market. After the final details are worked out, China could see the first shipments of U.S. beef in late July. They will be the first shipments in more than 14 years.

Idaho Senator Mike Crapo applauded the news that finally reopened the Chinese market, one of the world's largest beef importers.

See BEEF MARKET page 15



A recent survey conducted by the U.S. Farmers Ranchers Alliance asked consumers, farmers and ranchers about sustainability and the future of agriculture. Photo by Steve Ritter

Survey Shows Agriculture Gains in Sustainability

By John Thompson

Sustainability is a term often discussed in relation to agriculture. But not unlike many others including free-range, all natural, and GMO-free, its definition is dubious.

The U.S. Farmers Ranchers Alliance (USFRA) recently conducted a couple of different surveys to find out what sustainable means to consumers and to agriculture producers. The results were somewhat surprising.

From a purely agricultural perspective, sustainable and profitable have an intrinsic link. You can't have one without the other. However, most consumers don't make the obvious connection.

USFRA represents a coalition of commodity and farm groups (including the

American Farm Bureau Federation), agribusinesses and partners with food and retail companies. This first-ever sustainability report sheds light on what sustainable food production means and shows practical application of how it applies to U.S. agriculture.

"This sustainability report builds on key insights from recent USFRA research that aims to identify and gain a clearer understanding of consumers' perception of sustainability in U.S. food and agriculture," the report states. "Through this research, we found that consumers struggle to define sustainability. Moreover, the topic is best understood by consumers when we explain the tangible ways they are improving the water, soil, air and habitat on and around our farms and ranches."

One consistency that shows up through-

out the report is that U.S. agriculture is producing more food with less resources.

News Coverage Audit

USFRA conducted a six-month long media and communications audit of U.S. news coverage from leading national, regional, trade and online publications. The audit revealed that media and consumers are unclear on how terms like "natural," "local," "organic," or "conventional," fit into the definition of sustainable food. One newspaper noted, "In a time when we argue about what it means when menus claim to be 'local,' when farmers would rather call their agricultural methods 'sustainable' than wrestle with the regulations of the word 'organic,' it's getting harder to define what anything

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DUVALL COLUMN

Continued from page 2

that wouldn't be possible without strong and supportive policies and programs and common-sense regulations that give farmers and ranchers the flexibility they need to manage their businesses—and stay in business. As farmers, we know what's at stake, and we have an added responsibility to protect the freedoms we need to preserve both our livelihood and our nation's food security.

We've faced some tough battles on the road to regulatory reform. Agriculture has come together with one voice to call for common-sense reform, and I'm proud of the progress we've made. We must remember though that we haven't reached our destination just yet. You can be sure that our team in Washington will continue to fight until the reforms we need are law, but lawmakers still need to hear from each of you on how

these regulations affect your livelihood. Farmers and ranchers often get labeled as "anti-regulation" when we call out what's not working in our system. In fact, we're for common-sense regulation. Keeping our water and air clean makes good sense and is a top priority for agriculture. In fact, farmers have cut environmental impacts in half across major crops, while production has increased, thanks to strides in technology and innovation backed by our innate ethic of stewardship.

Finally, if farmers and ranchers are going to have the freedom to do what we do best, we need a robust 2018 farm bill. There's lots of talk in Washington these days of trimming the fat, but farm programs are about as lean as they come. Farmers and ranchers care about fiscal responsibility and we know how to stretch a dollar. Farm bill spending

is an investment in the security of our nation's food supply and the 21 million jobs agriculture supports. Tools like crop insurance can make the difference for a farmer struggling to hold on through a tough season or to secure a loan to get the next crop in. Anyone who still thinks the farm bill is about handouts has never met a farmer. America's farmers and ranchers are some of the most innovative, hard-working people our country produces.

I can't help but be overcome with thankfulness to live in a nation that celebrates liberty and opportunity for all. The freedoms we enjoy in our country were not easily won, and it's the solemn duty of every citizen to protect those privileges for the next generation.

SEARLE

Continued from page 2

we are hearing regularly from the opposition but not from those who are in support of less government intervention and regulations. We've all heard the old adage, it's the squeaky wheel that gets the grease. We must continue squeaking even when we are seeing progress made in areas to protect our rights as farmers and ranchers.

I also had the privilege of being invited to meet with the newly appointed Secretary of Agriculture Sonny Purdue and Secretary of Interior Ryan Zinke. It was a privilege to represent Idaho Farm Bureau as the secretaries listened to ten different individuals representing different sectors of agriculture. The secretaries never said a word until the end of the meeting. They listened and took notes. Following the meeting we had the opportunity to attend a much larger gathering at Boise State where again the two secretaries listened and answered questions for an hour. We have good, strong, solid individuals appointed to lead us in the right direction with less regulation, but we must let our voices be heard on all the issues. Let's continue to write

letters, send emails, and make phone calls even when it might be a voice stating support. We need to make a consistent effort to communicate with our local, state and federal officials.

The message I would like to impart to Farm Bureau members is we need to continue to engage in the political process. At this critical point in time, we can't take a break just because the current administration's ideology is similar to our own.

Farm Bureau is a grassroots organization. Our influence comes from the fact that we are active and organized throughout the state. We don't make top-down decisions. Our policy comes from the country, from the farmers and ranchers that form the backbone of Idaho's economy. Our structure and our process is what gets us a seat at the big table so to speak. In order to maintain it, we must remain vigilant.

In thinking back to the beginning of 2017 and the transition to the Trump Administration, mostly minor changes in agriculture and natural resource management

have been met with overblown rhetoric. Non-government organizations, to include environmental groups, animal rights groups, some private companies and the mainstream media haven't stopped howling about the perceived injustice.

We are surrounded by irrational rhetoric. It's a form of free speech. But we encourage Farm Bureau members to research the companies they patronize and to support companies with views that align with agriculture's best interests. Though we have already experienced cold, wet, snow, wind, hail, frost, and diseases, this year in the growing of our crops or raising of our livestock we must stay actively engaged to see the best harvest possible.

In addition, we admonish Farm Bureau members to continue to be active in the political process and to continue to contact your local, state and federal representatives about issues that pertain to agriculture and the management of our natural resources. We can be certain they are being contacted by people with opposing viewpoints.

KELLER

Continued from page 2

The Act specifically would (1) prohibit agencies from implementing a permit condition that requires the transfer of privately-held water rights to the federal government in order to receive or renew a permit for the use of land, (2) prohibit the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture from imposing other conditions that require the transfer of water rights without just compensation, and (3) uphold longstanding federal deference to state water law. The bill protects water users by prohibiting federal agencies from extorting water rights through the use of permits, leases, and other land management arrangements, for which the federal government would otherwise have to pay just compensation under the 5th Amendment of the Constitution.

The legislation reaffirms the existing principle of federal law that recognizes the ability of states to confer water rights and acknowledges that the federal government will respect those lawfully acquired rights. Further, the bill would assure that valid holders of water rights under state law cannot have those rights diminished or otherwise jeopardized by assertions of rights by federal agencies when those assertions have no basis in federal or state law.

Several years ago in this pub-

lication, I wrote about urging us to beware of the U.S. Forest Service and BLM's practices of behaving as the wolf in the ancient Greek slave storyteller Aesop's story of the wolf in sheep's clothing. We asked for reports from our farmers and ranchers if they felt they were being strong-armed or forced to surrender their rights in order to obtain a permit. From the reports received in Idaho and the West, Farm Bureau has championed for regulatory and legislative relief from these practices. Representative Tipton's legislation is a result of your efforts. Farm Bureau has also compiled a similar report for both the Secretary of Interior and Secretary of Agriculture. This month, Idaho Farm Bureau President Bryan Searle will present the compiled reports to the Secretaries, based upon their personal request to President Searle.

This legislation will codify President Trump's Presidential Executive Order on Promoting Agriculture and Rural Prosperity in America, which directs government agencies ensure that water users' private property rights are not encumbered when they attempt to secure permits to operate on public lands.

Relief may be coming. The wolves in sheep clothing need to be stopped.

CORRECTION

An article about the Boundary County Farm Bureau farm tour, featured on page 8 of last month's Gem State Producer Magazine contained an error in the lead. The opening sentence should have read: "The annual Boundary County Farm Bureau and Soil and Water Conservation District farm tour never disappoints."

Idaho Farm Bureau regrets the error.

DUVALL VISITS IDAHO

Continued from page 3

was turned back, now it must be rewritten and that requires a public comment period.

During the first day of the tour, Duvall and his wife Bonnie toured the GPOD potato packing shed near Shelley where they met with GPOD Sales Manager Ryan Bybee. The shed ships Russet Burbank potatoes mainly to East Coast markets. Bybee discussed the politics of food and food marketing and laid out all of the important statistics about Idaho's most famous crop.

Later they met Tina Gresham, USDA director of the Pale Cyst Nematode Program in Idaho Falls. Gresham outlined the life cycle of the bug and its history in Idaho. The group also visited

the Great Feeder Canal where Danny Ferguson, a local farmer and IFBF State Board member presented facts and discussion on the history of irrigation in the area as well as the agricultural economy of the area.

In the evening they attended the Bingham County Farm Bureau annual picnic at Jensen's Grove. Later in the week they visited farms and processing facilities in the Treasure Valley, the Port of Lewiston, Chilco Mill near Coeur d' Alene and Rider Ranch.

Unfortunately, this magazine had to go to press before those events happened. Members can view coverage on Idaho Farm Bureau's YouTube Channel, on Facebook or Twitter.

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Ranchers Encouraged to File for Stockwater Rights

By John Thompson

Idaho lawmakers recently voted to codify an important legal decision prohibiting federal agencies from controlling stockwater rights. Now, it's time for ranchers to file claims on any established beneficial uses of stockwater to ensure future use of the water.

The Idaho Department of Water Resources (IDWR) hired two employees to help process a large number of anticipated claims proving stockwater developments put to beneficial use on public land throughout Idaho.

This action stems from a 2007 Idaho Supreme Court decision wherein two Idaho ranchers challenged the federal government's claims on instream flows. In the landmark *Joyce Livestock Company vs U.S.A* decision, the Court ruled that since the federal government does not have a method (livestock) to put water to a beneficial use, the government had no right to claim the water.

Prior to the 2007 Supreme Court decision, federal agencies, namely the Bureau of Land Management and the U.S. Forest Service made claims on stockwater rights in several western states. In fact, the Forest Service attempted to lay claim to stockwater rights as recently as last year in northern Idaho. The two federal agencies succeeded in establishing stockwater rights in many cases because livestock owners running cattle or sheep on federal land didn't have the means to battle the government in court.

However, Idaho ranchers Paul Nettleton and Tim Lowry decided they couldn't sit back and watch the federal agencies run roughshod over them and their fellow livestock producers. When Idaho's Attorney General refused representation, the two ranchers hired private counsel and proceeded with a 10-year long court battle.

In the end, the two ranchers won the battle but lost the war when the Idaho Supreme Court ruled they were responsible for their



A small stream on the Joyce Ranch in Owyhee County.
Farm Bureau file photo

own legal fees, about \$1.5 million, in spite of the fact that the federal government lost on every major point. The ruling even stated the federal government's argument reflected "a serious misunderstanding of water law."

Now that the Idaho Legislature has codified the ruling into state code, it's important for ranchers running livestock on federal land to follow through and establish water rights for every diversion on federal grazing allotments.

Idaho Farm Bureau Director of Governmental Affairs Russ Hendricks explained the significance of the legislature's codification of the law: "This bill was very important since some federal agencies continue to apply for water rights despite the Joyce decision. If IDWR Director Gary Spackman was not aware of that ruling the Forest Service would have had dozens of new stockwater rights in northern Idaho. Fortunately the department asked the Forest Service to show beneficial use according to the Joyce decision and the Forest Service withdrew the claims. We may not always have that level of cooperation so we had to get that decision into Idaho law. Ranchers who have been putting water to beneficial use on federal lands should file a claim for stockwater rights so they can be sure they have their water secured. The Idaho Supreme Court ruled that water belongs to the ranchers. Now is the time to do it since the department has personnel dedicated to assisting in this effort. That help may not be available in a year or two, and it will take

a lot more time and effort to do it on your own later."

IDWR provided the following guidelines and advice on how to proceed with the paperwork and what is needed to file claims.

IDWR will have two new employees handling claims beginning July 1. Ranchers need to make appointments to meet with one of these employees or other IDWR employees at regional offices. Employees at all of the IDWR offices have been trained to help. However, before that, ranchers need to collect any and all documentation that shows a priority date of when the water was first put to beneficial use on their particular grazing allotment.

IDWR Adjudication Section Manager Carter Fritschle, said an original grazing permit awarded after the Taylor Grazing Act went into effect in 1934 will show how long the land was grazed prior to passage of the Act. That is a critical document because it will help establish a priority date. Deeds

and original land patents issued by the government land office also help connect base property with federal grazing allotments. They also need to supply a current copy of their grazing permit.

"A big issue in the lawsuit (Joyce Livestock vs USA) was establishing a linkage between the base property and the grazing allotment," Fritschle said. "That is the main documentation we are looking for, an old original grazing permit that tells how long the ranch has grazed on federal land."

Other helpful documents are water rights numbers decreed to either BLM or USFS and maps. "There's never any danger of having too much information," Fritschle added.

IDWR has a state office in Boise and four regional offices. Their website at www.idwr.idaho.gov also has information on the process.



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A recent agreement with Mexico helps protect U.S. sugar interests from subsidized imports.

Farm Bureau file photo

Sugar Agreement Relieves Concerns Over Mexican Imports

By Jake Putnam

Recent discussions between the U.S. and Mexico over sugar trade went sour for both sides.

But on June 15th, U.S. farmers and producers told the Department of Commerce they support an agreement that brings Mexico's sugar policy into compliance with U.S. trade laws. The pledge was made after the U.S. Department of Commerce tightened the agreement.

Mexico was found guilty of violating America's anti-dumping and countervailing duty laws after they dumped subsidized sugar into the U.S. markets in 2013 and 2014. The Mexican-US agreements in 2014 to stop Mexico from dumping didn't work and U.S. producers lost millions of dollars.

In 2013 both the U.S. and Mex-

ico had good sugar production years. Mexico increased production and exported raw sugar into the U.S. market. Prices fell below the sugar program's price floor to the point of triggering the USDA safety net and prompting terse re-negotiations with Mexico.

Under the old agreement less than half of the sugar coming from Mexico was raw sugar. Under the new agreement the amount of raw sugar allowed in the U.S. is more than 70-percent. Dropping refined sugar to 30 percent is a major concession by Mexican trade negotiators.

Overall, the U.S. got almost all of what it wanted in the deal and Mexico avoided getting hit with an 80 percent increase in tariffs and duties on its sugar. U.S. Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross threatened to implement the tariff if the deal wasn't reached.

The deal also sets new prices for Mexican sugar in the United States at 23 cents per pound for raw sugar, up from 22.25 cents, and 28 cents a pound for refined sugar, up from 26 cents. Mexico did score a win on a provision in the deal that effectively gives them the right of first refusal among U.S. trading partners to make up for U.S. sugar supply shortages with its own product.

"America's sugar farmers and producers look forward to working with President Trump, Secretary Ross, and Secretary Perdue to ensure the new pact is strongly enforced," said Phillip Hayes of the American Sugar Alliance. "It's important that the suspension agreements work as intended this time to completely eliminate the injurious effects of dumped and subsidized sugar from Mexico and support the operation of U.S.

sugar policy."

"The percentages were changed to acceptable levels. We were afraid of loopholes with that first agreed upon date, they moved it back a month, or ahead a month depending on who you talk to and that made it more comfortable to us," said Mark Duffin executive director of the Idaho Sugar Beet Growers Association.

The unspoken bargaining chip centered on the Trump administration's threat to renegotiate North American Free Trade Agreement. President Trump stressed that he wants to see tougher emphasis on Canadian and Mexican trade practices. That declaration helped spur both sides to a speedy understanding.

"We didn't get everything we wanted but still it's much better than what we were doing

presently,” Duffin said.

Washington keeps a close eye on domestic sugar supply and demand. It’s complicated because domestic sugar production is supplemented by pre-set quotas for imports. All of this is done so that the U.S. can fulfill treaty obligations to other big sugar producing countries like Brazil.

“President Trump says that trade agreements and our trade laws don’t work without strong enforcement,” said Galen Lee, a sugarbeet grower from New Plymouth and a board member of the American Sugarbeet Growers Association Board. “For too long, Mexico was allowed to sidestep trade laws, but not now. Thanks to Secretaries Ross and Perdue, our trade laws are going to be enforced. Bottom line all we

ever wanted was a level playing field, and to keep from losing jobs from unfair Mexican trade.”

After a rough start this season Idaho sugarbeet growers now have something to look forward to come harvest time.

“Hopefully this will mean a better market for our growers. It should help the USDA manage the market better,” said Duffin. “We’re not bringing as much sugar in. One of the big problems under this agreement was they were bringing a bunch of sugar to the market and skipping our refiners and refineries were getting shorted and affecting raw sugar supply, and this agreement addresses that.”

Under the old agreement growers were concerned that Mexico was exporting a semi-

refined sugar to the U.S. as part of its “raw” quota. That semi-refined sugar could be used directly by food manufacturers without additional processing by sugar refiners. Growers saw this as both cutting out the U.S.-based refiners and taking away market share for U.S. refined sugar.

U.S. sugar growers got another concession, the deal includes giving USDA more authority to dictate the types of sugar that Mexico is allowed to sell to the U.S.

The biggest winner in the sugar deal might be U.S. refiners, who’ll see more business and make money with more raw Mexican cane sugar coming through their factories.

“If we can enforce this and Mexican imports do not con-

tinue to violate the suspension agreements, this deal is an improvement, said Lee. “It could be harder for the sugar industry to suffer low prices from the dumping of Mexican sugar in the U.S.”

The sugar agreement is seen by many as a hopeful sign that, despite trade rhetoric that the U.S. and Mexico can still negotiate tough issues.

Once official said the deal avoids a trade war between the U.S. and Mexico. Mexico had threatened a counter duty on corn syrup had they been slapped with that 80 percent duty on sugar.

The Department of Commerce will sign the agreement at the end of June after a two-week period of public comment from all interested parties.



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Silver Mountain Resort (Kellogg)
Dwight Baker Orthodontics (Eastern Idaho)
Summit Eyecare (Eastern Idaho)
Felton & Felton Law (South Central)
Village Coffee & Bistro (Boise)
Desert Canyon Golf Course (Mountain Home)

OIL CHANGE

Jiffy Lube

SHUTTLE TRANSPORT

Salt Lake Express
(To or From SLC)

APPLIANCES

Sears Commercial

MEDICATION

The Canadian Pharmacy
Farm Bureau RX Card

LIFEFLIGHT

EIRMC - Portneuf
St. Alphonsus - St. Lukes

HEARING

Clear Value Siemens

PAINT

Sherwin Williams
Kelly-Moore Paints
Columbia Paint

IDENTITY THEFT PROTECTION

Lifelock

EYE CARE

Ameritas Vision Plans

SOLAR ENERGY

Big Dog Solar Energy

NBA

Utah Jazz

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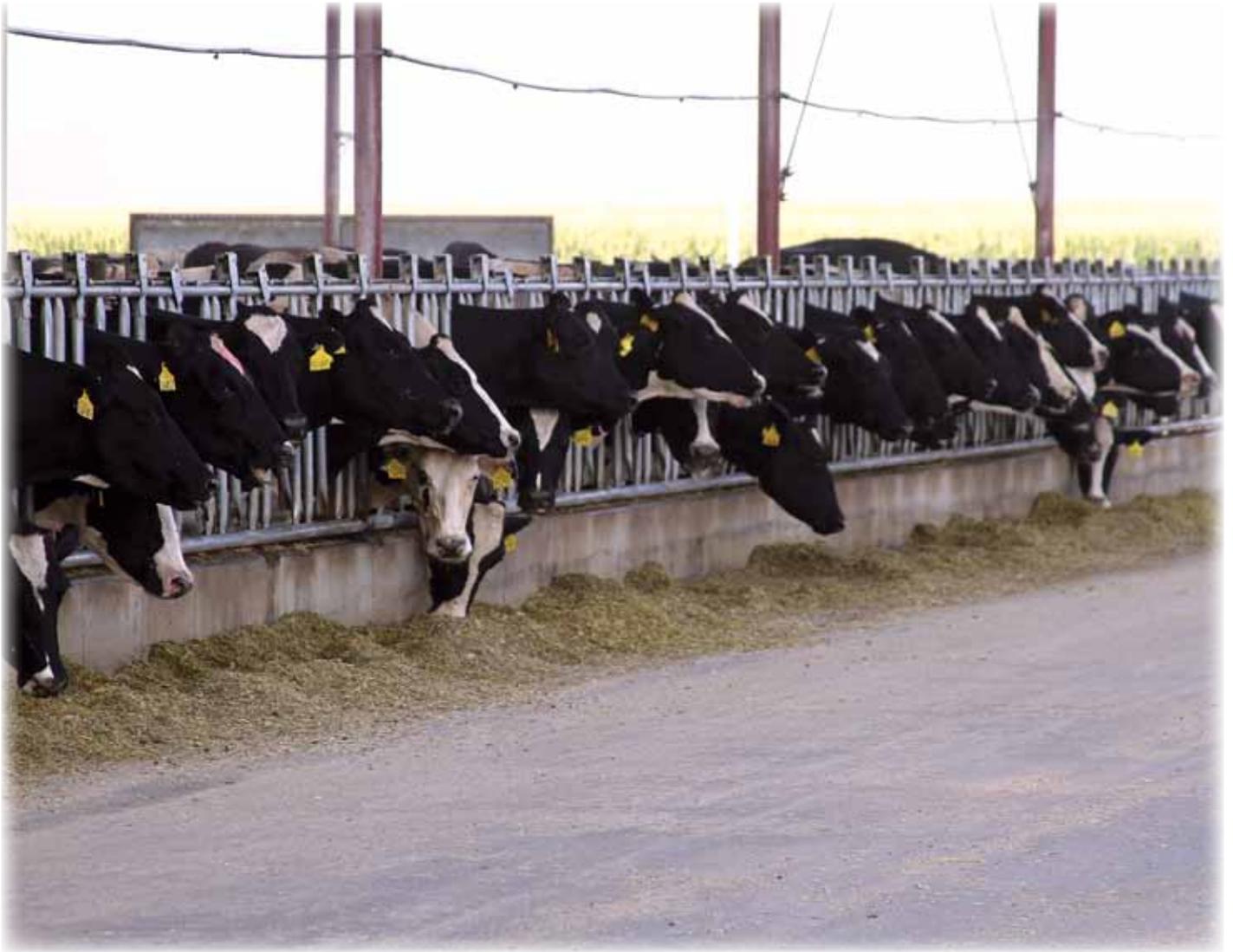
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AFBF Details NAFTA Priorities

The North American Free Trade Agreement has been overwhelmingly beneficial for U.S. farmers and ranchers—and their counterparts in Canada and Mexico—but there are several good reasons to update and reform NAFTA from agriculture’s perspective, according to the American Farm Bureau Federation.

Under NAFTA, U.S. farmers and ranchers have seen their exports to Mexico and Canada grow significantly, from \$8.9 billion in 1993 to \$38 billion in 2016.

While some of the areas prime for improvement are commodity-specific, others apply sector-wide, such as reducing redundant regulatory costs, expediting transit across borders and hastening the resolution of disputes between members, Dale Moore, AFBF executive director of public policy, noted in comments recently submitted to the U.S. Trade Representative.

Some of the changes farmers are calling for are related to the modernization of the industry.

For example, the rules related to biotechnology, sanitary and phytosanitary measures, and geographic indicators are ripe for amendment in order to reflect the progress that has been made in these areas over the decades since NAFTA was first implemented.

— AFBF’s Dale Moore, executive director of public policy

He continued, “We also believe negotiations should address how U.S. agri-

See NAFTA page 15



Department of Labor officials say work visa fraud is a serious problem that needs to be corrected.
Farm Bureau file photo

Department of Labor Vows Crackdown on Work Visa Fraud

By Jake Putnam

While the nation's farmers and ranchers are waiting for the Trump administration to address the farm labor shortage, the Department of Labor issued a press release June 15th promising to crack down on work visa fraud in both the high tech and agriculture sectors.

Labor Secretary Alex Acosta says work visa fraud is cutting into American jobs.

"Entities who engage in visa program fraud and abuse are breaking our laws and are harming American workers, negatively affecting Americans' ability to provide for themselves and their families," Acosta said in the press release. "We will enforce vigorously those laws, including heightened use of criminal referrals."

The Idaho dairy industry is breathing a sigh of relief, for now.

"The Department of Labor is not targeting the dairy industry because we do not have a work visa program. We don't qualify for H2A or any other visa program available," said Bob Naerebout of the Idaho Dairy-men's Association

The Department of Labor is going after guest worker fraud in the H2A programs.

"It's targeting abuses in the H2A, not providing housing, things of that sort. So we don't qualify for any of those, but other segments of agriculture could have problems, especially those with temporary workers. We're not seasonal and not temporary. Immigration won't allow us to use that program," said Naerebout.

The latest enforcement is targeting employers who fail to meet H2A rules and regulations. The Department of Labor says that it is actively engaged in criminal referrals on a day to day basis and it's their policy to enforce laws governing the enforcement of the visa programs, including:

- Directing the department's Wage and Hour Division to use all its tools in conducting civil investigations to enforce labor protections provided by the visa programs.

- Directing the department's Employment and Training Administration to develop changes to the Labor Condition Application to better identify violations

See WORK VISA FRAUD page 35

BEEF MARKET

Continued from page 4

feed is expensive in Australia and New Zealand. But the Chinese are paying the higher prices and beef consumption continues to rise, while demand remains strong. The country has a fast-growing middle class with increasing disposable income.

The agreement is the first major thaw in trade talks between the world's two largest economies. Ranchers have lobbied the Chinese continuously since they closed the market. But the first crack in the stalemate came last September when China announced it would lift the ban. That's when the technical trade details began, things like the chicken concession.

The push to reopen the Chinese beef market was helped by U.S. approval of fully-cooked Chinese chicken to enter the U.S. Chinese chicken had been banned because of sanitary and health concerns years ago. U.S. inspectors started visiting Chinese facilities earlier this year, and approved the facilities last month. The U.S. will get the first shipments of cooked chicken from China in at least a decade.

Most ranchers aren't objecting to the concessions, because they remember the BSE scare like it was yesterday.

"When the mad cow ban hit almost overnight beef prices

fell, and the kept falling and falling. It took quite a while find rock bottom," said Dalley. "Once prices hit rock bottom they rebounded for a while. Then things like mad cow disease and USDA added regulations, the U.S. got a handle on things, fast."

Economists know that what goes up can come tumbling down just as fast, they urge producers and investors to be cautious.

"These are better times than anticipated, so if I were a rancher I'd take advantage of it," said Tejada. "But eventually prices will come down because the market is not sustainable, prices are dynamic they move up and

down. We should all be cost conscious. China is a bright spot in the market and once we get those doors open there will be some stability. The grilling season is upon us and prices are good because of tight supplies but come October prices will adjust."

The United States is the world's largest beef producer and was the world's fourth-largest exporter with global sales of more than \$5.4 billion in 2016. Until the ban took effect, the U.S. was China's largest supplier of imported beef, providing 70 percent of the import beef market.

NAFTA

Continued from page 13

cultural exports to Canada would grow if tariff barriers to dairy, poultry and eggs were reduced or eliminated, as well as the relatively recent barriers to ultra-filtered milk exports."

Additional commodity-specific challenges with Canada are related to specialty and row crops, lumber, wine and other products. Individual commodities of concern with Mexico are tomatoes, other fruits and vegetables and sugar.

In a handful of areas, AFBF recommended the inclusion of provisions from the Trans-Pacific Partnership, including language related

to food safety (sanitary and phytosanitary measures), the movement of goods through customs within 48 hours, quick resolutions on disputes involving active shipments and geographical indicators.

"The misuse of GIs is a constant and significant threat to maintaining and growing sales of high-value U.S. products in the United States, within the markets of our NAFTA partners and in markets worldwide," Moore wrote.

Enhanced cooperation among U.S., Canadian and Mexican regulatory agencies to prevent trade disruptions related to agricultural pro-

duction technologies like biotechnology is also important, AFBF said.

Under a modernized NAFTA, U.S. farmers are asking the U.S. government to enter a mutual recognition agreement on the safety determination of biotech food and feed crops and to develop a consistent approach to managing the low-level presence of products that have undergone a complete safety assessment and are approved for use in a third country but have not yet been approved by a NAFTA member.

Moore also noted that the integration of the three countries' agricultural sectors

enables consumers and farmers and ranchers across the U.S., Canada and Mexico to benefit more fully from their strengths and to respond more effectively to changing economic conditions. On this front, U.S. farmers and ranchers have benefited from more than just a sizable increase in their exports.

"The creation of a larger, single market has given producers access to cheaper suppliers of inputs, which allows U.S. producers to be more price-competitive domestically and abroad," he wrote.

means beyond ‘this is what it means to me.’”

The perception of organic food remains the gold standard for consumers when it comes to sustainable food, the audit found. Many companies have announced new sustainability initiatives in response to consumers seeking more information about agricultural practices and where their food comes from.

Consumer Priorities

Consumers listed the following as top priorities in relation to sustainability in farming and ranching practices:

Protecting the environment most impacted by farming practices – specifically water, soil, air and habitat – to keep the land healthy for future generations.

Doing more with less by responsibly managing and replenishing the finite resources used to grow our food and raise our animals

Ensuring our food nourishes all people regardless of socioeconomic status by making it accessible, affordable and healthy

Enhancing local communities by contributing to economic growth

A majority of consumers said they consider the sustainability of how food is grown and raised when making purchasing decisions.

A majority of consumers ranked water preservation as a top priority and an essential component of sustainable farming and ranching. The study states that while 39 percent of water usage in the U.S. is for irrigation, farmers have reduced usage and increased irrigation efficiency.

Biotechnology has also increased irrigation efficiency. Biotech crops have caused a shift toward no-till practices in many parts of the country which has reduced erosion from farm fields. Buffer strips between crops and waterways also help

filter nutrients and prevent nitrogen from seeping into rivers and streams.

Air quality was listed as another top priority. Technological advancements in agriculture help diesel engines run cleaner. Global positioning technology has made pesticide application more efficient and decreased the amount of chemicals used on crops. The report states that farmers and ranchers have reduced pesticide use by 18 percent.

Soil health is another important consideration. Consumers understand the importance of responsibly managing this resource. In fact, 56 percent of consumers said farmers and ranchers are already using new technologies and innovations to protect the environment. Many of these innovations directly help monitor and improve soil health, according to the report.

Many farmers have implemented a soil sampling program that reduces fertilizer application and helps define exactly which nutrients the soil lacks.

Farmer and Rancher Sustainability Survey

Among the farmer / rancher respondents to the survey, 52 percent raise both crops and livestock, 31 percent raise crops only and 18 percent raise livestock only. Overall, those surveyed agreed that consumers have little understanding of how their practices affect sustainable food production.

81 percent agreed that consumers are growing more concerned and focused on the environmental sustainability of the products they buy.

87 percent believe current practices met the environmentally sustainable production standards demanded by end-users like food companies, restaurants and manufacturing companies.

74 percent believe the agriculture industry has reached a level of environmental sustainability in production of U.S.

crops and livestock that should satisfy food companies.

63 percent believe the food industry understands that U.S. agriculture has become increasingly more sustainable in the last 10 years and 68 percent don't believe the food industry understands enough about how food is grown and raised to demand that certain practices be used by farmers and ranchers.

Care of the soil was listed among farmer respondents as the most significant positive environmental impact over the last 10 years. Advancements that helped foster that advancement were listed as new technology, improved production systems and biotechnology. However, 18 percent of respondents answered “unsure,” on this question.

When asked about the focus food processing companies are placing on environmental sustainability, a majority of respondents said those companies are out of touch and do not understand farming and ranching. Nearly 20 percent of respondents answered marketing for their production and an equal number (18 percent) said food processing companies are providing products their customers want and profit and performance of the company are reasons why food companies are focused on the topic.

About half of the farmers and ranchers participating in the survey believe conventional agriculture operations are more sustainable than organic operations. About 30 percent said they are the same and 16 percent said conventional operations are less sustainable than organic.

The survey also contains specific questions and statistics about the sustainability of individual crops and livestock including cotton, soybeans, corn, sugarbeets, beef, dairy and poultry. The survey in its entirety can be seen at <http://usfarmersandranchers.org/research/>



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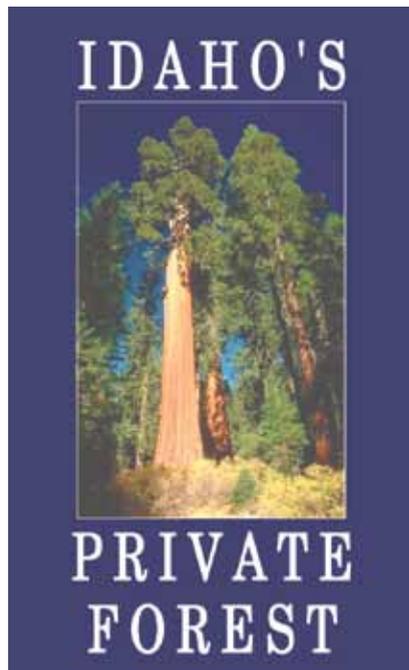
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Mycorrhizae:

The Friendly Forest Fungi

Mycorrhizal fungi get photosynthate (the product of photosynthesis - carbon) from trees; and the trees get a larger effective absorbing root surface (more nutrients and moisture) from the hyphae (the fungus equivalent to roots) and mycelia (matted hyphae) of mycorrhizal fungi. In addition to rooting capacity, mycorrhizae can also:

provide reservoirs for nutrients that might otherwise be leached from the soil;

physically block pathogenic fungi access to tree roots;

help “unlock” soil nutrients (convert them into forms that can be used by plants).

exude or decay into substances that act as “organic glues,” helping to aggregate soil particles and improve soil structure;

move nutrients and even photosynthate (carbon) between trees (they can even move materials between different tree species, where the same fungus is capable of associating with multiple tree and shrub species);

exude antibiotic substances that deter root pathogens; and

provide food for “fungivores,” organisms ranging from ants to deer that feed on mycelia or fruiting bodies of forest fungi.

Mycorrhizae are essential for good growth on many tree species, particularly on nutrient-poor or droughty sites.

Identifying mycorrhizae

Mycorrhizal fungi form relationships with over 95 percent of the plants on earth, and there are many, many different species. Over 2,000 fungi have been reported to form mycorrhizal relationships with Douglas-fir alone. Mycorrhizae are separated into two general types. Ectomycorrhizae cover the outside of rootlets, just penetrating the rootlets’ outer cells. Endomycor-

rhizae do not form a sheath over rootlets. Instead their filaments grow deeper into the rootlets and out into the soil.

Ectomycorrhizal fungi are the most common in our forests. If you have ever seen plants grown hydroponically, you may have been struck by the many small root hairs. If you dig up seedlings in the forest, you may notice that the roots look a little thicker than those hydroponic roots – that is because they are covered, to some degree, by ectomycorrhizal fungi.

Mycorrhizal fungi produce many different kinds of fruiting bodies. Some are above-ground mushrooms. For example, golden chanterelles (*Cantharellus cibarius*) are the fruiting body of a mycorrhizal fungus. Other fruiting bodies are underground (e.g., truffles).



Organic debris helps mycorrhizal fungi.

Article and photos by Chris Schnepf

Many forest owners do not immediately see fungi as a beneficial organism. If you have seen patches of fir dying cancerously from root disease or learned about the profound effect white pine blister rust has had on north Idaho’s forest ecology, it may be easy to forget that most forest fungi do not kill trees.

You probably know that microbes inhabit your stomach and other parts of your body, performing beneficial roles (e.g., helping you to digest food). Most of us could not name any of these if asked. There are also a whole host of relatively unknown microbes and fungi that help trees, by recycling forest nutrients, decomposing slash, and improving soil, to list a few of their positive functions. Some suggest that even tree-killing fungi (the native ones, at least) perform a positive role by taking out trees that are poorly adapted to a forest site.

Mycorrhiza = “fungus root”

One of the groups of fungi that most directly benefit tree growth is called mycorrhizal fungi. Mycorrhiza is translated from Latin as “fungus root.” These fungi infect the roots of trees and other plants and form a symbiotic relationship (a relationship in which both the host and the fungi benefit).

Managing Mycorrhizae?

There has been a large amount of research on forest fungi that kill trees. There has been less research on forest mycorrhizal fungi (even less on fungi that decay downed logs, etc.). The amorphous nature of forest fungi often makes them difficult to pin down and do precise experimental research in a forest setting. So, with the standard academic caveat of “we need more research”, here are a few general principles you can apply on your forest regarding mycorrhizal fungi:

There is usually no need to add mycorrhizae to well-established forest sites. Native forests are usually well-stocked with native mycorrhizal species. However, trees planted to non-forested areas such as agricultural fields or dramatically altered sites (e.g., a reclaimed mining area) may very well benefit from mycorrhizal inoculation. Some hardwood nurseries in the eastern U.S., have actually inoculated seedlings with mycorrhizae in anticipation of their being planted in farm fields.

Leave more coarse woody debris distributed across the site. Coarse woody debris (wood larger than 3 inches in diameter) helps mycorrhizae because as it decays into the soil, it provides better soil moisture for the fungi, particularly during drought periods. Ideally, woody debris from Douglas-fir, pines and larch is best because it decays with “brown rots,” leaving debris products that last longer than those left by “white rots” which typically decay true firs or hemlock. You don’t have to leave a lot of material -- typically 1-2 cull logs left per acre are adequate.

Minimize compaction and soil disturbance. Compaction reduces pore space in soils. Pore space provides the air that tree roots need to draw the moisture out of the soil. Many scientists also believe that compaction and excessive soil disturbance impairs the growth of beneficial forest fungi, including mycorrhizal fungi. Soil compaction can be quite variable by the type of soil, time of the year, type of equipment, and care of the operator using the equipment. Operating on snow or when soils are dry and limiting equipment to designated trails will help minimize soil compaction.

For more information

Mycorrhizal fungi play a fascinating role in our forests. The most important practice to aid mycorrhizal function in our forests is to leave more woody debris (within fire safety limitations). To learn more about managing organic debris for forest soil health, see “Managing Organic Debris for Forest Health: Reconciling fire hazard, bark beetles, wildlife, and forest nutrition needs” (PNW 609) available online at <http://www.cals.uidaho.edu/edComm/pdf/PNW/PNW0609.pdf>.

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.



Many prized edible forest mushrooms come from mycorrhizal fungi.

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SPOTLIGHT ON IDAHO FFA—2017 State Career Development Event Winners

State FFA Career Development Event Winners Named—Headed To Nationals

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

Idaho FFA conducts 25 CDEs covering job skills in everything from agricultural communications to agricultural mechanics. Some events allow students to compete as individuals, while others are team competitions. Twenty teams and five individuals were named State Champions in 2017 Idaho FFA CDEs held at the University of Idaho in June and during the State FFA Leadership Conference at the College of Southern Idaho in April. They will represent Idaho at the National FFA Convention in Indianapolis, IN, this fall.

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



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

2017 Idaho FFA State Champion Career Development Event Winners

Agricultural Communications
Agricultural Issues Forum
Agricultural Marketing Plan
Agricultural Mechanics
Agricultural Sales
Agronomy
Creed Speaking
Dairy Cattle Evaluation
Dairy Handler
Environmental and Natural Resources
Extemporaneous Public Speaking
Farm Business Management
Floriculture
Food Science & Technology
Forestry
Horse
Job Interview
Livestock Evaluation
Meats Evaluation & Technology
Milk Quality & Products
Nursery/Landscape
Parliamentary Procedure
Poultry Evaluation
Prepared Public Speaking
Veterinary Science

South Fremont FFA Chapter
American Falls FFA Chapter
Meridian FFA Chapter
Nampa FFA Chapter
Castleford FFA Chapter
Fruitland FFA Chapter
Tanner Acor, Fruitland FFA Chapter
Preston FFA Chapter
Ashley Wells, New Plymouth FFA Chapter

Ribby FFA Chapter

Cody Jackson, Jerome FFA Chapter
West Jefferson FFA Chapter
Cambridge FFA Chapter
Meridian FFA Chapter
Fruitland FFA Chapter
Nampa FFA Chapter
Mallie Miller, Meridian FFA Chapter
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Focus on Agriculture

What's a Millennial in the Produce Aisle to do?

By Kari Barbic

My dad taught me all I know about selecting the best fruits and vegetables at the grocery store. He taught me how to judge ripeness, how to look for water damage and—most importantly—how to taste test in the field. He also taught me to not discriminate between organic and conventional. Both had value as long as they met my dad's strict quality control standards. As you may have guessed, my dad's office is not indoors. He's specialized in tree fruit production in California's Central Valley for more than three decades and farmed a few of his own acres. For my dad, the goal is getting quality produce to customers in the Golden State and beyond, and seeing his friends and neighbors succeed in their farm businesses.

Even though I now live on the opposite coast from where I grew up, I apply the principles my dad taught me, regardless of where I shop. Perhaps, I'm a stereotypical millennial, but when a national health-food grocery chain opened in my Washington, D.C., neighborhood recently, it was cause

for celebration. The store labels its produce conventional and organic, and to me that's a good thing, because I can choose both.

After I've scanned the produce section at least once to get the lay of the land, my choices come down to three basic factors: quality, price and nutrition.

Whether conventional or organic, I trust the quality of American grown produce. I've had the privilege of seeing first-hand how many of our favorite fruits and veggies are grown, harvested, packed and shipped. After that fresh produce has made the journey to my D.C. grocery store, I'm there to look for leafy greens, fruits and vegetables fresh enough to survive the work week. While I can't pick up roadside strawberries on Pennsylvania Avenue, local produce is sometimes available at area markets, thanks to farmers near the metro area.

Like most shoppers, price is going to be a major factor in my decisions. I am happy to buy conventionally grown carrots for a dollar less, as I know they are just as safe

and nutritious. I'm just as happy to splurge on organic heirloom carrots when I want a fancier side of roast veggies for the menu. The choice here is about what fits my budget and meal plan needs for the week.

Of course, the main reason I'm even in the produce aisle is nutrition. When I'm purchasing cherry tomatoes, I'm reaching for the freshest looking containers in the display. My end goal is to get a delicious dose of vitamin C—regardless of whether those tomatoes were treated to ward off greedy insects. This summer, I'll select my favorite red seedless grapes and enjoy a bit of nature's candy.

No matter the ratio of organic to conventional purchases in my shopping cart, my purchases are supporting hard-working farmers who care for their land and make choices that best fit their business and meet market demands. These are choices I can feel good about, and that I trust my dad can be proud of.

Kari Barbic is a media specialist at the American Farm Bureau Federation.

Bill Supports Rural School Funding Program

By Senator Mike Crapo

I joined fellow Senator Jim Risch (R-Idaho) and a large, bipartisan group of Senate colleagues in introducing legislation that would extend payments under the Secure Rural Schools (SRS) program, commonly called county payments, to rural counties with large tracts of tax-exempt federal lands in Idaho and other states. Without the SRS program, existing revenue sharing payments are not sufficient to support the services many Idaho counties must provide. This federal obligation to rural residents must be met.

The SRS program, managed in Idaho by the U.S. Forest Service, and the Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILT) program, managed by the U.S. Department of the Interior, provide funding to Idaho's counties to make up for lost revenues from declines in timber production on Forest Service lands and federal ownership of lands in general. PILT payments will continue and will increase. However, the SRS program expired in the fall of 2015 and requires congressional reauthorization.

The lapse in this federal ob-

ligation makes many Idaho counties face considerable challenges meeting local needs. Schools, roads, emergency services, forest health projects and other important services are supported through the SRS program. According to the U.S. Forest Service, Idaho counties received in total about \$22 million in SRS payments last year. This year, that number has dropped to \$2 million, because it is based on the backup formula of a 25 percent share of receipts of timber harvested on federal lands.

The new legislation, S. 1027, would extend authorization for SRS payments for two years and offer retroactive payments for 2016. S. 1027 was introduced with 15 co-sponsors and has support from two key Senate committees: Finance; and Energy and Natural Resources. Senator Risch and I have worked with Finance Chairman Orrin Hatch (R-Utah) and Finance Ranking Member Ron Wyden (D-Oregon), Energy and Natural Resources Chair Lisa Murkowski (R-Alaska) and Ranking Member Maria Cantwell (D-Washington) on the legislation. Co-sponsors include Senator Martin Heinrich



Senator Mike Crapo

(D-New Mexico), Joe Manchin (D-West Virginia), Steve Daines (R-Montana), Dianne Feinstein (D-California), Cory Gardner (R-Colorado), Jon Tester (D-Montana), Dan Sullivan (R-Alaska), Michael Bennet (D-Colorado), and Jeff Merkley (D-Oregon).

In March, I joined Senator Risch and 78 of our congressional colleagues in sending a bipartisan, bicameral letter to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) calling for the inclusion of funding for the SRS program in the President's budget request to Congress. Unfortunately, SRS payments have not been included in the President's budget proposals.

Congress needs to permanently address SRS to ensure that Idaho counties are not left in annual limbo. We must look for supplemental support, such as strengthening revenue sharing with local governments by increasing timber harvests and restoration work on federally-managed lands. These reforms must be considered while Congress also enacts comprehensive economic reforms to control the irresponsible overspending that resulted in the enormous national debt that has made it increasingly difficult to ensure that the federal government meets its responsibilities to rural counties.



All-American July 4th Cookout Down Slightly, Remains Under \$6 Per Person

WASHINGTON, D.C., June 26, 2017 – A cookout of Americans’ favorite foods for the Fourth of July, including hot dogs, cheeseburgers, pork spare ribs, potato salad, baked beans, lemonade and chocolate milk, will cost slightly less this year, coming in at less than \$6 per person, says the American Farm Bureau Federation.

Farm Bureau’s informal survey reveals the average cost of a summer cookout for 10 people is \$55.70, or \$5.57 per person. The cost for the cookout is down slightly (less than 1 percent) from last year.

“As expected, higher production has pushed retail meat prices down,” said AFBF Director of Market Intelligence Dr. John Newton.

Competition in the meat case is making grilling for July 4th even more affordable for consumers this year, Newton noted.

“Retail pork prices also declined in 2017, largely due to more pork on the market and

ample supplies of other animal proteins available for domestic consumption. Lower beef prices are most likely putting downward pressure on pork prices,” he said.

AFBF’s summer cookout menu for 10 people consists of hot dogs and buns, cheeseburgers and buns, pork spare ribs, deli potato salad, baked beans, corn chips, lemonade, chocolate milk, ketchup, mustard and watermelon for dessert.

With regard to drivers behind the moderate decrease in dairy prices, Newton said, “We continue to see stability in dairy prices because of the improving export market. Chocolate milk will be a little more affordable this July 4th, in part because some retailers are promoting it as a sports recovery drink superior to other sports drinks and water.

He also noted the retail price of American cheese has declined due to very large inventories and a lot of competition in the cheese case.

Newton said retail dairy and meat prices included in the survey are consistent with recent trends and are expected to continue to be stable.

Commenting on watermelon prices, Newton said, “Although U.S. farmers continue to increase watermelon production, consumer demand has also increased, contributing to higher retail prices.”

A total of 97 Farm Bureau members in 25 states served as volunteer shoppers to check retail prices for summer cookout foods at their local grocery stores for this informal survey.

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

The year-to-year direction of the marketbasket survey tracks closely with the federal government’s Consumer Price Index

report for food at home. As retail grocery prices have increased gradually over time, the share of the average food dollar that America’s farm and ranch families receive has dropped.

“Through the mid-1970s, farmers received about one-third of consumer retail food expenditures for food eaten at home and away from home, on average. That figure has decreased steadily and is now about 16 percent, according to the Agriculture Department’s revised Food Dollar Series,” Newton said.

Using the “food at home and away from home” percentage across-the-board, the farmer’s share of this \$55.70 marketbasket would be \$8.74.

AFBF is the nation’s largest general farm organization with member families in all 50 states and Puerto Rico. Learn more at <http://facebook.com/AmericanFarmBureau> or follow @FarmBureau on Twitter.



July 4th Cookout for 10 Down Slightly

	Items	Amount	2015 Price	2016 Price	2017 Price	% change
1	Ground Round	2 pounds	\$ 9.10	\$ 8.80	\$ 8.69	-1.0%
2	Pork Spare Ribs	4 pounds	\$ 13.44	\$ 13.36	\$ 12.76	-4.0%
3	Hot Dogs	1 pound	\$ 2.19	\$ 2.09	\$ 2.19	+5.0%
4	Deli Potato Salad	3 pounds	\$ 8.58	\$ 8.76	\$ 8.93	2.0%
5	Baked Beans	28 ounces	\$ 1.83	\$ 1.90	\$ 1.88	-1.0%
6	Corn Chips	15 ounces	\$ 3.26	\$ 3.17	\$ 3.26	+3.0%
7	Lemonade	0.5 gallons	\$ 2.05	\$ 2.04	\$ 2.12	4.0%
8	Chocolate Milk	0.5 gallons	\$ 2.65	\$ 2.50	\$ 2.45	-2.0%
9	Watermelon	4 pounds	\$ 4.21	\$ 4.49	\$ 4.67	4.0%
10	Hot Dog Buns	1 package	\$ 1.57	\$ 1.61	\$ 1.63	1.0%
11	Hamburger Buns	1 package	\$ 1.50	\$ 1.59	\$ 1.61	1.0%
12	Ketchup	20 ounces	\$ 1.46	\$ 1.44	\$ 1.53	+6.0%
13	Mustard	16 ounces	\$ 1.14	\$ 1.24	\$ 1.16	6.0%
14	American Cheese	1 pound	\$ 2.86	\$ 3.07	\$ 2.83	-8.0%
	Total		\$ 55.84	\$ 56.06	\$ 55.70	-1.0%
	Per Person	10	\$ 5.58	\$ 5.61	\$ 5.57	-1.0%



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American Farm Bureau Federation®

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**SUMMER COOKOUT
MENU FOR 10 PEOPLE:**

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

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

Don't Push Marketing to the Backburner



Clark Johnston

By Clark Johnston

We are knocking on the door of harvest and the markets have experienced a rally. This is probably not the time to be asking, how much higher can the market move? The historical wheat charts indicate that we do see a strengthening futures market between the middle of June and the second week in July.

This doesn't mean that we still have a little more time to contract our wheat but rather this is the time to get the job done. The markets are all tied somewhat together and for now the corn market has the potential to continue to trade the current range. Even if the corn yields are reduced by a few bushels the carryover will still be large enough to keep the market where it is currently.

The carry charge in Chicago wheat between September futures and the December contract is currently 22 cents per bushel. This is still indicating that there is a good supply of wheat and we should continue looking at contracting into the deferred months.

The local basis has also strengthened over the past few weeks as the processors are once again back into the cash market.

This doesn't mean that they are contracting nearby wheat but they are contracting for the deferred months. The local market at this time looks as if the flour mills will continue to contract out into the deferred months having met their nearby production needs.

We have discussed this in past articles but it is just as important today as it was earlier. Keep looking to the future for your marketing opportunities and contract when the buyers want to buy. If for instance you like to contract your wheat after the first of the year look at contracting now. This past year we experienced the fact that when we reached those months the flour mills were then contracting for an additional two to three months further down the road.

When it comes to merchandising commodities you can't be emotional. Let me take that back, you can be emotional but you shouldn't be. When you write your marketing plan down that is the first step in taking emotion out of merchandising.

Keep your plan in front of you where you can study it and possibly make some minor adjustments but try not to rewrite the entire the program. After all you need to keep the core of the plan in place as the year progresses. Your plan could be fo-

cused on price levels or a time line or a little of both but, whatever it is work your plan and as you do you will become better at reading the markets and recognizing your opportunities.

I am not trying to tell you something you already know but, all of us need reminders just for the fact that when you are in the heat of the everyday battle with all of the other duties you have in producing your crop, sometimes marketing gets pushed to the back burner and you miss your opportunities.

All too often we hear producers say, I'm just too busy right now to even think about marketing, call me back next month when things slow down.

Don't push marketing to the back burner. If you keep your plan in front of you it only takes a few minutes each day to look it over and see if you are still on track.

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



Ott Clark



Tyrel Bingham

IFBF Hires New Field Staff

A promotion and a reassignment recently created two openings on the Idaho Farm Bureau Federation staff. Ott Clark was hired as regional manager for Southeast Idaho (District 1) and Tyrel Bingham was hired as regional manager for the Upper Snake River Region (District 2).

The openings were created by the promotion of Justin Patten from regional manager to director of organization. Zak Miller was reassigned from regional manager to the commodity coordinator position, which was vacant.

Clark grew up on a cattle ranch / hay farm in Bingham County. He received a Bachelor of Science Degree in agricultural education from the University of Idaho. Over the past four years he worked for Western Stockmen's in Caldwell where he was responsible for establishing and maintaining sales relationships with retail customers. In 2016 he went to work for S & W Seed Company as research facility manager.

Bingham grew up on a farm / feedlot in Bingham County. He received an Applied Science Degree from Idaho State University in 2010. He worked as a farm manager for Bingham Land and Livestock, overseeing crop production and managing a feedlot. Marketing and contracting cattle and crops were among his responsibilities there.

Clark can be reached at oclarke@idahofb.org and Bingham can be reached at tbingham@idahofb.org

Ag Groups Urge USDA to Revamp Biotech Proposal

Proposed revisions to USDA's biotechnology regulations take some very positive and bold steps in the right direction, but major changes are needed to ensure the new rules encourage innovation, according to the American Farm Bureau Federation and 102 other agricultural organizations.

"We are supportive of USDA's efforts to modernize its regulations, ensuring they are up-to-date with the best-available science and utilize the more than 30 years of experience USDA has in reviewing the safety of these crops," [the groups wrote in a recent letter to Agriculture Secretary Sonny Perdue](#).

The groups also noted their appreciation for USDA's strong position regarding the exclusion from the proposal of products of new breeding methods, such as gene editing. Many of the products developed using these new methods are strikingly similar to those developed using more traditional plant breeding methods.

Despite these positive aspects, there are several shortcomings that are holding the groups back from supporting the proposal as a whole.

Among the major concerns are researchers' and developers' inability to learn the regulatory status of new genetically engineered organisms without undergoing complex risk assessments, providing little clarity about which products will be subject to regulation.

The requirement that risk assessments would be conducted for plant products based only upon the technology used in their production, rather than actual risk, is another problem. "This runs counter to USDA's 30-plus years of experience regulating biotechnology," the groups noted.

With the shift of the regulatory burden from commercialization stages to research and development phases, each new GE plant variety will have to undergo a complex risk assessment and comment period before a single plant can be planted in a small-scale field trial. In addition, the proposed assessment process will likely not accommodate the scale of U.S. research and development, which could result in many products being stuck in regulatory limbo.

Also at issue are the barriers to innovation that would be raised under the proposal's expansion of authority under Part 340, which creates a redundant weed risk regulatory process. This process currently works under USDA's Part 360 regulations.

Finally, USDA's plans for major changes to the current regulatory system may have unintended consequences for other regulatory agencies, and domestic and international markets, and lead to significant litigation risks, the groups cautioned.

"We are concerned that these flaws will have a significant negative impact on innovation, particularly for small companies and universities hoping to develop agricultural products for specific regional or environmental needs or to develop minor-use crops that could be important domestically and internationally," they wrote, adding that USDA can better meet its goals with fewer risks and disruptions by charting a different regulatory course.

Farmers Urge Caution on Cuba Policy

Importing \$2 billion worth of food each year, Cuba represents the kind of growth opportunity U.S. farmers and ranchers need during this challenging economic period, American Farm Bureau Federation President Zippy Duvall said recently as he encouraged the administration to tread lightly in making new rules for doing business with Cuba that would limit U.S. agricultural export opportunities.

President Trump's recently announced policy changes relate to travel, tourism and benefits to the Cuban military. Under new regulations to be released from the Department of the Treasury, Americans traveling to Cuba will be audited to ensure that they are complying with regulations. In addition, Americans visiting

Cuba and businesses will be prohibited from engaging in financial transactions with any entity that has ties to the Cuban military.

While none of the policy changes are directly related to U.S. farm and ranch goods, they likely won't help grow U.S. agriculture's mere \$200 million sliver of Cuba's food import market.

"We should be doing more, not less, to encourage U.S. agricultural exports to Cuba. Our farmers and ranchers and the Cuban people would benefit from increased sales of high-quality, American-grown food and feed. The American Farm Bureau will continue to work with the administration and Congress to

maintain and improve the conditions for agricultural trade with Cuba." — AFBF President Zippy Duvall in a statement

He continued, "Self-imposed trade restrictions have kept America's farmers and ranchers from competing on a level playing field and have closed off one of our nearest ag export markets. Cuba has not purchased any rice or wheat from the U.S. in many years, instead buying from other countries around the world. As we cope with the biggest drop in farm prices in decades, we need to be opening up markets for American farm goods, not sending signals that might lead to less access."

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Farm Bureau University: Board Leadership Lessons on Your Laptop

Farmers and ranchers know better than most that learning isn't exclusive to classrooms or meeting venues. With that in mind, the American Farm Bureau Federation's learning and development team created Farm Bureau University, an interactive online experience that allows Farm Bureau members to learn where and when they want.

Farm Bureau University's latest offering, Farm Bureau Board Essentials, was designed to help county Farm Bureau board members lead strong, effective organizations that meet members' needs on all levels. The program provides resources and training for county board members in five essential pathways: Being a Board Member; Governance; Planning; Policy Development & Advocacy; and the Membership Cycle.

"Whether you've got some time with a desktop in an office or an iPad in the field, Farm Bureau University comes to you. Still, online learning does not replace what happens in person. It makes what happens in person that much richer and more effective." — Kyle Perry, AFBF director of learning and development

For example, through Farm Bureau Board Essentials, a new county board member can get the fundamentals—like budget building basics or how to draft an action-oriented agenda—from the online training so when he or she meets with field staff, fellow Farm Bureau members or a retiring board member, they can get right down to the important issues at hand.

"As a package, this is one of the most



comprehensive training programs AFBF has ever provided to county Farm Bureaus. It runs the whole gamut, from the history of Farm Bureau to the roles and responsibilities of county Farm Bureau board members to the many important aspects of membership to how to lead productive policy development discussions and implement those policies through advocacy," Perry explained.

Regardless of the topic, in each pathway, the learner will experience:

- A two-minute kickoff video
 - A 10-question pre-assessment
 - Two or more 10-minute e-learning primers
 - Two or more 10-minute e-learning skill builders
 - An application toolkit with downloadable resources
 - A 10-question post-assessment
 - Booster activities to refresh learning
- Although Board Essentials was created by AFBF, between Board Essentials and Farm Bureau Builder, another FB University program, more than 50 state Farm Bureau staff members have pro-

vided valuable feedback to shape the content.

"The information we offer has been time-tested. Much of it—like the membership training and board roles and responsibilities—is pulled from existing training programs. We're taking what works for county Farm Bureaus and putting it into an easily understood and readily accessible format," Perry said.

Two of the five pathways—Being a Board Member and Governance—are available now. The remaining three are in the final stages of development.

To start your journey on the five essential pathways of Farm Bureau Board Essentials, go to university.fb.org. New users will need to register for a free account using member code "state fb," replacing "state" with the two-letter postal abbreviation. For example, a New York Farm Bureau member's code is: nyfb.

Perry, along with colleagues Lindsay Calvert, director of leadership development, and Elise Stoddard, director of organization development, welcome your questions and comments about Farm Bureau Board Essentials.



Obama Sage Grouse Plan Now Under Review

By Jake Putnam

Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke wants a 60-day review of the sage grouse protection plan launched during the Obama administration.

That far-reaching plan called for sage grouse protection covering millions of acres across 11 Western States.

Zinke says that while the federal government has a responsibility under the Endangered Species Act to protect the endangered bird: “We also have a responsibility to be a good neighbor and a good partner.”

He says a directive that could destroy local economies, or impose more regulations on public lands, is no way to be a good neighbor.

Zinke said he’s traveled the West including a trip to Idaho in June and heard complaints that the government has been “heavy-handed,” in putting the current plan together and there was a lot of mistrust and anger over the issue.

“There’s been complaints by several of the governors that their ability to use federal lands, whether it’s for oil and gas, recreation, timber, across the board, that some of the heavy-handedness on habitat doesn’t allow for some of

those uses,” Secretary Zinke said.

Idaho Governor Butch Otter says he’s encouraged by Secretary Zinke’s commitment to review the Obama Administration’s sage grouse plans.

“The Secretarial Order appropriately recognizes the states as being full and equal partners in the management and conservation of greater sage grouse in the West. I look forward to working with the Secretary and his agency to address our concerns and bring about meaningful and necessary changes to the federal plan in Idaho,” said Otter.

A sage grouse team will evaluate the current management plans and report its findings with recommendations for the next step within 60 days according to Zinke.

The review will be done by the Fish and Wildlife Service, the Bureau of Land Management and the U.S. Geological Survey. Zinke said they’ll examine if the current plan places too much emphasis on habitat protection as opposed to bird population, and if up-to-date technology, including drones, could be better used in counting the birds and protecting habitat.

Environmental groups were concerned that Zinke’s announcement might run the risk of wrecking efforts to save the grouse and affecting habitat that supports other species. The groups think conservation plans written by the BLM and the U.S. Forest Service had a lot of state input from landowners, conservationists, and should be carried out, not put on hold.

While Zinke said that some governors had complained to him about the current plans, Governors John Hickenlooper of Colorado, a Democrat, and Republican Matt Mead of Wyoming wrote to Zinke opposing changes that would move “from a habitat-management model to one that sets population objectives for the states.”

The greater sage grouse once numbered in the millions across the West but their population is estimated now at 250,000, because of loss of habitat.

Zinke also said he wants to hear more from state officials and ranchers who live on the land saying that environmental groups already had their say under the Obama plan. He thinks ranchers have realistic and innovative ideas to build the sage grouse population.

White House's Proposed Budget Cuts Threaten Key USDA Programs

Proposing to carve more than \$4 billion out of the Agriculture Department's budget, the administration's 2018 spending blueprint fails to recognize agriculture's current financial challenges or its historical

was the only reauthorization measure that voluntarily offered savings during the 113th Congress.

Among the budget reduction targets are several programs and services critical to farmers, ranchers and rural com-

while drastic at first glance, are even more worrisome when considered in light of the current farm economy.

"Farm income is down substantially since Congress passed the last farm bill. USDA cuts of this magnitude in the current economic cycle would be unwarranted and unwise. AFBF will work with the House and Senate Agriculture, Appropriations and Budget committees to protect programs

that are critical in managing risks inherent to production agriculture, and maintain programs that are vital to rural communities," he said.

The president is required by law to submit a budget to Congress for each fiscal year, which runs Oct. 1 through Sept. 30. However, it is congressional lawmakers who draft and ultimately enact the federal government's budget.

It is difficult to think of another sector of the economy that has contributed so much, so consistently, over the last several decades. - AFBF President Zippy Duvall

contribution to deficit reduction, according to American Farm Bureau Federation President Zippy Duvall.

"The American Farm Bureau Federation and its members are concerned about the federal budget deficit. However, we also know that agriculture has done its fair share to help reduce the deficit. Going back to the early 1980s, agriculture often has been targeted to generate budget savings, from the reconciliation bills in the late 1980s and 1990s to farm bill reforms as recently as 2014," Duvall said in a statement.

When it was passed, the 2014 farm bill was estimated to contribute \$23 billion to deficit reduction over 10 years. Notably, the farm bill

munities.

The proposed budget "would gut federal crop insurance, one of the nation's most important farm safety-net programs. It would drastically reshape important voluntary conservation programs and negatively impact consumer confidence in critical meat and poultry inspection," Duvall warned.

The proposal would also threaten the viability of plant and animal security programs at the nation's borders, undermine grain quality and market information systems, and stunt rural America's economic growth by eliminating important utility programs and other rural development programs.

Duvall noted that these cuts,



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Breanna Dairy Owner Bernie Teunissen of Caldwell tell teachers that “If you can see how we produce milk, you’ll pass it on to the kids.

Teachers Team Up With NFL to Spread Nutrition Message

By Jake Putnam

Twenty-six Idaho teachers recently stood under the arch of Breanna Dairy breeze-way, intently watching cows eating and listening to a lecture on cow nutrition.

Teachers toured the farm as part of the “Fuel Up to Play 60” program.

The Fuel Up initiative is a joint program involving the National Dairy Council, state dairy councils, and the National Football League.

“If the teachers can see how we produce milk, they’ll pass it on to the kids. Milk is nutritious, its good food and kids need milk to grow up strong,” said Breanna Dairy Owner Bernie Teunissen.

The Fuel Up Program enables schools to use fun activities combined with a nutrition message to fight childhood obesity and help students develop life-long healthy eating and activity habits. Milk and dairy products are part of the equation.

“This program encourages students to eat

protein-rich foods like dairy, lean protein, fruits, vegetables, whole grains and to perform some type of physical activity for at least 60 minutes every day,” said Cindy Miller from Dairy West. “Idaho dairy farmers, through the Dairy Council and United Dairymen of Idaho, awarded money to 30 Idaho schools involved in the program this year.”

New research shows that better nutrition starting with breakfast, coupled with increased physical activity leads to better academic achievement.

School nutritionist Dayle Hayes says teachers not only teach but also look out for their students.

“What we’re up against in schools today is filling nutrition gaps that children have. So what we know today is that children across the country are not getting enough calcium and vitamin D, potassium and fiber. So schools are really looking at ways to fill the gaps and provide nutrients for kids,” said Hayes.

Two PE teachers immediately bonded on the tour. Jessica Shawley from Moscow Middle School and Gina Janke from Victory Middle in Meridian. Both teachers are enthusiastic supporters of the Fuel up Play 60 program and think the NFL and dairymen are important partners.

“Kids are impressionable and it’s important to get this mes-

sage out while they’re young so they can have good eating habits as they get older,” said Shawley.

Both had never been to a modern dairy and they were interested in how a dairy operates.

“It’s really great to be here and see how they care for the animals. We’re interested in the nutrition aspects. I like seeing all the things they’re taking into consideration. We can relay all this back to our kids. We want them to be the healthy and highest functioning that they can be. It’s good to pass on this mindfulness and appreciation to the kids,” said Jenke

Many consumers these days want to know where their food comes from and people want to eat local, organizers say that makes dairies important.

Farm to school programs have become a big trend across the

U.S. Most school lunch programs mandate local products like vegetables, grains, proteins and always milk. In this day and age it takes less than 48 hours to get the milk from the farm to a lunch tray. The freshness of the milk and dairy products are not lost on the NFL. Hayes says having role models makes their job easier.

“The NFL is a partner and we’ve had some schools that have achieved all the games in Play 60. One school won an assembly and a visit from one of the players from the Seattle Seahawks. You should have seen it because those players really inspire kids. They talked about their nutrition and what they achieved and kids respond to that. So being able to have the NFL as a partner really brings that message home to the kids,” said Hayes.

Only a few Idaho schools have

met the highest goals of the Fuel Up initiative but those that do get a visit from an NFL player. Two years ago Marcus Trufant paid a visit to Heritage Middle School in Meridian.

Trufant played games with kids at an assembly, and told students that during his playing days he had chocolate milk and yogurt for almost all of his game day breakfasts.

Trufant grew up in Tacoma, and starred at Washington State. He played 10 years for the Seattle Seahawks.

The impact of such a visit is hard to calculate but to this day milk is fueling performance in Meridian classrooms and playing fields. It’s a dividend that continues to fuel healthy lifestyles with more schools adding the program each year.

WORK VISA FRAUD

Continued from page 14

ployment and Training Administration to develop changes to the Labor Condition Application to better identify violations and potential fraud.

- Directing the division to coordinate enforcement activities of the visa programs and make referrals of criminal fraud to the Office of the Inspector General.

- Establishing a working group to coordinate enforcement regarding the visa programs.

The California based Agricul-

ture Coalition for Immigration Reform, confirmed that the Labor Department has been more actively enforcing regulations in H-2A and H-2B, the visa program for non-agricultural workers. The group says enforcement has been much more intense under the Trump Administration.

The Department of Labor release goes on to cite an enforcement against an Arizona farming operation accused of keeping H-2A workers in “illegal and sub-standard” housing. In citing the case, the re-

lease says: “Work has already begun on promoting the hiring of Americans and safeguarding working conditions.”

“We still have workforce problems,” said Naerebout. “There are not workers available. They have needs and we need workers and the need for reform is as urgent now as it’s ever been. It’s a Congressional issue and we’re urging our Congressional delegation to work toward immigration reform and an immigration reform package.”

Idaho’s work force has tightened as the state’s unemploy-

ment rate has fell to 3.7 percent. That’s caused worker shortages in agriculture, construction and food manufacturing. The competition for workers is intense and to attract workers living conditions are improving, but slowly.

In California, Texas and Arizona media reports detail stepped up enforcement actions by the DOL and Immigration and Customs Enforcement, but so far appear to target violent criminals and gang members rather than farmworkers.

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FARM BUREAU COMMODITY REPORT

GRAIN PRICES	5/24/2017	6/22/2017 New Crop	Trend
PORTLAND:			
White Wheat	4.72-4.92	4.86-5.11	+ .14 to + .19
11% Winter	4.77-4.92	5.12-5.32	+ .35 to + .40
14% Spring	6.61-6.86	7.56-7.71	+ .95 to + .85
Oats	225.00	225.00	Steady
OGDEN:			
White Wheat	3.77	4.13	+ .36
11% Winter	3.72	4.82	+ 1.10
14% Spring	5.66	6.66	+ 1.00
Barley	5.85	No bid	N/A
BLACKFOOT/ IDAHO FALLS			
White Wheat	3.75	4.00	+ .25
11.5% Winter	4.05	4.60	+ .55
14% Spring	5.55	6.35	+ .80
Hard White	4.25	4.80	+ .55
BURLEY:			
White Wheat	3.37	3.87	+ .55
11% Winter	3.30	4.02	+ .72
14% Spring	5.18	6.00	+ .82
Barley	5.00	5.25	+ .25
MERIDIAN:			
White Wheat(cwt)	3.92	3.89	+ .03
Lewiston:			
White Wheat	4.65	4.73	+ .08
H. Red Winter	5.01	5.25	+ .24
Dark N. Spring	6.87	7.41	+ .54
Barley	106.50	106.50	Steady
LIVESTOCK PRICES			
FEEDER STEERS			
	5/24/2017	6/21/2017	Trend
Under 500 lbs	135-205	153-194	+ 19 to - 11
500-700 lbs	120-183	130-186	+ 10 to + 3
700-900 lbs	117-166	120-164	+ 3 to - 2
Over 900 lbs	95-134	109-139	+ 14 to + 5
FEEDER HEIFERS			
Under 500 lbs	125-179	140-180	+ 15 to + 1
500-700 lbs	122-167	126-170	+ 4 to + 3
700-900 lbs	107-150	120-141	+ 13 to - 9
Over 900 lbs	90-116	107-116	+ 17 to steady
HOLSTEIN STEERS			
Under 700 lbs	95-122	87-115	- 8 to - 7
Over 700 lbs	80-104	74-105	- 6 to + 1
COWS			
Utility/Commercial	52-92	55-87	+ 3 to - 5
Canner & Cutter	48-80	52-82	+ 4 to + 2
Stock Cows	1000-1375	1000-1480	Steady to + 105
BULLS			
Slaughter	72-104	78-110	+ 6 to + 6

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IDAHO HAY REPORT

May 26, 2017

Compared to last week, a trend is not well established. Trades were extremely limited as producers are preparing their first cutting. All prices are dollars per ton and FOB the farm or ranch unless otherwise stated.

Type	JUNE 9 TH	
	Tons	Price
Alfalfa		
Premium	700	150
Good	200	115
Grass		
Premium/Good	200	200

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

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

POTATOES & ONIONS

June 20, 2017

Potatoes

Shipments 627-718-794

(includes exports of 5-4-4) ---Movement expected to remain about the same.

Trading carton 40-80s fairly active, others moderate. Prices Burbank carton 40-80s higher, others generally unchanged. Russet Burbank U.S. One baled 10-5 pound film bags non size A mostly 3.50-4.00; 50-pound carton 40-70s 17.00-18.00, 80s 10.00-12.00, 90s 8.00, 100s mostly 6.50.

Onions - Dry

IDAHO AND MALHEUR COUNTY OREGON---100-72-43---Movement expected to decrease seasonally. Remaining supplies in too few hands to establish a market.

5 YEAR GRAIN COMPARISON

Grain Prices.....6/25/2013.....6/25/2014.....6/23/2015.....6/24/2016.....6/22/2017

Portland:

White Wheat.....N.Q.....6.95.....N.Q.....N.Q.....4.86-5.11
11% Winter.....8.20-8.58.....7.99.....6.11-6.20.....4.92.....5.12-5.32
14% Spring.....9.12.....8.35.....7.57.....6.07-6.27.....7.56-7.71
Corn.....275.00.....280.00.....265.00.....270.00.....225.00

Ogden:

White Wheat.....6.55.....5.85.....5.67.....4.25.....4.13
11% Winter.....6.65.....6.77.....5.09.....3.91.....4.82
14 % Spring.....7.79.....6.50.....6.46.....5.26.....6.66
Barley.....9.31.....7.50.....5.70.....6.15.....No Bid

Pocatello/Blackfoot:

White Wheat.....6.10.....5.60.....5.30.....3.70.....4.00
11% Winter.....6.63.....6.63.....5.20.....3.90.....4.60
14% Spring.....7.47.....6.34.....6.06.....4.90.....6.35
Barley.....9.16.....No Bid.....5.40.....4.10.....4.80

Burley:

White Wheat.....6.35.....5.40.....5.17.....3.90.....3.87
11% Winter.....6.34.....6.30.....4.90.....3.41.....4.02
14% Spring.....7.28.....6.50.....5.71.....4.81.....6.00
Barley.....9.75.....7.50.....4.75.....5.50.....5.25

Nampa/Meridian:

White Wheat (cwt).....7.00.....10.25.....9.28.....7.10.....6.48
(bushel).....6.40.....6.15.....5.57.....4.26.....3.89

Lewiston:

White Wheat.....7.15.....6.80.....5.85.....5.23.....4.73
Barley.....216.50.....171.50.....131.50.....126.50.....106.50

Bean Prices:

Pintos.....34.00-35.00.....34.00-35.00.....24.00.....25.00-30.00.....25.00-30.00
Pinks.....38.00-40.00.....No Quote.....No Quote.....No Quote.....No Quote
Small Red.....38.00-40.00.....No Quote.....40.00.....No Quote.....No Quote

MILK PRODUCTION

June 19, 2017

May Milk Production up 1.8 Percent

Milk production in the 23 major States during May totaled 17.8 billion pounds, up 1.8 percent from May 2016. April revised production, at 17.2 billion pounds, was up 2.2 percent from April 2016. The April revision represented an increase of 36 million pounds or 0.2 percent from last month's preliminary production estimate.

Production per cow in the 23 major States averaged 2,035 pounds for May, 16 pounds above May 2016. This is the highest production per cow for the month of May since the 23 State series began in 2003.

The number of milk cows on farms in the 23 major States was 8.72 million head, 81,000 head more than May 2016, and 2,000 head more than April 2017.

May Milk Production in the United States up 1.8 Percent

Milk production in the United States during May totaled 18.9 billion pounds, up 1.8 percent from May 2016.

Production per cow in the United States averaged 2,016 pounds for May, 19 pounds above May 2016.

The number of milk cows on farms in the United States was 9.39 million head, 71,000 head more than May 2016, and 2,000 head more than April 2017.

5 YEAR LIVESTOCK COMPARISON

	6/21/2013	6/24/2014	6/22/2015	6/24/2016	6/21/2017
Feeder Steers					
Under 500 lbs.....	128-162	200-265	260-342	125-175	153-194
500-700 lbs.....	120-151	195-248	210-283	120-167	130-186
700-900 lbs.....	111-136	145-217	182-240	110-145	120-164
Over 900 lbs.....	91-123	130-192	170-191	103-127	109-139
Feeder Heifers					
Under 500 lbs.....	116-143	185-251	238-285	125-170	140-180
500-700 lbs.....	110-137	170-239	195-270	100-156	126-170
700-900 lbs.....	98-127	135-201	163-205	110-134	120-141
Over 900 lbs.....	85-114	114-162	140-183	No Test	107-116
Holstein Steers					
Under 700 lbs.....	84-95	115-179	140-197	No Test	87-115
Over 700 lbs.....	69-100	125-170	130-190	No Test	74-105
Cows					
Utility/Commercial.....	60-82	88-114	85-115	65-88	55-87
Canner & Cutter.....	60-73	78-102	78-105	58-78	52-82
Stock Cows.....	850-1275	1200-1800	1500-2350	950-1500	1000-1480
Bulls – Slaughter					
	65-105	97-140	115-149	115-149	78-110

CATTLE ON FEED

June 23, 2017

United States Cattle on Feed Up 3 Percent

Cattle and calves on feed for the slaughter market in the United States for feedlots with capacity of 1,000 or more head totaled 11.1 million head on June 1, 2017. The inventory was 3 percent above June 1, 2016.

Placements in feedlots during May totaled 2.12 million head, 12 percent above 2016. Net placements were 2.05 million head. During May, placements of cattle and calves weighing less than 600 pounds were 400,000 head, 600-699 pounds were 315,000 head, 700-799 pounds were 529,000 head, 800-899 pounds were 550,000 head, 900-999 pounds were 235,000 head, and 1,000 pounds and greater were 90,000 head.

Marketings of fed cattle during May totaled 1.95 million head, 9 percent above 2016.

Other disappearance totaled 70,000 head during May, 5 percent below 2016.

CATTLE MARKET REPORT

2018 Beef Production Forecast at 2.3-Percent Growth

USDA forecasts 2.3-percent growth in U.S. beef production in 2018, based on larger 2016—and expected 2017—calf crops that are projected to support increases in cattle placements in late 2017 and early 2018. Marketings of fed cattle are expected to be higher during 2018, supporting higher slaughter during the year, while carcass weights are also expected to increase.

Dressed Weights Limit Beef Production on Higher Slaughter

Commercial beef production for April 2017 was fractionally below a year ago. However, with 1 less slaughter day in the month, meatpackers slaughtered 2 percent, or 54,000 head, more cattle than last year. According to the USDA/NASS *Livestock Slaughter* report released in May 2017, dressed weights for steers and heifers slaughtered under Federal inspection declined 25 and 22 pounds, respectively, year over year. The decrease in the average carcass weight more than offset the increase in the number of cattle slaughtered and kept production from increasing. The USDA

report on beef production under Federal inspection for the week ending May 27 indicates that average dressed weights for steers and heifers continue to decline, falling another 9 and 13 pounds, respectively, from the week ending April 29. Weights are expected to move higher seasonally, but gains will likely be limited while there are incentives to market cattle as rapidly as possible.

The demand by meatpackers likely contributed to that price surge. Relative price strength is likely to persist as demand for beef remains strong. However, as summer demand winds down, packer margins will likely decline and cattle prices will be pressured. Third-quarter fed prices are expected to decline seasonally, averaging \$118-\$124 per cwt, up from \$113.26 in third-quarter 2016.

Third-quarter production is forecast at 6.8 billion pounds, and USDA revised its 2017 commercial beef production down slightly to 26.2 billion pounds. For 2018, beef production was adjusted upward to 27.1 billion pounds on the expectation that more steers and heifers would be available for slaughter next year due to the higher forecast 2017 calf crop.

CLASSIFIEDS

Animals

Barbados Lambs for sale: \$85.00 Very hardy. Grass fed - excellent lean meat. 208-852-3324 or text 435-890-8806.

Farm Equipment

425 gallon water tank, John Deere, 5 bottom switch plow. Also looking for a hot walker for ponies. Moore, Id 208-554-2222.

John Deere 1948 Model A tractor. Good condition. New tires. \$2,500. Located in Boise, ID. Call Terry at 208-861-7029.

John Deere round baler 530. \$3,500. St. Anthony, Id. 208-624-7796.

2012 Massey Ferguson/Hesston 9740 Swather, 718 hours (like new) 16 ft sickle head; 48 ft Fontaine spread-axle flatbed trailer, R23A Vermeer Rake, Challis, ID 208-339-2434.

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

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

6610 Hesston self-propelled swather, gas, \$4500.00; New Holland 1038 self-propelled bale wagon, \$4500.00; 3444 International industrial loader tractor, \$4500.00; 500 CC side by side \$4500.00; Yamaha 200 4-wheeler, good little work horse! \$1000.00. Call for info. Blair 208-681-3581.

Household

Two treadle sewing machines. White and a Free in nice oak cabinets in working condition. Burley, Id. 208-678-2036 or 431-2036.

Miscellaneous

Idaho State Livestock Brand. 'D' hanging C' Location: Cattle RHC, Horses RHH. \$500. 208-358-1739.

Charge Air Pro Compressor by DeVilbiss Air Power Co. 5.5 hp, 20 gallon, \$200 obo. Nampa, Id. 208-466-5838.

Miscellaneous

Woodmaster outdoor wood stove. Comes with pump and draft fan. Stove heats your home and hot water. Works in conjunction with existing furnace or as stand alone heat. Lower your heating costs and increase your comfort. Horseshoe Bend, Id. John 208-781-0691.

Real Estate/Acreage

Beautiful log home on 1.0 acre in Caribou-Targhee Forest. Two bdrm, 1 bath, 1408 sq.ft. Separate 1000 sq.ft. garage/shop. All well built, landscaped and clean. No pets or smoke. Outdoor activities abound. Snake River, Yellowstone and Jackson Hole nearby. 208-351-4686.

120 acre ranch in Downey, Id. 83234. Location: 1405 E Richards Rd. Home and shop, 3 bdrm, 2 full bath home, 3 car garage, full basement. Brand new roof. Well on property. Asking \$360,000. Call for appointment - 208-233-1317 or 266-4887.

Lot for Sale - 1/2 Acre Country Lot. Building Lot or for New Manufactured Home. City water, Gas, Utilities available. Must obtain permits for water hook-up & septic system. Shelley area. Call 528-5337

Trailers

2007 Circle J 3 Horse Living Quarters Trailer. Slide out, stainless V-nose, steel frame work with all aluminum exterior. Kept indoors, New condition, too many options to list. \$25,000. 208-574-2170 Please leave message. Will e-mail photos.

Wanted

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

Looking for a 3 point V ditcher for small acreage, pulled behind 630 Disc tractor. Pocatello, Id call Larry 208-251-7875.

Wanted

Paying cash for German & Japanese war relics/souvenirs! Pistols, rifles, swords, daggers, flags, scopes, optical equipment, uniforms, helmets, machine guns (ATF rules apply) medals, flags, etc. 549-3841 (evenings) or 208-405-9338.

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

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

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

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DATES:
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July 20
FOR NEXT
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Discount Price**

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**Farm Bureau Online
Discount Price**

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Regular Adult \$48

Farm Bureau Online Price \$39

Regular Child/Senior \$25

Farm Bureau Online Price \$20

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Farm Bureau Online Price \$40

Regular Child/Senior \$26

Farm Bureau Online Price \$21

August 1 - September 4

Regular Adult/Child \$51

Farm Bureau Online Price \$42

Regular Child/Senior \$28

Farm Bureau Online Price \$23