Heartbreaking time for dairy

By Zippy Duvall
President American Farm Bureau Federation

Much like spring follows winter, every dairy market boom is followed by a bust and vice versa. Dairy farmers are entering a fourth straight year of low prices as global milk production has grown faster than demand. The all-milk price averaged more than $25 per hundredweight at certain points in 2014, but it has been downhill from there. The milk price hit just $15.30 per hundredweight as of February 2018, and it’s not expected to get above $16-$17 this year.

With no price recovery in sight, many of us personally know a dairy farming family that is getting out of production after generations of being in the business. About 10 percent of dairy farms across the nation have shut down over the past year.

Just in the last few days, I have heard from good dairy farming friends in Georgia that

Trade is vital to America’s farmers and ranchers and that’s why it’s critical for our leaders to make sure they get it right when negotiating and re-negotiating trade deals.

As an example of how important trade is to Idaho producers, consider this: If all the food grown in this state had to be consumed here, every Idahoan would have to eat 45 potatoes every day, as well as two pounds of beef, three cups of beans, two onions, two pounds of cheese and 208 slices of bread.

Idaho’s agricultural sector exports about $2 billion worth of food and food products to foreign nations each year and one in every six rows of Idaho potatoes is exported. Fifty percent of the wheat grown in Idaho is exported to foreign markets and overseas sales of ag products support 24,000 jobs in this state.

Important to get trade negotiations right

By Bryan Searle
President Idaho Farm Bureau Federation

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Farm Bureau’s volunteer leaders

By Rick Keller
CEO Idaho Farm Bureau Federation

When you take a half-hour out of your busy day to plan with a few of your fellow farmers and ranchers on improving a rural road, when you rush through your evening chores and hurry your supper so that you can walk into a Farm Bureau meeting on time, when you get up in a meeting and say what you believe, even though you don’t particularly like to talk, you are making a real contribution to self-government.

You are more important than you think. You, as an individual member of Farm Bureau, are part of one of the most fundamental and powerful voluntary organizations.

I have watched many in agriculture give back to their industry through volunteering. Seldom have I witnessed more giving of time and resources than with farmers and ranchers.

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Producers in southwestern Idaho try their hand at growing truffles.

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EAGLE – Truffles, the most expensive food in the world on an ounce-for-ounce basis, are starting to be found in the foothills of Eagle in southwestern Idaho.

An underground fungus that grows near tree roots, truffles sell for hundreds to several thousand dollars a pound, depending on the variety.

At those prices, searching for them is kind of like mining for gold, says Paul Beckman, the father of truffles in Idaho.

“It’s like gold mining. It’s just fun,” said Beckman, who has planted several dozen acres of hazelnut and oak trees that have been inoculated with truffle spores.

Unlike in many other places around the world, where people search for truffles in the wild, Idaho producers have planted thousands of acres of trees inoculated with truffle spores in orchard settings.

Beckman planted his first truffle trees near the Eagle foothills in 2006 and planted most of his trees in 2008. Trees typically take 8-12 years to start producing truffles and Beckman found his first truffles in 2012 and has been finding about 12 pounds a year since then.

Trained dogs are used to sniff out truffles, which grow underground, and the first truffle discovered in Idaho by Beckman was eaten by the dog that found it. Now he uses trained truffle dogs and truffles being eaten by the dogs that find them is less of a problem.

The type of truffles Beckman has been finding are known as white Bianchetto truffles, which he has been selling for $40 an ounce or $640 a pound.

Brad Sprenger, a neighbor, planted his trees a few years after Beckman and this year found 18 black Perigord truffles, the first of that type found in Idaho and the second most expensive truffle at about $1,000 to $1,200 a pound.

Truffle farming is a lesson in patience “and a lot of weeding, watering and waiting,” Sprenger said.

He said finding nothing even after his trees were six or seven years old made him wonder, “Is it ever going to work? But the fact that we’ve actually moved from concept to reality is even more exciting.”

According to Beckman, about 20 people in southwestern Idaho have planted a total of about 150 acres of truffles and the region has what is believed to be the largest concentration of truffle orchards in the United States.

In Caldwell, vineyard and winery owner Ron Bitner has planted one acre of trees inoculated with Perigord truffle spores. Though he hasn’t found any yet, he said he’s “excited that the black truffle has been
found in Idaho.”

His trees are 8 years old and it takes about 8-12 years for trees to produce the black Perigord truffles, Bitner said. The vegetation around the trees has started to burn off from a chemical reaction that happens when truffles start to produce, he said.

“The dogs get excited and get down and start to dig but we haven’t found anything yet,” Bitner said. “I’m not discouraged at all, especially since Brad has found some.”

Truffles are prized for the rich aromas they emit and have been described by one writer as “sulfuric love bombs … Eating, even sniffing, a truffle is a bit like being drugged.”

Beckman and Sprenger are promoting truffles as “Idaho’s other tuber,” a play on the state’s most famous crop, potatoes. Beckman dreams of a promotion campaign tying the two crops together.

“What I’d really like to see is truffles and tubers married up,” he said. “Potatoes with truffles on them is an incredibly nice meal.”

Sprenger said that when he and Beckman were trying to figure out the potential viability of the crop, they modeled on 30 pounds of truffles per acre each year.

When and if that happens, “We’ll cover the cost of the land, everything, in that first year,” he said. “It would be nice if it did generate some retirement income. If it doesn’t, fine, we had fun.”

Beckman has planted a few trees inoculated with white Alba truffle spores. Alba truffles are the mother of all truffles and a two-pound Alba once sold at auction for $300,000, though they typically fetch about $2,500 to $3,500 a pound.

Truffles have traditionally been found in the wild and trying to raise them in an orchard setting is a relatively new idea so there is no manual on raising truffles, Beckman said.

People who have planted truffles in Idaho are trying a wide variety of methods to try to unlock the secret to making the underground tubers grow, he said.

“We try everything,” Beckman said. “We’re all trying to learn exactly what the secret is.”

When he was first thinking of planting truffle trees, Beckman was told it was too cold here and not an ideal place to grow them. That turned out to not be true.

The Snake River moderates the climate in the area, Beckman said, and the soil pH content in the area is very high so growers don’t have to add tons of lime to the soil like truffle farmers in other areas do.

“It’s turning out to be a pretty good climate for truffles,” he said. “We’re excited about it.”
POCATELLO – The Idaho Water Resource Board has already blown away its record for managed recharge into the Eastern Snake Plain Aquifer with at least a month to go in the 2017-18 recharge season.

And the previous record, set last year, blew away the existing record at the time.

The ESPA, which covers 10,000 square miles in southern Idaho, provides irrigation water for more than two million acres of farm land.

The water board’s managed recharge program seeks to reverse declining groundwater levels and spring flows within the ESPA, which is a critical resource for many of the state’s farmers and ranchers, as well as municipalities and businesses.

As of April 5, the board had recharged more than 419,000 acre-feet of water into the aquifer during the 2017-18 season, which began in August and could last well into May.

That’s far more than the 317,000 acre-feet of managed recharge achieved during the 2016-17 season, which eclipsed by a wide margin the previous record at the time of 166,000 acre-feet set during the 2011-12 season.

During the 2014 and 2015 seasons, the program recharged 75,000 and 66,218 acre-feet, respectively.

Wesley Hipke, who runs the IWRB’s managed aquifer recharge program, said there’s a decent chance of hitting 500,000 acre-feet of recharge this season.

“We have a really good shot at that, depending on the weather and a lot of factors, including irrigation demand,” he said.

Helping maintain and improve water levels in the ESPA through managed recharge is particularly important to the region’s farming industry, said IWRB Chairman Roger Chase.

“Our goal is to sustain the agriculture industry we have today and help it grow,” he said. “It’s such an important part of the state’s overall economy and we had to make sure we took care of our agricultural community.”

Since 2009, the state has had a managed aquifer recharge goal for the ESPA of 250,000 acre-feet per year. Last year was the first time that goal was achieved.

The large amount of water the program has been able to recharge into the aquifer the past two years is a result of last win-
they’re selling all their cows. “This is the best business decision,” a member of the family said. However, “It’s never been just a job to us; it’s how we raise our family. Without our beloved cows, who in the world are we?” I think most of us in agriculture can relate to that, no matter what we grow or raise.

In March, I saw a news article about a farm in Vermont that auctioned off its cows and equipment. Turns out that farm was owned by my friend and Farm Bureau colleague, former Vermont Farm Bureau President Clark Hinsdale. According to the article, his was one of 12 dairy farms in that state to exit the dairy business just since January.

Clark’s summation that the structure of dairy farming is changing—that smaller family operations cannot sustain themselves—is concerning. When the market eventually turns in a better direction, and it will, most of the small, family-operated dairies that have shut down will not come back. It is heartbreaking to watch as second-, third- and fourth-generation dairy farms call it quits. This will have an irreversible impact.

I grew up on my family’s dairy farm. We got out of dairy farming years ago, during a previous bust, and switched to beef cattle and poultry production. But I’ll always cherish the experiences and the work ethic that my brother and I learned from milking cows. I still think a Holstein is one of the most impressive animals. It is sad to think of fewer opportunities for young people to grow up in dairy farming.

There is help on the way. With milk prices down and production costs up, the national dairy margin under USDA’s Dairy Margin Protection Program in February 2018 fell to $6.88 per hundredweight, the lowest level since June 2016. While that reflection of today’s dairy industry is nothing to cheer about, a silver lining is the lower margin will trigger much-needed program payments to farmers. Also, Congress recently passed legislation to make the program work better, including monthly margin calculations instead of bimonthly, and providing catastrophic coverage at the $5 margin level at no cost to producers. With those changes in place, USDA has opened the enrollment period for MPP coverage for 2018. It is hoped that more dairy farmers will sign up.

In addition, Farm Bureau has been working with USDA to develop a revenue insurance product, much like crop insurance, for dairy producers. Dairy farming is risky business. Producers need adequate risk management and Farm Bureau is excited about developing another tool to help them survive times like this. We look forward to being able to share more information about the program soon.

The old saying in dairy farming is the cure for low prices is low prices, meaning prices will go back up on the basis of reduced supply as farms shut down or cull herds. That acceptance of the cyclical nature of dairying might be of some help to get through the downturns by focusing on the upswing to come. But the bust that dairy farmers are facing today seems worse and more prolonged. This doesn’t feel like business as usual, even for dairy.

Many of us are necessarily focused on national policy solutions and global market trends. Those are important, but I will close by focusing on the people behind the policies and the data. The trait that I’ve found in just about every farmer I’ve ever known is that special spirit of brotherhood and sisterhood that abides in agriculture—our unique understanding of what our fellow farmers and ranchers are going through, our mutual respect for the farming way of life, and our willingness to offer an ear and a prayer to those in the farming family who are struggling. If you are a dairy farmer trying to hold on, please talk with your friends and neighbors and let them be a source of emotional support. If you know a dairy farmer, offer him or her an act of kindness, even if it’s a small favor or just an invitation to come over for supper and talk as friends. In times like this, little things can have a big impact.

Better days are ahead. Let’s help each other get there.
Lawmakers encourage reimbursement of Owyhee County ranchers

By Sean Ellis

Idaho Farm Bureau Federation

BOISE – A proclamation passed by the Idaho Legislature encourages the state’s Constitutional Defense Council to help reimburse two Idaho ranchers for the legal costs involved in their landmark court victory that resulted in several precedent-setting water law rulings.

The Idaho Supreme Court in 2007 unanimously ruled in favor of the Owyhee County ranchers, Tim Lowry and Paul Nettleton, in their battle with the U.S. Bureau of Land Management over who owns in-stream stock watering rights on federally administered land.

Agreeing with the ranchers, the court ruled the BLM didn’t own the rights because it doesn’t own cattle and couldn’t put the water to beneficial use.

However, the court refused to grant the ranchers attorney fees and their ranches were each saddled with more than $1 million in legal bills.

Since then, they have negotiated the amount they owe down to about $300,000 each.

House Proclamation 1, which Idaho lawmakers overwhelmingly approved in March, asks that money from the Constitutional Defense Council Fund be used to help offset the ranchers’ legal fees.

During debate on the House floor, several lawmakers pointed out that the entire state has benefited from the ranchers’ court victory.

“They, on their own dime, perfected a public right for everyone,” said Idaho’s Speaker of the House, Rep. Scott Bedke, a Republican rancher from Oakeley.

During the state’s Snake River Basin Adjudication process, which decreed more than 158,000 water rights, southern Idaho ranchers and the BLM filed thousands of overlapping claims to in-stream stock watering rights on federal land.

All but two of the ranchers, Lowry and Nettleton, backed off or negotiated with the BLM when they realized fighting the federal agency in court would cost a lot of money.

The SRBA court ended up conveying 17,000 stock watering rights to the BLM.

During the past two legislative sessions, Idaho lawmakers have passed bills that codify the ranchers’ court victory into state law.

That means other ranchers won’t have to fight the same battle and the legislation will allow southern Idaho ranchers who didn’t file claims to stock watering rights on federal land during the SRBA to file them now.

Bedke said the ranchers’ court victory changed the way stockwater rights are adjudicated in Idaho.

Before the ranchers’ victory, every stockwater right in Idaho that was conveyed went to the federal government. Since the victory, those rights have gone to ranchers with grazing permits on federal allotments.

“Every permittee in the state benefits for their having stood up,” Bedke said. The case “changed the way stockwater rights are adjudicated in the state of Idaho. It’s a big deal.”

The ruling has also benefited North Idaho ranchers. Dur-
ing the North Idaho Adjudication process, the U.S. Forest Service withdrew 36 claims to in-stream stockwater rights after the Idaho Department of Water Resources, as a result of the Idaho Supreme Court case, sent the Forest Service a letter requiring evidence the agency was putting the water to beneficial use.

“They’ve gone in debt at the risk of their ranches to protect the water rights of the state of Idaho,” Rep. John Vander Woude, R-Nampa, said before House lawmakers voted in favor of the proclamation. “I would encourage the Constitutional Defense Council to also vote in favor of it.”

Agreeing with Nettleton’s Joyce Livestock Co. and Lowry’s LU Ranching Co. on their main point that the government can’t hold federal rangeland water rights because it doesn’t own cattle, the Idaho Supreme Court said the BLM’s argument reflected a serious misunderstanding of water law.

However, the court denied the ranchers the ability to recover attorney fees under the Equal Access to Justice Act, which the court said doesn’t allow state courts to award attorney fees against the federal government when the United States appears in an adjudication under the McCarran Amendment’s waiver of sovereign immunity.

That left the ranchers with a court victory that benefits the entire state but also with legal costs that jeopardize their ranches, Rep. Megan Blanksma, R-Hammett, said during debate on the House floor.

“Through their lawsuit, Joyce and LU ranches effected a public right that resulted in benefits to the entire state … yet they continue to struggle with legal fees that were involved in their effort,” she said.

“This is the right way to encourage the righting of an injustice,” she said of the proclamation’s call to help reimburse the ranches.

The court victory didn’t just affect LU and Joyce ranches, it “affected every water holder in the state of Idaho,” said Rep. Christy Zito, R-Hammett.

“These ranchers fought for the sovereignty of our state, not just for the survival of their ranches.”

The Constitutional Defense Council consists of the governor, attorney general, speaker of the house and president pro tempore of the senate.

According to state statute, the purpose of the council “includes, but is not limited to, restoring and advancing the sovereignty and authority over issues that affect this state and the well-being of its citizens.”

The proclamation states that payment of the ranchers’ attorney fees “would comport with the purpose of the Constitutional Defense Council and its use of funds in support of Idaho’s sovereignty and authority over stockwater rights on federal lands in the state of Idaho.”

During debate on the proclamation in the Senate, Sen. Jim Rice, R-Caldwell, said state statute gives the council broad authority to defend the rights of the state and its citizens. “The statute clearly is broad enough to give the Constitutional Defense Council the discretion to reimburse” the ranchers, he said.

Nettleton and Lowry told Idaho Farm Bureau Federation that they welcome the proclamation but aren’t sure how the council will vote on the issue.

“We’re not holding our breaths but I’m glad that they sent that message and it’s definitely a moral victory,” Nettleton said.

Lowry said there was no debate among his family on whether to fight the court battle “because what was going on was completely wrong, as the supreme court validated. The BLM had absolutely no right to hold the water right. We decided that we had no other option than to stand and fight.”

At the federal level, Sen. Mike Crapo, R-Idaho, has introduced legislation in Congress three times that seeks to get the ranchers reimbursed for their legal costs.

“Unfortunately, the low success rate for enacting private relief legislation and the ban on congressionally directed spending, such as earmarks, made it exceedingly difficult for Senator Crapo’s bill to advance in Congress,” said Lindsay Nothern, Crapo’s communications director.

“Clearly, the state of Idaho recognizes the efforts and sacrifices of Mr. Lowry and Mr. Nettleton, and it was encouraging to see the legislature debate this issue during its 2018 session,” he added. “Not only has it helped the ranching operations of Mr. Lowry and Mr. Nettleton, the legal victory yielded benefits to their ranching neighbors in Idaho and across the West as well.”
County Farm Bureaus oppose Scotchman Peaks wilderness area proposal

By Sean Ellis
Idaho Farm Bureau Federation

SANDPOINT — County Farm Bureau presidents representing thousands of Idaho families have sent letters to Sen. Jim Risch, R-Idaho, opposing a proposed Scotchman Peaks Wilderness Area in North Idaho.

Risch in December 2016 introduced legislation in Congress that would set aside 13,960 acres in Bonner County as wilderness.

Bonner County residents will vote on the proposal during the May 15 primary election.

Risch has said the legislation won’t move forward unless supported by county residents and that he introduced it to get a better sense of where people stood on the wilderness designation.

“The decision is not mine, it is yours,” he stated in an opinion piece published April 11 in the Sandpoint Reader.

The proposed wilderness area is opposed by Bonner County Farm Bureau and BCFM President Fred Omodt sent Risch a letter pointing out that 65 percent of Idaho, and 60 percent of Bonner County, is owned by either federal or state agencies.

He said the proposed wilderness area is literally in the back yards of many local residents who have used the resource for recreation, exploration and inspiration for generations.

“If it is classified as wilderness, many of the families who have enjoyed this area will be restricted from its use,” Omodt said. “These families honor and revere the area and want to see it protected and managed. But they do not want it locked away.”

During Idaho’s May 15 primary election, Bonner County residents will be asked, “Do you favor Senator Jim Risch’s proposal for congressional designation of a 13,960-acre Scotchman Peaks Wilderness area in Bonner County?”

Risch, in his opinion piece, said that while he did introduce the legislation in Congress, it was at the urging of many Idahoans and at the request of the Bonner County Commissioners and the Friends of Scotchman Peaks in order to measure community support for the proposal.

“I did not initiate this proposal and, more importantly, I will follow the decision made by you, the people of Bonner County,” he said. “The decision is not mine, it is yours.”

Idaho County Farm Bureau President Sheryl Nuxoll sent Risch a letter stating that ICFB members have grave concerns about the proposal.

She pointed out that Idaho ranks third in the nation in total number of acres designated as wilderness. Almost 4.8 million acres of public land in Idaho are protected with a wilderness designation, which is the highest form of preservation of the nation’s public lands.

Lands with a wilderness designation are off limits to mining and timber harvest and are also closed to motorized and mechanical vehicles.

“By placing more land into wilderness, our local people are deprived of already very limited land area available to support our declining forest, agricultural and mining economy,” Nuxoll stated.

The proposal would lock up the land as wilderness forever.

As harvest methods become more economically viable, less intrusive and environmentally sound, “those proposed wilderness areas will become more important for society,” Nuxoll said. “Locking up potential solutions for future needs is shortsighted.”

According to Friends of Scotchman Peaks, which supports the wilderness designation, it would not close any areas currently open to timber harvest, motorized recreation or mountain biking and it would not close any existing roads, motorized trails or snowmobiling areas.
POCATELLO – Idaho farmers and ranchers rank No. 4 in the nation when it comes to responding to 2017 Census of Agriculture surveys.

And they lead the nation when it comes to the percentage of producers who have responded to those surveys online.

The census, taken every five years, is a complete count of every farm and ranch in the nation that produces or normally would produce at least $1,000 worth of agricultural products during the census year.

USDA’s National Agricultural Statistics Service began collecting data for the census last year.

As of April 18, Idaho ranks fourth in the nation when it comes to the percentage of producers in the state who have returned the surveys, with a 65.11 percent response rate, behind only Iowa and Illinois, which are tied at 66.56 percent, and Alaska (65.38 percent), Chris Mertz, director of NASS’ Northwest regional field office, told Idaho Farm Bureau Federation March 30.

The U.S. average response rate is 57.1 percent.

Mertz said it’s important to respond to the census because a lot of state and federal funds are allocated to the agricultural industry based on the data provided by the census, and that data is also used to help shape farm programs and policies.

He said he was pleased but not surprised by Idaho’s high response rate.

“Those involved with agriculture in Idaho understand how important agriculture is to the state and local communities,” Mertz said. “By returning their census questionnaires at the current levels, they are ensuring their industry will be adequately counted and represented when data are being used to promote and defend Idaho agriculture. Better data leads to better decisions.”

When it comes to use of the internet to respond to the surveys, Idaho leads the nation at 22.24 percent. The U.S. average is 13.49 percent.

Mertz said there is still time to get the questionnaires returned and NASS will be contacting producers about the census into June.

The census contains a wide variety of farm production and demographic characteristics for every county in the nation. USDA began collecting data for the new census in 2017 and will analyze and compile the data in 2018 and release it in February 2019.
Trade is not only important to the state’s farming sector but Idaho’s overall economy. According to a University of Idaho report, agriculture is the state’s top economic sector and is responsible for 16 percent of Idaho’s total Gross Domestic Product.

According to the report, agriculture is also directly and indirectly responsible for 128,000 Idaho jobs and about $28 billion in sales annually.

On the national level, one in three farm acres is planted for export and $325 of the value of each steer sold in the United States can be attributed to exports. Roughly 30 percent of total U.S. farm income comes directly from foreign exports.

Whether it’s working on an agreement to avoid the proposed tariffs on agricultural products by both the United States and China, renegotiating the North American Free Trade Agreement, or any other trade issue, this nation’s leaders have to make sure they get it right.

Rest assured, American Farm Bureau Federation staff are working day and night on all the various trade issues this country is currently facing and AFBF is making sure the collective voice of American producers has a seat at the table when these discussions are taking place.

While the current trade issues are a concern to American agriculture, Farm Bureau is also hopeful that positive benefits can arise from addressing these issues.

Free trade agreements have a proven track record of boosting revenue for American agriculture by creating a level playing field for farmers and ranchers in foreign markets.

For example, since NAFTA was implemented in 1994, farm exports from the United States to Canada and Mexico have increased from $8.9 billion in 1993 to $38 billion in 2016.

This nation’s farmers and ranchers export more than 20 percent of their production and free trade plays a big role in enabling them to earn their living.

As our nation’s leaders negotiate and re-negotiate trade deals, they should keep in mind that agriculture has been one of the few bright spots in our country’s overall trade balance.

Any gains in agricultural trade must be maintained while our trade representatives work to remove remaining barriers to trade.

They must also be careful to defuse any potential situations that could result in a trade war that could have far-reaching consequences for the nation’s producers.

Any potential retaliatory tariffs or trade war would come at a time when America’s agricultural sector could ill afford it. The USDA estimates net U.S. farm income will fall by 6.7 percent to $59.5 billion in 2018. If realized, it would be the fifth straight year America’s farmers and ranchers have collectively seen their farm incomes decrease.

Again, while the stakes are high for agriculture, Farm Bureau is hopeful the current trade discussions will result in an even fairer and more level playing field for America’s farmers and ranchers.
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Idaho Farm Bureau Federation asked the three leading Republican gubernatorial candidates five questions that Farm Bureau believes are important to its members. Following are the responses from Lt. Gov. Brad Little, Rep. Raul Labrador and Dr. Tommy Ahlquist.

**Q: What is the purpose of government and your role as governor?**

**Little:** The proper role of government is to provide an environment where business can thrive and families can prosper. State government can help provide infrastructure and a solid workforce, but then must get out of the way and allow the free enterprise system to work.

On a typical day, a governor makes several decisions that affect Idahoans now and into the future. You need a governor who instinctively understands Idaho and knows the interests of rural communities. Making Idaho the destination of choice for our children and grandchildren is the lens by which I will look at every decision as governor.

**Labrador:** Government should create an environment where businesses and citizens thrive, provide essential services to citizens, be good stewards of taxpayers’ money, treat all constituents equally and with transparency and reduce the regulatory burden on citizens.

As governor, my role is to provide and execute a vision for a stronger and more prosperous Idaho. I uniquely can rely on my Idaho Statehouse and national experience as U.S. congressman to implement my vision. Most importantly, Idahoans know what to expect from me: I have a proven, consistent, conservative record, have taken on special interests and made tough decisions.

**Ahlquist:** The purpose of government is to serve the people of Idaho in the limited and enumerated roles outlined in the Idaho and U.S. constitutions. I believe the limited role of government is to get the heck out of our way.

When government does have a role, it should work as hard as the people of Idaho and we should demand the same level of excellence as we do from ourselves. The governor is the CEO of the state and should provide statewide vision and leadership. The governor should also to execute the laws of our state and fight for Idahoans.

**Q: Are you satisfied with the current size and scope of state government? If not, how would you change it?**

**Ahlquist:** No. Government shouldn’t grow faster than our citizens’ paychecks. I have a plan to reform Idaho’s cap on government spending, that will put in place an actual cap that prohibits government spending from growing faster than personal income growth. This is an important additional side board to our balanced budget requirement that will safeguard against out of control government spending.

A fresh look and full evaluation of how we spend each of our taxpayer dollars is equally important. We must eliminate wasteful government spending and ensure that we are bringing efficiencies to state government that invest our tax dollars effectively.

**Labrador:** I am not satisfied! Making government more accountable, transparent and efficient are essential ingredients in my vision for a stronger, more prosperous Idaho. As governor, I will get government out of the way; government regulations have muffled the creativity and potential of our citizens, higher tax rates have limited economic development, federal mandates have crippled education and healthcare in Idaho and politicians in power have passed out too many favors to the well-connected.

I want to unleash Idaho’s potential by reducing regulatory burdens, lowering taxes, fighting to eliminate federal...
mandates and to provide equal opportunity and transparency for all Idahoans.

**Little:** Like on our family farms and ranches, state government must be focused on the drivers of spending and make necessary cuts in order to be prepared when times get tough. I believe Idaho is a model for fiscally responsible government. As a conservative, we cannot rest on our laurels. Although the legislature and the governor delivered tax relief this year for families and businesses, set aside more revenue in our rainy day funds, and invested more to improve education, there is still more to do to ensure we have a pro-growth climate here in Idaho.

**Q:** As the head of all state agencies, what would be your regulatory approach?

**Labrador:** President Trump wants to “drain the swamp” federally and I firmly believe Idaho has a Swamp of its own. I believe Idaho suffers from crony capitalism, that Idaho’s government is picking winners and losers and that special interest groups are benefiting unfairly from Idaho's tax dollars. We need to restore citizens to their rightful place; government should serve them, not the other way around. Under the “Why I’m Running” section of www.RaulLabrador.com, I summarize my position this way: “We need a leader who will hold people accountable, make government more efficient, more transparent, and fully open for citizen review.”

**Little:** My mantra with regulation is, we must ensure only the lightest possible hand of government in the day-to-day lives of our citizens and businesses. As governor, I will require all agencies to put together regulatory impact statements, much like fiscal impact statements, to determine the impacts of rules on families and businesses. Last year, I issued the Idaho Freedom Licensing Act that reviews all professional licensure, with the aim of reducing burdens on Idahoans seeking to make a living. As governor, I will bring a healthy skepticism of regulation and aim to reduce burdens on Idahoans.

**Ahlquist:** As an emergency room doctor for 18 years, the first line of the Hippocratic oath is to first do no harm. My regulatory approach will be to follow those words and get government out of the way of our families and businesses. As a small businessman, I’ve dealt with ridiculous government regulations first-hand and I know that over-regulation harms business. I’ll fight to remove burdensome regulations facing all areas and appoint people in my administration who come from the industries they are regulating. I think we should be following President Trump’s example of rolling back multiple regulations for every new one.

**Q:** Do you support Idaho taking over management of our federally administered lands?

**Ahlquist:** Yes, study after study shows that Idahoans are better stewards of our lands and that we know how to take better care of our lands than bureaucrats in D.C. The principle I always follow is the closer the giver is to the receiver, the better. With Idaho managing our lands, we can ensure first and foremost public access and multiple use of lands for grazing, timber harvest, mining, and recreation. As with most things, Idaho will always do a better job than the federal government.

**Little:** I have a long history, as a cattle and sheep industry leader, of working on these public lands issues. I was a sage brush rebel in the late 1970s. I sued the Clinton Administration over its top-down Roadless Rule in 2000, halting implementation and allowing Idaho to draft its own state Roadless Rule in 2006.

Local communities across Idaho, those folks on the ground, must have more say in day-to-day management, and I would pursue every option to get more control over management of our federal lands.

**Q:** Would you support the construction of additional dams in Idaho? If so, what specifically would you do as governor to ensure results?

**Little:** I’m excited about the headway we have been making on [aquifer] recharge, but we must do more. The need for stored water, both surface water and groundwater, is essential. Idaho’s future is dependent on it. With our dynamic economy, we need to ensure we have the water infrastructure for existing industries, while also accommodating future economic growth across Idaho.

Any new dam project would require significant investments from the public and private sectors. As governor, I will bring people to the table, and lead a coalition that determines where we need additional storage and develop a plan for getting it done.

**Labrador:** I believe the construction of new dams in Idaho should be based on the economic needs of the state to take into account the agricultural community, flood control, electricity, transportation, and environmental concerns. Capital investments of this size require all stakeholders to work together collaboratively, including local, state, and federal. I would be involved in ensuring these stakeholders work together in a way that benefits consumers and taxpayers.

**Ahlquist:** Yes, absolutely. More storage options are critical to keeping our Idaho water right here in Idaho where it belongs. It is time for less talk and studies and more action to make this happen. I will work closely with our federal delegation, all the key stakeholders and industry experts to find ways to aggressively pursue more storage options. I will also work closely with the agricultural community to ensure recharge efforts continue and water rights are protected. I will fight to protect Idaho’s water for farmers, ranchers and dairymen and make sure Idaho maintains sovereignty over its water.
This past legislative session, Idaho lawmakers overwhelm-
ingly passed a bill that clarifies, simplifies and strengthens the state’s trespassing laws. Contrary to claims by some of the bill’s opponents, it does not criminalize innocent behavior and will not result in Girl Scouts, missionaries and door-to-door salesman becoming criminals.

In order for someone to be convicted of a criminal trespass under the new law, they must know or have reason to know they were trespassing. What the legislation will actually do is protect private property rights, which are one of the fundamental rights essential to the preservation of individual freedom, and the new law adds more clarity to the state’s trespassing laws, which were previously spread throughout Idaho code and were confusing and inconsistent.

It balances the rights of landowners and the rights of the public and is a solid improvement upon the state’s previous trespassing laws. It should also improve relations between property owners and hunters, fishers and other outdoorsmen by simplifying and consolidating those previously dispersed trespassing codes so they are more easily found and understood by both parties.

While House Bill 658, which goes into effect July 1, did face some significant criticism, that opposition was based on a fundamental misunderstanding of the current law and the legislation. It should be noted that lawmakers approved it by a combined 80-24 vote.

They made their decision after hearing from dozens of property owners, including many farmers and ranchers, who traveled to the Statehouse to describe the damage caused to their property by a small percentage of people who willfully trespass on their property.

The problem with the state’s existing trespassing laws, they said, was that they had no teeth and were confusing and thus hard to enforce. Under Idaho’s previous trespassing codes, someone guilty of criminal trespassing faced a $50 fine, if convicted. That was hardly enough to deter trespassers or give prosecutors reason to pursue a conviction.

Under the new statute, someone guilty of criminal trespass faces a minimum $300 fine for a first conviction, $1,500 for a second conviction and $5,000 for a third conviction. Someone with a third conviction could face a felony charge if there is more than $1,000 worth of damage involved with the trespass.

Not only is this felony provision harmonious with current law when it comes to malicious damage to property, it is completely reasonable. There should be a strong penalty for someone who knowingly and willfully trespasses on someone else’s property three times and causes more than $1,000 worth of damage while doing it.

And remember, someone can only be convicted under this law if they knowingly and
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Caldwell 916 Cleveland
Eagle 127 East State St.
Meridian 307 East Fairview Ave.
Nampa 816 3rd Street South
Twin Falls 1280 East Filer
Ontario, Oregon 94 West Idaho Ave
In 2016, 28 percent of surveyed Idaho forest owners indicated they were likely or very likely to sell or give away a portion of their forest land within the next five years. If you are a new forest owner, or know someone who is or will be, here is a checklist of things to consider doing in the first year of forest ownership.

Check your property tax classification. Idaho has different tax rates for different land uses. Forest use is taxed at a relatively low rate, similar to agricultural use, to support timber production from those lands.

There are two possible categories. In category 6 (productivity), forest land is taxed at a set rate every year. In category 7 (bare land and yield), forest land is taxed at a lower annual rate, but when timber is harvested, there is a 3 percent yield tax on the stumpage value. Different counties have varied procedures for documenting the landowners’ intent to manage for wood products, but many counties require a written management plan that is either developed or approved by a professional forester. For more information, contact your county assessor’s office or check the Idaho State Tax Commission’s website at https://tax.idaho.gov/index.cfm and type “forest” into the search engine.

Get more education. University of Idaho Extension offers a whole variety of educational activities, publications, and videos to help landowners manage their forest to meet their goals. For more information, go to http://www.uidaho.edu/extension/forestry. You can also learn a lot about forestry through your forest-owning peers. One of the best ways of doing that is through the Idaho Forest Owners Association (http://www.idahoforestowners.org).

Most Idaho family forests will benefit from reduced density.

Membership in IFOA also gets you a subscription to Northwest Woodlands, a 20- to 30-page quarterly publication of the Idaho, Oregon, and Washington forest owner associations, with many articles by regional experts and forestry education specialists.

Learn to identify Idaho trees. Idaho is blessed with a wide variety of tree species, especially as you go further north in the state. Being able to identify tree species is a fundamental first step toward making forest management decisions that reflect your objectives. Many good local
Logging Selectively (PNW 534). We also offer field days on thinning and pruning — the next one will be held June 3 in Bonners Ferry.

Favor pines and larch over firs. Grand fir and Douglas-fir are good trees, but on many sites, we have much higher proportions of them than we ever had historically, due to a century of fire exclusion and partial cutting practices. This means more problems with root disease and insects that focus on these two species. If Douglas-fir or grand fir are the most shade tolerant tree you see in the understory, favoring ponderosa pine will result in fewer insect and disease issues on the site. If you have cedar or hemlock on the site, then western larch and western white pine are some of the most sustainable species to favor on the site over the long term. We are not talking about going on a search and destroy mission for firs; rather, we are talking about favoring pines and larch for long-term sustainability.

Clean road drainage structures. Forest roads act as a drainage network. If that network is plugged, sediment may be sent to streams, where it can degrade fish habitat. Inadequate drainage can also lead to road failure, which is very costly to repair. It is important to check culverts and similar road drainage devices to make sure they are functioning properly. To download a publication or stream a video on these topics, go to https://www.uidaho.edu/extension/idahoforestry/bmps/.

Prune young white pine. If you are lucky enough to have young white pine on your property, consider pruning them. White pine are very vulnerable to a non-native disease called white pine blister rust. Pruning white pine up 10 feet (no more than half the tree's height at any one time) can reduce blister rust mortality by half. For more information, see a UI Extension publication titled Pruning Western White Pine (PNW 584). See https://www.cals.uidaho.edu/edcomm/pdf/PNW/PNW0584.pdf.

Prepare for fire. If you live on your property, remember that fires are a natural part of Idaho forest ecology. Forest homeowners should prepare for fire the same way people in Oklahoma should prepare for tornadoes. For more information, see Protecting and Landscaping Homes in the Wildland/Urban Interface (UI Bull 67).

University of Idaho Extension offers many educational opportunities for new forest owners.
CALDWELL — The size of Idaho’s 2018 wine grape crop should be markedly bigger than the 2017 crop, according to vintners and vineyard owners.

“We’re not across the line yet but it’s looking good so far and this year certainly should be better than 2017,” said Dale Jef-fers, manager of Skyline Vineyards, which harvested only a small portion of its normal wine grape crop last year.

The state’s 2017 wine grape crop was significantly impacted by a severe January cold snap that reduced tonnage by more than 90 percent in some vineyards.

“Last year the crop was zero in some places and anything is better than zero,” he said. “For both wine and table grapes, we are expecting a better crop this year.”

Winemaker and vineyard owner Ron Bitner, who only harvested about 50 percent of his normal crop last year, is pruning right now and said that so far, his vines look good and he’s expecting a far different result in 2018.

“Last year the crop was zero in some places and anything is better than zero,” he said. “The plant wood I’ve been looking at is all the right color.”

Winemaker Martin Fujishin said he would take even an average year over last year.

“The way it looks now, barring any major weather disasters, 2018 will be a lot better year,” he said. “This year looks like it’s going to be a pretty good year overall, so far.”

The damage caused by last year’s January cold snap was extreme, for both wine and table grapes, said University of Idaho researcher Essie Fallahi, who manages UI’s fruit program in Parma.

He agreed with Williamson that it won’t be difficult to improve on last year’s tonnage.

“The way it looks now, barring any major weather disasters, 2018 will be a lot better year,” he said. “This year looks like it’s going to be a pretty good year overall, so far.”

The production will be there but it will not be as high as a normal year,” he said of those vines that were cut.
United Dairymen of Idaho becomes Dairy West

By Sean Ellis
Idaho Farm Bureau Federation

BOISE — The potential market reach of Idaho’s dairy industry has been greatly expanded with the formation of Dairy West.

Dairy West, created last year, is a non-profit organization that will continue the work of United Dairymen of Idaho, which promotes and markets the state’s dairy industry and represents its 490 family owned dairy operations.

The group is funded through a producer assessment equal to 15 cents per every hundred pounds of milk produced.

UDI became a partner of Dairy West one year ago and on April 9, the Dairy Council of Utah/Nevada also became a partner. This will allow Dairy West the ability to tap into the Utah market, which has 3.1 million people, and segments of the Nevada market.

Idaho’s dairy industry has plenty of funding to work with “but we don’t have the population base to work with,” said Gooding dairyman Steve Ballard, vice-chairman of Dairy West’s board and chairman of Idaho Farm Bureau Federation’s dairy committee. “Dairy West gives us the opportunity to invest some money where the population is in the West. It gives us access to more population centers.”

UDI is a quasi-state agency and didn’t have the flexibility to partner with other entities outside Idaho, said Dairy West CEO Karianne Fallow.

“Dairy West gives us a lot more flexibility to be able to work outside the borders of Idaho,” she said.

For now, Dairy West and UDI are being co-branded as the same entity to give consumers time to realize that the same programs and promotion work UDI conducted will continue, just under the Dairy West umbrella, Fallow said.

“This affords us new opportunities. The potential is huge,” Fallow said. “Farmers, consumers, schools, teachers will continue to see the same great quality programs that UDI has always had, we just now have the opportunity to employ those in a wider geography.”

The Dairy Council of Utah/Nevada will also be co-branded with Dairy West.

Idaho milk flows across borders every day “and following that milk to market and making sure there is demand and consumption happening was a huge motivating factor in forming Dairy West,” Fallow said.

She said increasing regional demand for milk has the potential to have a positive economic impact for dairy operations, which is no small thing for Idaho agriculture and the state’s economy.

Revenue from Idaho milk sales accounts for about 30 percent of the state’s total farm-gate revenue.

According to a University of Idaho study, the state’s dairy industry directly and indirectly is responsible for about $10 billion in economic output, 39,000 jobs and $160 million in state and local taxes.

Brubaker said there is still some confusion among consumers about what Dairy West is but that’s quickly becoming less of a challenge.

“I don’t get near as many questions as I used to,” he said. “I think we’re getting the message out pretty good.”

Idaho’s dairy industry, on the other hand, has known about the plans to form Dairy West for several years.

Fallow said a lot of outreach and conversations were held with dairy operators, processors and other stakeholders before the group was launched.

“This effort has been a long time in the making,” she said. “I believe we did a pretty good job at keeping our stakeholders informed.”

Brubaker said a lot of what he calls “kitchen table conversations” were held with dairymen while the concept was being discussed.

“From processors to dairymen, we had overwhelming support for it,” he said.
Art Winners 2019

The Art Design Contest began in 2000 in an effort to promote the arts and further the understanding of agriculture in our lives. Targeted at grades 6-8, only original designs are accepted.

1st Sheridyn Sharp - Rexburg, ID

2nd McCoy Weekes - Rexburg, ID

3rd Lacey Bullock - McCammon, ID
Poster Contest Winners

1st Titan Harrison - Blackfoot, ID

2nd Reese Baldwin - Blackfoot, ID

3rd Lila Cude - Ashton, ID
Color Contest Winners

Kindergarten & 1st Grade

1st Josephine Kohtz - Twin Falls, ID
2nd Kashton Hutchings - Blackfoot, ID
3rd Daphne R - Rexburg, ID

2nd & 3rd Grade

1st Lucy Long - Rigby, ID
2nd Serena Flaig - Sugar City, ID
3rd Mauriana Saiz - Chubbuck, ID
WORD SEARCH: TRUFFLES

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By Origin/Season
Winter
Burgundy
Summer
Italian Truffles
French
Mid-Eastern

Gourmet edibles
Oregon Brown
Oregon Black
French Black
Italian White
Tuscan
Pecan
Chinese
Desert

Texture
Firm
Brittle
Squishy
Spongy
Cartilaginous

ANSWERS ON PAGE 29
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Terms in months. Yield assumes that interest is compounded quarterly and is left in the account for a full year. Call for rates on amounts over $100,000.00.

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INSURANCE MATTERS

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Unlike some insurance companies that sell generalized insurance products to everyone and market themselves solely on the basis of low prices and quick quotes, Farm Bureau Mutual Insurance Company of Idaho agents build a customized plan for you.

Farm Bureau’s holistic approach to insurance – called the “Your World” Risk Management Concept – helps our agents more easily identify risks and solutions for you by getting to know you and your world. The “Your World” approach can be summarized with the phrase, “You tell me what you’d like to protect, and we’ll go from there.” This simple sentence helps Farm Bureau agents identify new areas where you may need protection. “Your World” is also a truly long-term insurance strategy that ensures you’ll have consistent and uniform coverage that will cost less over the long haul.

One key element of Farm Bureau’s “Your World” approach is the “Your World” risk chart that our agents review with you. The underlying questions elicited by the chart are, “Is my world okay? Do I have protection if any of the things listed on the chart happen?” The chart is simple, easy to understand, and reveals what the world of risk looks like to you specifically. This holistic approach focuses on the protection your insurance portfolio provides and the problems it solves for you.

“Whenever we hear potential customers say they feel they’re over-insured,” says Ron Leavitt, vice president of sales and marketing, “the odds are good that they haven’t used the holistic insurance method that Farm Bureau Insurance’s ‘Your World’ approach provides.”

If your Farm Bureau agent hasn’t already reviewed your coverage with you using the “Your World” approach, give them a call today. It’s free, and you’ll have the peace of mind that comes with knowing your world is protected.

FORESTRY

Continued from page 19

http://www.extension.uidaho.edu/publishing/pdf/SB/SB67.pdf. We also have an excellent publication designed to help family forest owners reduce fire risk on the entire forest as well, titled Reducing Fire Risk on Your Property (PNW 618) and available at https://catalog.extension.oregonstate.edu/pnw618.

Many of these tasks are easier to accomplish with professional help. Limited on-site professional forestry technical assistance is available through the Idaho Department of Lands and some Natural Resources Conservation Service offices, but the most complete assistance is through a professional consulting forester. For more information on the range of forestry assistance available and a directory of Idaho consulting foresters, we have a new UI Extension publication, titled Working with a Professional Forester (CIS 1226) available at http://www.extension.uidaho.edu/publishing/pdf/CIS/CIS1226.pdf. A consulting forester is especially helpful if you are considering a timber harvest for the property, where they can be the landowners’ legal representative in working with the mills and with loggers.

Forest ownership and stewardship is a rewarding and meaningful endeavor. Taking these first steps will help ensure that new forest owners are well on their way to effectively managing their forestland to meet their goals.

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

There are **3.2 MILLION** U.S. farm operators who work on **2.1 MILLION** farms. They run the farm, making decisions about planning, harvesting, feeding, marketing and so on. Operators may be owners, members of the owner’s household, a hired manager, a tenant, a renter or a sharecropper. The average age of principal farm operators has been steadily increasing over the past three decades and is now 58.

The number of farm operators of **SPANISH, HISPANIC or LATINO** origin is **HIGHER** than ever, **UP 21 PERCENT** to 99,734. There also are **MORE AFRICAN AMERICAN** (44,629, up 12 percent) and **AMERICAN INDIAN** (58,475, up 5 percent) farm operators.

**WOMEN** make up 30 percent (969,672) of the total number of farm operators.

The **MILLENNIAL GENERATION** (people age 34 and under) includes 257,454 farmers.

More than 20 percent of all farmers are **BEGINNING FARMERS** (in business less than 10 years).

**TEXAS** has the **MOST FARMS** (248,809), followed by Missouri (99,171), Iowa (88,637), Oklahoma (80,245) and California (77,857).

Total land in farms was estimated at 915 million acres in 2012, a decrease of 1 million acres since 2007.

Farms are getting **BIGGER**. The average farm size was 434 acres in 2012, compared to 418 acres in 2007.

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Sources: Census of Agriculture (2012); USDA–ERS
Sometimes, sampling for nitrates is difficult and a “push only” machine can’t get the job done. For those times, the 9110 Ag-Probe and Ag-Probe TR come in handy. They are designed for use in agricultural and environmental sampling. These models can be mounted on a variety of tractors and UTV vehicles that meet our standard weight requirements. The 9110 Ag-Probe TR is powered by the Power Take Off (PTO) from the tractor. While the standard Ag-Probe model is powered by a self-contained 13 HP Honda gas engine with electric start. They’re both designed for year round sampling in all soil conditions, and can reach depths of 12 to 36 inches and beyond.

We also offer hand sampling equipment!
Call us to discuss your needs at 208-226-2017 | 800-635-7330 or visit us online at www.ams-samplers.com.

For over seventy-five years, AMS has been equipping the world to sample the earth.
800.635.7330 | 208.226.2017 | ams@ams-samplers.com | www.ams-samplers.com
Farm Bureau women from across Idaho met together at the Best Western Convention Center in Moscow, Idaho, March 16-17 to attend the annual Idaho Farm Bureau Women’s Leadership Conference. The conference is structured to provide training and information for women in agriculture to become strong leaders in their communities as they advocate for agriculture through education, community service and policy development.

The conference kicked off with an early morning tour at the University of Idaho that included group meetings with researchers who provided information and visual demonstrations about several agricultural research projects, including certified seed potatoes, horticulture, dairy and genetically modified organisms. The ladies were each given the opportunity to work up a DNA sample in a small test tube and an overview of how the process is completed from beginning to end.

A highlight of the conference on March 16 was guest speaker Bruce Vincent, who is a third-generation logger from Libby, Mont. His inspiring talk provided humorous and statistical information about environmental issues and other concerns confronting the logging industry and the experiences of his family through the years.

The conference included hands-on workshops for attendees as they learned to promote “Farming on the Patio,” gained knowledge of the “New Addiction” (pornography) gripping the population and efforts to fight the damaging impact to families and individuals.

A workshop of information was presented about policy development processes and there was a visual vehicle tour workshop of Idaho reflecting agriculture products in every area of the state on a board designed and presented by District 2. Ending the conference was leadership training activities for team building led by Chairman Judy Woody and Vice Chair Allis Chandler.

Attendees battled a spring snow storm as they returned to their homes following the conference, empowered, excited and ready to return to their communities with new information to further the promotion of agriculture throughout the state.
Idaho FFA Elects New State Leadership

Idaho FFA wrapped up the 87th Annual State FFA Leadership conference in Twin Falls on April 7 with the announcement of the 2018-19 State FFA Officer Team.

The new officers began their training in April and will spend the next year serving Idaho’s 5,000 FFA members, promoting the FFA Organization and advocating for Idaho agriculture.

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

2018-19 Idaho State FFA Officer Team

(Pictured from left) Harrison Jansen van Beek, State Vice President, Middleton FFA; Caleb Johnston, State Sentinel, New Plymouth FFA; Savannah Stroebel, State Reporter, Kuna FFA; Allyson King, State Secretary, Filer FFA; Saydee Longhurst, State President, Shelley FFA; and Melanie Searle, State Treasurer, Burley FFA.

Idaho Farm Bureau proudly sponsors the Idaho FFA Extemporaneous Public Speaking Career Development Event

The Extemporaneous Public Speaking Career Development Event challenges FFA members to prepare and deliver a factual speech on a specific agricultural issue in a logical manner – in a short amount of time. Participants draw a topic and have 30 minutes to prepare their four to six minute speeches. A panel of judges uses an additional five minutes to question the speaker on their assigned topic. Through this event, students develop a broad knowledge of current agricultural issues, as well as polish logical reasoning and effective communication skills that will allow them to excel in the classroom and beyond.

Zachary Boyd, Rigby FFA, placed first in the 2018 state event held during the State FFA Leadership Conference in Twin Falls in April. He will represent Idaho at the National FFA Convention in October. Kaitlin Mirkin, Jerome FFA placed second; Sara Trees, Genesee FFA was 3rd; and Katie Hettinga, Kuna FFA was fourth.
Idaho Farm Bureau announces support for legislative candidates

Idaho Farm Bureau Federation has a Political Action Committee named Agra-PAC. The purpose of the PAC is to financially support state legislative candidates who are philosophically aligned with Farm Bureau policies and help them win their election.

Individual Farm Bureau members and county Farm Bureaus contribute to the PAC and County Farm Bureau evaluation committees recommend which candidates the PAC should support.

The legislative candidates that Agra-PAC has financially supported for the 2018 primary are:

| District 1 (Boundary, Bonner counties) | House Seat A | Heather Scott | Blanchard |
| District 2 (Kootenai County) | House Seat A | Vito Barbieri | Dalton Gardens |
| District 3 (Kootenai County) | House Seat B | Kathy Sims | Coeur d'Alene |
| District 4 (Kootenai County) | Senate | Mary Souza | Coeur d'Alene |
| District 5 (Benoewah and Latah counties) | House Seat B | Paul Amador | Coeur d'Alene |
| District 7 (Bonner, Clearwater, Idaho, Shoshone) | House Seat A | Dan Foreman | Moscow |
| District 8 (Boise, Custer, Gem, Lemhi, Valley) | Senate | Hari Heath | Santa |
| District 11 (Canyon County) | House Seat A | Shannon McMillan | Silverton |
| District 13 (Canyon County) | House Seat B | Paul Shepherd | Riggins |
| District 15 (Ada County) | Senate | Patti Anne Lodge | Emmett |
| District 20 (Ada County) | Senate | Scott Syme | Huntsville |
| District 12 (Ada County) | Senate | Gary Collins | Caldwell |
| District 18 (Boise, Custer, Gem, Lemhi, Valley) | Senate | Fred S. Martin | Nampa |
| District 20 ( Ada County) | Senate | Chuck Winder | Boise |
| District 22 ( Ada County) | Senate | Jason Monks | Nampa |
| District 23 (Owyhee, Elmore, Twin Falls) | House Seat B | Christy Zito | Emmett |
| District 24 (Twin Falls County) | Senate | Lee Heider | Twin Falls |
| District 25 (Twin Falls and Jerome counties) | House Seat B | Linda Hartgen | Twin Falls |
| District 28 (Bannock and Power counties) | Senate | Jim Patrick | Twin Falls |
| District 30 (Bonneville County) | House Seat A | Laurie Lickley | Jerome |
| District 31 (Bingham County) | House Seat B | Clark Kauffman | Filer |
| District 32 (Caribou, Franklin, Bear Lake) | Senate | Jim Guthrie | Inkom |
| Springs | House Seat B | Wendy Hornman | Idaho Falls |
| District 34 (Bonneville and Madison counties) | House Seat B | Julie VanOrden | Pingree |
| District 35 (Butte, Clark, Jefferson, Fremont) | Senate | Mark Harris | Soda |
| | House Seat A | Tom Loertscher | Iona |
| | House Seat B | Ronald Nade | Rexburg |
| | Senate | Britt Raybould | Rexburg |
| | House Seat B | Van Burtenshaw | Terreton |
| | House Seat A | Jerald Raymond | Menan |
| | House Seat B | Karey Hanks | St. Anthony |

We encourage you to support the candidates listed in red at the polls in the primary election on May 15. Agra-PAC believes they are the candidates most likely to support agriculture and Farm Bureau policies.
Idaho Farm Bureau ‘Friend of Agriculture’ recipients

Every two years, Idaho Farm Bureau Federation reviews the votes on selected bills that are important to our membership to determine which legislators will receive the prestigious IFBF “Friend of Agriculture” award. This year, 14 senators and 44 representatives received the coveted award for voting with Farm Bureau more than 94 percent of the time.

A total of 19 bills were used for our legislative scorecard during the 2017 and 2018 sessions. Bill subjects included property rights, taxes, stock water, dyed fuel, depredation, produce safety, crop residue burning and other important issues.

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

Please show your support for these “Friends of Agriculture” as you vote May 15 in the primary election.

Full voting record results of all legislators are available on our website at idahofb.org under the “Legislative” button.

Legislators denoted by **name in red** are retiring from office this year.
District 12 (Canyon County)

House Seat A —
Robert Anderst, Nampa

House Seat B —
Rick Youngblood, Nampa

District 13 (Canyon County)

Senate —
Jeff Agenbroad, Nampa

House Seat A —
Brent Crane, Nampa

House Seat B —
Gary Collins, Nampa

District 14 (Ada County)

House Seat A —
Mike Moyle, Star

District 15 (Ada County)

House Seat A —
Joe Palmer, Meridian

House Seat B —
James Holtzclaw, Meridian

District 20 (Ada County)

House Seat A —
Tom Loertscher, Iona

District 21 (Ada County)

Senate —
Clifford R. Bayer, Meridian

House Seat A —
Thomas E. Dayley, Boise

District 22 (Ada County)

House Seat B —
Gary Collins, Nampa

District 23 (Owyhee, Elmore, Twin Falls counties)

House Seat A —
Christy Zito, Hammett

House Seat B —
Megan Blanksma, Hammett

District 24 (Blaine, Camas, Gooding, Lincoln Counties)

House Seat A —
Jeff D. Thompson, Idaho Falls

House Seat B —
Wendy Horn, Idaho Falls

District 25 (Binghown and Power counties)

Senate —
Steve Miller, Fairfield

House Seat A —
Scott Bedke, Oakley

District 26 (Bannock and Madison counties)

House Seat A —
Neil A. Anderson, Blackfoot

House Seat B —
Julie VanOrden, Pingree

District 27 (Minidoka and Cassia counties)

District 28 (Bannock and Power counties)

Senate —
Jim Guthrie, Inkom

District 29 (Caribou, Franklin, Bear Lake counties)

House Seat B —
Van Burtenshaw, Terreton

District 30 (Bonneville County)

House Seat A —
Karey Hanks, St. Anthony

House Seat B —
**Kelley Packer, McCammon**

District 31 (Bingham County)

Senate —
Bryan Zollinger, Idaho Falls

House Seat A —
Barbara Ehardt, Idaho Falls

District 32 (Bonneville and Madison counties)

House Seat A —
Ronald M. Nate, Rexburg

District 33 (Bonneville County)

Senate —
Tony Potts, Idaho Falls

House Seat A —
Tom Loertscher, Iona

District 34 (Bonneville and Madison counties)

House Seat A —
Van Burtenshaw, Terreton

District 35 (Butte, Clark, Jefferson, Fremont counties)
Boise – Idaho led the nation in earnings growth last year and, partly as a result, Idaho’s farmers and ranchers are having a harder time finding workers.

Producers say the state’s farm labor market has been tightening for several years but the increased wage growth is exacerbating the situation.

According to the U.S. Department of Commerce, the average earnings for workers in Idaho increased 5.3 percent in 2017, the fastest clip in the nation and well ahead of the average national increase of 3.1 percent.

According to the Idaho Department of Labor, the state’s unemployment rate was 3 percent in February, well below the national rate of 4.1 percent.

The low unemployment rate and higher earnings are making it harder for farmers and ranchers to find workers and they’re also having to pay their current employees more to keep them.

“We’re paying well above minimum wage and it’s still hard to attract qualified skilled workers,” said Michael Williamson, manager of Williamson Orchards and Vineyards in Caldwell. “The labor situation is pretty tight and it’s not getting better.”

According to the IDL, the average wage in Idaho for people involved in agriculture was $34,938 last year. That’s well below the average wage of $40,561 for all industries and $42,297 for the construction industry.

In the Treasure Valley of southwestern Idaho, where the construction industry is booming, farmers face a tough time attracting workers who can often make more money in that industry, said Ron Bitner, who owns a vineyard and winery in Caldwell.

The average wage for construction workers in southwestern Idaho in 2017 was $44,356 while people working in the agricultural sector had an average wage of $33,197.

“It’s been harder to find experienced workers. They’re all off in construction,” Bitner said.

The labor shortage in that area is causing wage wars for general laborers such as pipe movers, said Meridian farmer Richard Durrant.

He said he’s having to start people off at $2 an hour more.

“It’s getting tighter and tighter,” Durrant said.

As workers become harder to find, more Idaho farming operations are turning to the federal H-2A guest worker program, which allows foreign workers to work in the United States for up to 10 months.

“My phone is ringing all the time from people who want to do H-2A,” said Jennifer Urauga, who owns and manages Mountain West Ag Consulting, which specializes in the H-2A program.

See FARM LABOR p. 39
Groundwork for the Farm Bill

By Sen. Mike Crapo

A quote from our nation’s first president, George Washington, about the central role of agricultural production is inscribed on the exterior of the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s main building in Washington, D.C.: “With reference either to individual or national welfare agriculture is of primary importance.”

This importance is deeply felt in Idaho communities, where farms and ranches put food on our tables and support jobs. The need for timely reauthorization of the next Farm Bill is a message heard clearly in my travels around Idaho and meetings with food producers. I thank Idahoans for input on this important legislation and encourage you to continue to share your views as Farm Bill reauthorization discussions take shape.

The Idaho State Department of Agriculture reports that approximately 25,000 farms and ranches produce more than 185 different agricultural commodities in Idaho. These producers are responsible for Idaho leading or being ranked among the top states in the production of alfalfa hay, barley, beans, cheese, hops, lentils, mint, onions, peas, potatoes, sugar beets, trout, wheat and other commodities, and livestock outnumber people in Idaho.

Idahoans produce far more than can be consumed within the state and are feeding the world — selling nearly $2 billion of Idaho’s produce, grains, meats, dairy and seeds worldwide, according to the ISDA.

Idaho agriculture is influenced by a variety of factors, including federal policies and programs. Throughout my time in Congress, I have greatly valued opportunities to work with Idahoans to help shape past Farm Bills to try to ensure that federal farm policy best empowers Idaho production. The current Farm Bill expires September 2018, and reauthorization discussions are underway in Congress.

It is important to also remember that the Farm Bill affects a wide swath of federal policy far beyond traditional agricultural commodity programs. Federal nutrition, conservation, rural development, energy, world market access, forestry, specialty crop, organics and many other programs are part of the Farm Bill. For example, incentives, rather than mandates, provided through Farm Bill conservation programs, are the best way to achieve environmental results on private land and contribute more to enhancing our environment than any other federal policy.

Provisions in the last Farm Bill, the 2014 Farm Bill, reshaped the structure of farm commodity support, expanded crop insurance coverage, consolidated conservation programs, reauthorized and revised nutrition assistance, and more. As for many past Farm Bills, the budget is a major consideration for the next Farm Bill debate. Updated Congressional Budget Office estimates indicate that the 2014 Farm Bill is expected to cost less than projected when it was enacted. This means the new budget baseline for the next Farm Bill will provide lawmakers with less spending authority to work with than the 2014 bill, which will present some challenges. My priority for the next Farm Bill is to ensure that Idaho producers’ concerns and priorities are addressed during the reauthorization process.

Important in this effort is the understanding that the agriculture economy has had its fair share of challenges the past few years, characterized by low commodity prices and decreased farm revenues. Additionally, food demands are increasing with rising world populations. We are asking farmers and ranchers to meet these demands, while pressures on land, water and other requirements are also increasing.

The next Farm Bill must continue to make wise use of taxpayer dollars, but also provide an appropriate safety net and risk management tools to allow our nation’s farmers and ranchers to weather difficult times. I encourage those interested in these issues to contact me with your views as Congress considers this legislation that affects so much of America.

This column was submitted by U.S. Sen. Mike Crapo, R-Idaho.
11 enviro-facts about farmers and ranchers

By Cyndie Shearing

On Earth Day (April 22) and throughout the year, farmers and ranchers are dedicated to an important mission — feeding Americans so we don’t have to depend on other nations for our most basic need. Check out 11 enviro-facts about how farmers produce a bounty of food for consumers below.

• Farmers drink the same water and breathe the same air as their neighbors, which is why they are committed to protecting and sustaining the environment for their families, their communities and for future generations. Farmers respect, support and abide by strict environmental standards on their farms.

• Farms today produce more food with fewer resources than ever before. While farm and ranch productivity has increased dramatically since 1950, the use of resources (labor, seeds, feed, fertilizer, etc.) required for production has declined markedly.

• Protecting the land is in the economic interest of farmers and ranchers, as well as society overall. America’s farmers and ranchers take their commitment to land stewardship very seriously.

• GPS-based mapping, auto-steer guidance systems and variable-rate technology for applying crop inputs such as pesticides and fertilizer are used by farmers to increase yields, lower costs and reduce chemical use, which benefits the environment.

• With the world population expected to grow to 9.7 billion by 2050, precision agriculture will play a role in helping farmers reduce inputs while increasing productivity to meet the growing demand for food.

• Through modern conservation and tillage practices, farmers and ranchers are reducing the loss of soil through erosion, which protects lakes and rivers. Careful stewardship by America’s food producers has spurred a nearly 50-percent decline in soil erosion on cropland since 1982.

• Advanced conservation practices are used on more than 50 percent of cropland acres.

• A whopping 282 million gallons of diesel fuel are saved annually by farmers who practice continuous no-till crop farming.

• With modern agriculture practices, one acre of land (about the size of a football field) in the U.S. can produce 50,000 pounds of strawberries or 2,784 pounds of wheat or 821 pounds of cotton.

• Rice farms provide $3.5 billion in value in ecological services as wetlands.

• Farmers are producing more milk from dairy cows with fewer resources. The pounds of feed (grain, forage, etc.) a cow needs to consume to produce 100 pounds of milk has decreased by more than 40 percent on average in the last 30 years.

Cyndie Shearing is director of internal communications at American Farm Bureau Federation.
Higher retail prices for several foods including eggs, orange juice, meat products, bagged salad, shredded cheddar and vegetable oil resulted in a slight increase in the American Farm Bureau Federation’s Spring Picnic Marketbasket Survey.

The informal survey showed the total cost of 16 food items that can be used to prepare one or more meals was $51.05, up $1.02 or 2 percent compared to a year ago.

Of the 16 items surveyed, nine increased and seven decreased in average price.

“Most of the increase in the marketbasket was due to higher retail egg prices. Easter eggs are going to be a bit more expensive—37 percent higher than a year ago,” said John Newton, AFBF’s director of market intelligence. “U.S. egg exports were up nearly 50 percent in 2017 while egg production remained flat.”

A bird flu outbreak in South Korea contributed to the increase in U.S. export volumes.

“A surge in egg exports combined with relatively flat production led to the strong rise in retail egg prices,” Newton said.

“Orange juice was another significant driver for the increase in the basket, up 24 cents or 7.5 percent. A devastating hurricane late last year that came through parts of Florida, where most orange juice comes from, led to growers harvesting the smallest crop in 70 years,” he added.

Several foods showed modest retail price decreases from a year ago: whole milk, white bread, chicken breasts, toasted oat cereal, apples, potatoes and flour.

Milk decreased in price by 6 percent (20 cents per gallon) due to continued record production volumes in the United States and a very competitive beverage case.

Price checks of alternative milk and egg choices not included in the overall marketbasket survey average revealed the following: half-gallon whole regular milk, $2.04; half-gallon organic milk, $4.24; and one dozen “cage-free” eggs, $3.53.

The year-to-year direction of the marketbasket survey tracks closely with the federal government’s Consumer Price Index (http://www.bls.gov/news.release/cpi.nr0.htm) report for food at home. As retail grocery prices have increased gradually over time, the share of the average food dollar that America’s farm and ranch families receive has dropped.

“Through the mid-1970s, farmers received about one-third of consumer retail food expenditures for food eaten at home and away from home, on average. Since then, that figure has decreased steadily and is now about 14.8 percent, according to the Agriculture Department’s revised Food Dollar Series,” Newton said.

AFBF, the nation’s largest general farm organization, began conducting informal marketbasket surveys of retail food price trends in 1989. The current series includes a spring picnic survey, summer cookout survey, fall harvest survey and Thanksgiving dinner cost survey. A total of 93 shoppers in 23 states participated in the latest AFBF survey, conducted in March 2018.

According to USDA, Americans spend just under 10 percent of their disposable annual income on food, the lowest average of any country in the world.
FARM LABOR
Continued from page 35

She said she is working with 12 new growers in Idaho this year who didn’t use the H-2A program last year.

Nationwide, H-2A applications during the first quarter of this year were up 15 percent over the same period last year, Uranga said. While the Idaho numbers aren’t available for the first quarter, it’s a safe bet they were up substantially, she added.

The shortage of farm laborers “is a growing problem and it’s going to continue to be a problem,” Uranga said.

Some farmers, such as Durrant, said they can’t make the H-2A program pencil out financially for their operation.

Williamson said he is seriously considering the H-2A program but his and other fruit operations are also moving to new cropping systems that will allow them to use automation when the technology is available at a workable price.

That includes adjusting the size and shape of trees and vineyards “so that they can be adapted to the use of automation pretty quickly when the technology gets there at a price that makes sense,” he said.

The farm labor shortage is acute for Idaho’s 470 dairy operations, said Rick Naerebout, director of operations for the Idaho Dairymen’s Association.

“Most of our dairies are running on crews that are short of workers,” he said.

Naerebout said the industry classifies the labor shortage as a crisis.

“It is our No. 1 issue right now,” he said.

While automation, such as the use of robotic milking machines, is a solution for some dairies, “It’s certainly not the answer for the entire industry” because it’s capital intensive, Naerebout said.

The main solution, he said, would be having Congress pass common-sense immigration reform.
TRESPASS
Continued from page 16

willfully trespass on someone else’s land.

During public testimony on House Bill 658, farmers, ranchers and other property owners made it a point of telling lawmakers that they and most other landowners are quick to grant permission for hunters, anglers and other outdoorsmen to recreate on their land if they ask first.

Rather than eliminating posting requirements, as some opponents claimed, the legislation actually adds additional posting requirements.

It requires posting unfenced, uncultivated land at property corners and where the property line intersects navigable streams, roads, gates and rights-of-way. The property must also be posted so that a reasonable person would know they are entering private land. This posting requirement is a higher standard than under current law.

House Bill 658 closes a loophole in previous law that could allow a trespasser to hang around in a property owner’s backyard – for example, while they are on vacation – until actually told to leave. In what free society is this acceptable?

The legislation was supported by a 34-group coalition that includes all of the state’s main farming groups as well as utilities, mining, business, industry, retailer, forestry and recreation organizations.

In Idaho, private property owners and outdoorsmen have long enjoyed a great relationship and the trouble caused by trespassers is limited to a very few people with woeful disregard for landowners’ fundamental property rights.

By clarifying the state’s trespassing laws and providing some teeth to deter trespassing, House Bill 658 should only serve to improve the relationship between landowners and outdoorsmen.

For more information on the legislation, visit the Farm Bureau website at www.idahofb.org.

Photo by Steve Ritter
ter’s extremely abundant snowpack levels, which are still providing ample water to fill reservoirs, increase stream flows and perform recharge, Hipke said.

“We have a lot of water. Obviously, that was a big help,” he said.

He said the program won’t be able to recharge close to 500,000 acre-feet every year and during a dry year, the most that can be recharged into the ESPA is about 150,000 acre-feet.

“We are not always going to be able to do 500,000 acre-feet,” he said. “It’s great when we can, but in these wet years, we need to capture as much as we possibly can to make up for those really dry years. When it’s available, we need to move as much as we can.”

The significant amount of recharge accomplished the past two seasons is proof that the millions of dollars the state has invested in recent years in improving and expanding the infrastructure needed to perform recharge is paying off, said Brian Patton, planning bureau chief for the IWRB.

The recharge program began to significantly increase its capacity after 2014 when Idaho lawmakers began providing a significant amount of money to expand infrastructure, he said.

“It’s really exciting to see what we can do now compared to what we could do before,” Patton said. “I think this is a great investment on the part of the state of Idaho.”

Chase said the enhanced ability to recharge water into the aquifer has been a cooperative effort between the water board, legislature, governor, the canal and irrigation companies that make their ditches available to perform the recharge, and the taxpayers, who provided the money to improve the program’s infrastructure.

“I think it’s important to recognize the effort that the entire state of Idaho has made to make this work,” he said. “Our program is a success because everybody in the state understood the importance of recharge and found a way to do it.”
Animals


Farm Equipment

Deutz 6 cylinder air-cooled diesel, 130 hp w/snap clutch and Murphy witches. $2,000. Emmett, id. 208-365-8194.


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Miscellaneous

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Looking for a good treadmill. Also selling 1997 Cadillac, good condition. Moreland, Id. Leave message. 208-242-7716.

Student model cello with bow and nice soft cover case. Excellent condition. $3500. Nampa, Id. Call for details (208) 466-2242.


Miscellaneous

Wood Shop tool reduction - JDS dust vacuum $1000 1.5 hp $325, Ridgid 10” radial arm saw $150, Jet air cleaner AES-1000B 3-speed air filtration system $275, All in good condition. Hagerman, Id. 208-731-3544.


WoodMaster outdoor wood furnace/stove for sale. Use to heat a home, hot water, and out buildings. Perfect for central air, radiant heat, or as a stand-alone. Goes well with new construction. Horseshoe Bend, Id. Call John 208-781-0691.


Real Estate/Acreage

12 acres - 10 miles north of Priest River Id. Approx. 1200 sq ft house. 2-3 bedroom, 2 bath, new roof, paint, 2 wells, 3 car garage, RV garage, outbuildings, fenced garden, greenhouse, $245,000. Call Gary 208-826-3132.


81 acres in Cache Valley, two artisan flowing wells, 3 miles from Logan City and Utah State University. Connects to the Logan-Cache Airport and is 40 miles from Spectacular Bear Lake and the Beaver Ski Resort. Call 208-785-6888 or 435-563-5969.

Services

Pond stocking, Opaline Aqua Farm, selling bass, bluegill, grasscarp, trout and koi. fishguy@opalineaquafarm.com or call Rich 208-495-2654.

A new venue for our VALLEY BLUEGRASS FESTIVAL. This is our 5th year and we are moving the Festival up to Orofino ID. May 31 thru June 3. Six (6) great bands. Details at: LewisClarkBluegrass.org $10 Fri & $10 Sat or $15 for the weekend!

Class I FDA approved medical device. Recently made available in USA. Researched and developed in Europe. Treats broad range of ailments in home, use up to 4 times daily, five International patents, 30 day guarantee. Call for website. 208-407-2406.

Trailers


1974 Freehauff 40 ft flatbed trailer, good deck. $5,500. Weiser, Id. 208-550-2440.

Hale 5th wheel trailer. 25ft long. 25,000 K Witham 8ft over deck. Tandem duals, heavy duty. Good hay trailer. $4,800 obo if no answer call back. Rexburg, Id. 208-351-2968.

Vehicles

35 ft Georgie Boy Motorhome, 40,000 miles, great condition, everything works. 5 kw generator, gas and electric refrigerator, central air and gas heat, queen bed, sleeps 6, 454 Chevrolet engine. Clean title. $15,000 in American Falls, Id. 208-406-4540.

Wanted

Want small acres north of I-80 in Nevada. No subdivision or gated parcels. 208-358-7475.

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

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.

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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Farm Bureau Members Pay Less

www.idahofbstore.com
208-239-4279

Lagoon

General Admission Regular Price - $62.95 w/ tax
Farm Bureau Price
$45.50 Includes Sales Tax
Purchase at select Farm Bureau offices.

Roaring Springs

Regular Adult $33.91 tax included
Farm Bureau Price
$26.50

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

Wahooz

Regular Adult $43.99
Farm Bureau Online Discount Price
$36.99
Child/ (Under 60") $36.99
Farm Bureau Online Discount Price
$31.49

Silverwood

Save $5
Ages (8 - 64)
Save $3
Ages (3-7)

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