

# Idaho Farm Bureau. Quarterly

Fall Issue • Volume 22 Issue 4

## 40,000 Visitors A Year



**Election  
Information  
Inside**

**Farm  
Safety  
Booklet, 30**

**Idaho Farmers  
Markets  
Rebound, 32**

## Ten companies bringing new innovations to farms and ranches



**T**echnology is constantly changing. It helps us accomplish more tasks, use fewer resources, and increase efficiency on the farm.

Innovations start with hardworking people who put everything they have into turning their ideas into solutions.

At Farm Bureau, we recognize how these great ideas can help farmers and ranchers become more successful and help grow our rural communities. That's why we, along with Farm Credit, started the Ag Innovation Challenge in 2015.

Since then, we've awarded over \$1.2 million in startup funds, and we just awarded another \$100,000 to kick off the 2023 Ag Innovation Challenge.

We recently announced the top 10 teams from across the country who will continue moving forward in the Challenge, each receiving a \$10,000 prize.

If these businesses are successful, their innovations will help farmers and ranchers meet the demands of the world's growing population, care

See **DUVALL**, page 6

## The President's Desk

By Bryan Searle

President Idaho Farm Bureau Federation

### The importance of voting



**I**n a representative form of government, like the one our forefathers chose for this great nation, it is critical that we have our voices heard.

One of the main ways to do that is to vote.

This entire column and most of this magazine is dedicated to encouraging every eligible resident of Idaho to vote in the Nov. 8 general election.

In the United States of America, voting is a fundamental right and so important that it borders on being a responsibility.

No matter what side of the political spectrum you fall on, it's important to exercise your right to

vote.

To paraphrase a political analyst, elections are determined by those who show up to vote. A low voter turnout means important decisions that affect all of our lives are determined by a limited number of people.

Elected officials, at the city, county, state and national level, hold a lot of power because they enact laws that impact virtually every part of our lives.

Because they wield such power to make decisions that affect our livelihoods, it is important

See **SEARLE**, page 7

## Inside Farm Bureau

By Zak Miller

CEO Idaho Farm Bureau Federation

### October



**O**ctober is a particular month in Idaho; the weather can be incredibly wonderful (think of those warm October afternoons), or equally vicious. Heatstroke can happen on Monday and hypothermia on Tuesday.

There is something about October's weather that makes fall sports especially riveting. Fans and players alike can bask in the sun watching fall soccer and then huddle under mountains of blankets during a Friday night blizzard.

October sports in Idaho require committed athletes and fans.

One of the lesser-known activities that happen in October is the harvest. During this month of harvest, if one takes a drive, they may witness everything from beans to sugar beets, hay or potatoes being harvested in the fields.

One of the beauties of a good sports team is players and coaches working together and trusting one another. In volleyball, for example, if the hitters trust the setters, the team wins much more often than if the hitter tries to become a setter.

The same is true for harvest. Whether pulling

See **MILLER**, page 6





# Idaho Farm Bureau.

Volume 22, Issue 4

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**COVER:** See page 4 for a story on how the Idaho Potato Museum tells the story about the state's most famous product. (Photo by Sean Ellis)



Photo by Sean Ellis

See page 32 for a story on how Idaho farmers markets have bounced back since the COVID pandemic.

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Photos by Sean Ellis

The Idaho Potato Museum is a testament to the importance of the state's most famous product. It includes a collection of potato mashers, shown here.

# Potato museum tells the story of Idaho's famous spuds

By Sean Ellis

*Idaho Farm Bureau Federation*

BLACKFOOT – The Idaho Potato Museum, located in the heart of potato country, is a testament to the state's most iconic product.

Idaho is the potato state and everyone knows it. About 40,000 people from all over the world visit the museum each year and they go there because in their minds, potatoes and Idaho are basically synonymous.

Idaho leads the nation in total potato production and the state's spud farmers produce about 13 billion pounds of potatoes each year.

Potatoes are the state's top crop when it comes to total farm-gate revenue and the history of Idaho is intertwined with its spuds.

"We get visitors from all over the world," says Idaho Potato Museum Executive Director Tish Dahmen. "We have visitors every day, year-round, even in the dead of winter."

Dahmen says the museum gets plenty of U.S. visitors but most of them come from other nations and sandwich a visit there to-



gether with a visit to one of the nearby national parks, particularly Yellowstone.

“I’ve met someone from every continent, except for Antarctica,” says Josh Hone, who cooks up baked potatoes and French fries for visitors in the museum’s cafe.

They go there because they know Idaho is the potato state, Dahmen says.

“I think that originates with the Idaho Potato Commission,” she says. “They have done a great job over the years spreading the word that Idaho potatoes are the best potatoes. We grow amazing potatoes. It’s just what we do.”

“It’s a perfect museum for the state of Idaho,” says Travis Blacker, industry relations director for the Idaho Potato Commission. “It shows how important the potato industry is in Idaho and it highlights the great history of potato farming and production in our state.”

The museum is located in Blackfoot, which is in Bingham County, the heart of U.S. potato production.

“The potato museum is pretty impressive,” says Shelley potato farmer Bryan Searle, president of Idaho Farm Bureau Federation. “It says a lot about our state and the potato itself.”

The museum was established in 1988 by a group of volunteers as a non-profit, private entity. When it first opened, it attracted about 2,000 visitors a year but that number has grown to about 40,000 now.

The museum still advertises “free taters for out-of-staters” but instead of receiving potatoes as they did in the past, visitors now receive a free potato product, such as a box of dehydrated hash browns or mashed potatoes.

The Idaho Potato Museum includes a gift shop with all types of spud-related novelty items, including Spuddy Buddy mascots and potato-themed T-shirts.

A lot of visitors take photos in front of a giant spud in front of the museum and some take pictures in front of a cutout of Marilyn Monroe wearing an Idaho potato sack.



**Idaho Potato Museum Executive Director Tish Dahmen stands in front of a Spuddy Buddy collection at the museum in Blackfoot.**

At the beginning of the museum, people learn why Idaho is a great place to grow potatoes and why the state is the potato capital of the world.

They also learn how potatoes traveled from their birthplace, Peru, to Europe and then to North America.

They will also see many of the technological innovations that revolutionized potato production.

“You’re going to learn about what it takes to grow potatoes today and what it used to take to grow potatoes in the past; what back-breaking work that was,” Dahmen says.

Visitors can also learn about some of the inventions that happened right in Blackfoot that changed the potato industry, like the Milestone potato seed cutter and the Spudnik piler.

As they progress through the museum, visitors can even chat with talking “potatoes” in a cellar.

Visitors can view several different videos about the potato world, including one that features one of the first families that planted potatoes in the area.

The museum includes collections of potato peelers, potato pot-tery and potato mashers, a Mr. Potato Head display, a potato sack sewing machine, old potato sorter, and a display that talks about the biggest potato ever grown in Idaho, which weighed 7 pounds, 2 ounces and was harvested in October 2018.

“There are a lot of fun, interesting things in here,” Dahmen says.

Of course, the main attraction at the museum is the potato itself, Dahmen says.

“Everybody loves potatoes,” she says. “They just absolutely love them.” ■



**LEFT: Josh Hone cooks up baked potatoes and French fries for visitors in the Idaho Potato Museum cafe.**

*Continued from page 2*

for their animals, advance sustainable practices and stretch their hard-earned dollars.

This year, many of the companies selected have the potential to help farmers and ranchers raising livestock.

A team from Texas is working to develop new technology to determine which beef embryos have the best chance of success in order to help farmers raise better cattle herds.

In Minnesota, a team developed a new chute to help vaccinate small pigs, reducing stress on the animal and the farmer while helping better protect against diseases.

And in Massachusetts, a team developed a modular aquaculture system that can help farmers raise shellfish in areas further from the coast where it wasn't possible before.

When it comes to raising livestock more sustainably, a team from California developed a virtual fence that will help contain cattle and encourage movement around pastures which in turn can help the growth of grasses.

And a team in Hawaii developed a seaweed feed additive that can reduce the amount of methane livestock naturally produce by up to 90%.

## MILLER

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*Continued from page 2*

dirt clods out of a potato conveyor or operating a one-million-dollar forage harvester, everyone working in harvest has a role to play.

Teams on the sporting field or harvesting in the field must put in the time and effort to learn their job, work with others, and spend hours seeing the results pay off.

A trick play only looks easy because the team has spent the time practicing it, just like backing a truck into a dark potato cellar only looks easy after a few hundred attempts.

October also brings about optimism. A team playing well in October can have great hopes of hoisting a trophy at the end of the month or in November.

In October, some farmers have been harvesting for weeks or

*'This year, many of the companies selected have the potential to help farmers and ranchers raising livestock.'*

While those teams focus on livestock, other companies' solutions will help farmers grow crops.

A team in Iowa has developed a planter designed for farmers using no-till or cover crops, which could help more farmers adopt these conservation practices.

In Georgia, a company has developed a turnkey solution to help farmers grow mushrooms efficiently, expanding opportunities for farmers to grow their farms or for new farmers to get started.

And some teams have developed solutions that can help all farmers make the most of the tools and resources that keep their businesses running.

A team from Nebraska has developed an online platform that will help verify the remaining life on tires used on farm equipment, giving some peace of mind to both buyers and sellers.

In Illinois, a team is developing a mobile solar solution for farms that can provide much of the electricity needed on a farm and also produce ammonia and hydrogen

for fertilizers.

Finally, a team from Kansas has developed a solution that will allow diesel exhaust fluid to be made at the point of use, eliminating unnecessary transportation and storage of water.

What's next for these innovative businesses? In addition to the prize money they receive, this year's Ag Innovation Challenge semifinalists will get training from Cornell University's SC Johnson College of Business as they work to build on their businesses.

Then, all 10 teams will travel to the 2023 American Farm Bureau Convention in San Juan, Puerto Rico, where they will compete to be the winner of the Ag Innovation Challenge.

I hope you will join me there to cheer them on!

No matter which team wins, we hope that all of America's farmers and ranchers benefit from hardworking entrepreneurs developing new tools and technology for our farms and ranches. ■

even months, and just like those sports teams who began practice so long ago, both can see the end is in glorious sight.

At either end, be it sports or harvest, October brings the hopes of celebration, be it a victorious fall sports schedule or a safe end to a bounteous harvest.

For a few especially lucky communities, it may mean both. And in even fewer instances, the local community's school may have made it possible for the running back who scored the winning touchdown Friday also to be a sugar beet truck driver the following Saturday morning.

Is it any wonder Americans enjoy food so much at sporting events? So many of the same efforts and dynamics that are required to witness success on the playing field are also needed to get food to the concession stand. ■



Continued from page 2

that we hold them accountable.

Voting is a way to hold them accountable.

Voting is extremely important but it's also important that we get educated about the various issues and where the candidates stand on those issues.

That's why a good chunk of this magazine is dedicated to providing you election information.

In the pages of this edition of the Idaho Farm Bureau Federation Quarterly magazine, you will find answers to five important questions we asked candidates for statewide office. Their answers are printed here in their own words, without editing.

Each of the candidates for statewide offices – governor, lieutenant governor,

secretary of state, attorney general and superintendent of public instruction – was given the opportunity to answer these questions.

This election information was provided here so you can learn more about where the candidates stand on certain big issues and make an informed decision on whom to vote for.

I've received calls from people on their way to the voting booth asking who they should vote for. Though it's good they were headed to the polls to vote, just a few minutes of studying the candidates could have made them aware of who and what they were voting for.

You will also find in the pages of this magazine state legislative candidates that are supported by Idaho Farm Bureau Federation's political action committee:

Agra-PAC.

The PAC assists candidates who are philosophically aligned with Idaho Farm Bureau Federation policies that have been adopted by our members.

Support for these candidates who are running to serve in the Idaho Legislature was based upon recommendations from county Farm Bureaus by grassroots men and women who have boots on the ground.

Again, elections are determined by those who show up at the polls and I encourage every Idaho resident to do just that next month.

So, get educated on the issues affecting your community, state and the nation, learn where the candidates stand on those issues and make sure to have your voice heard by voting. ■

## Country Chuckles

By Johnny Hawkins



**“I bought a custom computer for my spud business - had a potato chip installed.”**



**“That’s our very first hash cash.”**

# STATEWIDE CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE RESPONSES

Farm Bureau believes it is important for you to have relevant information upon which to base your vote when you consider candidates for statewide elected offices.

Each qualified candidate in a contested general race was given the opportunity to answer questions on topics selected by the IFBF Board of Directors.

The answers are in the candidate's own words and have not been edited. This information is provided here for you so you can make an informed decision at the polls on November 8.

We also gave the candidates the opportunity to provide longer answers on our website.

Please visit [ifarmivoteidaho.com](https://ifarmivoteidaho.com) and select Statewide Candidate Questionnaire Responses or scan the QR code below.





# Ammon Bundy - Running for Governor



## 1. What challenges do you see facing agriculture in the next five years? What is the best way to address those challenges?

-Water, land and federal funding. As population surges, environmental control of land and water increases and as federal funding and subsidies dry up, farmers are facing significant challenges. The best way to address these challenges is to become more independent as a State. The State of Idaho must diminish its independence in four ways to persevere agriculture. 1) Replace federal funding with easy access private/state funding giving farmers capital without federal strings attached. 2) Take back federal lands, opening up non-agriculture lands up for housing development to preserving the agricultural land. 3) Protect Idaho farmers from the EPA while providing safe farm friendly environmental standards

from the Idaho Legislature. 4) Get Idaho's water diversion and hydro power supplies in the control of the local people protected by the State of Idaho.

## 2. Why are property rights important and what can you do as an elected official to help preserve property rights in Idaho?

-Property rights are the American dream and without the freedom to own and control property each person is at the will of those who control it. All wealth comes from the earth, everything we use and benefit from comes from the earth. Securing private property rights are essential to making sure the land and resources do not become controlled by a small group of people. My plan is to eliminate property tax and replace it with a consumption to fund local government. this way the state cannot take private property for non-payment of taxes. Also, minimizing federal, state and local control of private property to criminal jurisdiction only is crucial to protecting private property ownership. Supporting infrastructure to assist property owners to better access and use their private property is also important. Justly prosecuting those who damage, steal or deprive property owners of their property is essential.

## 3. How can Idaho best balance the needs of all land users when it comes to multiple uses on state and federal lands?

-The state must take back its lands and resources from the federal government and create strong legislation so the land is preserved for hunting, fishing, camping, alongside those who are using the land to graze, farm, mine and log, among other uses. I believe the multiple use (public) lands in the state should be controlled by the local county governments (under protective state legislation) with use and access as the primary objective. 61% of Idaho's land is controlled by the federal government and is being closed up and restricted from local use and benefit.

## 4. What is your position on Idaho water rights and the priority doctrine (first in time, first in right)?

-I believe the doctrines of first in time, first in right is the only just practice way to adjudicate water rights in the west. However, it must be in conjunction with the beneficial use doctrine of use it or lose it so the water rights do not end up in the hands of a few people or the government. State or federal agencies should not be able to claim and control water rights differently than the people. State and federal agencies should not be allowed to claim "wildlife" (or other uses) as a beneficial use and hold the water rights away from the people indefinitely.

## 5. With the rapid growth in the state, how does Idaho maintain its values and principles and avoid excess regulation?

-Many challenges come with rapid growth but the principles of government should not change. The purpose of government is to secure the rights of an individual, not to control them. I believe growing out in Idaho and not up is important to keeping our conservative values. People in dense cities generally tend to lose their grounded view on life, the land and resources and their relationship with God. Dense pollutions typically control the laws to benefit themselves and usually become adverse to the rural people. Expanding our towns and cities to grow out and not up will help in preserving Idaho's conservative values. Also, minimizing government welfare and state dependency will help secure Idaho's conservative values. By eliminating most state welfare, those in Idaho living off of government handouts (not willing to work) will move to other states and those looking to move for handouts will not come to Idaho. This will leave a vibrant, producing, conservative populace in Idaho.



# Stephen Heidt - Running for Governor



## **1. What challenges do you see facing agriculture in the next five years? What is the best way to address those challenges?**

-Farming and ranching are difficult ways to make a living, and everyone who eats should be grateful for the hard work of farmers and ranchers. Idaho is regularly the top Western state for per capita farm income, which means that it is crucial for elected officials to support an industry that provides so many jobs for Idahoans and so much revenue for Idaho's economy. Unfortunately for Idahoans and Idaho agriculture, the Idaho Freedom Foundation has been attempting—and sometimes succeeding—to subvert the sacred bond between Idahoans and their elected representatives, pressuring them to enact laws that hurt Idahoans and Idaho agriculture but that benefit the dark money donors of the IFF. This is why Chuck

Winder, the Republican leader of the Idaho Senate, called the IFF "one of the biggest threats to our democracy in our state." Wayne Hoffman, the president of the IFF, has said his vision for the group is "to be the most influential organization in the state – we want lawmakers and other policymakers to call us up and ask what constitutes good public policies, and then act accordingly". In other words, Hoffman wants the IFF to become so powerful that the Idaho Farm Bureau and other organizations who actually represent hardworking Idaho families will be effectively required to submit their bills to the IFF for approval. Agriculture is the single largest contributor to Idaho's economy, and agriculture should not become a subservient supplicant to the IFF and its out-of-state dark money donors.

## **2. Why are property rights important and what can you do as an elected official to help preserve property rights in Idaho?**

- I believe that property rights are crucial to the freedoms and liberties guaranteed by the U.S. Constitution. In recent years, the IFF and their lackeys in the Idaho legislature have been attacking the property rights of Idaho's farmers and ranchers. In 2019, with the support of the IFF, Senate Bill 1151 was signed into law by my opponent, Gov. Brad Little. This bill reduced payments for wildlife damage to crops and livestock. This is a good example of a foolish and short-sighted effort to reduce government spending even when Idaho farmers could be driven into bankruptcy by large-scale wildlife damage. If Idaho won't let farmers and ranchers drive off wildlife, then Idaho needs to fully reimburse them for their property losses. In 2020 the IFF opposed House Bill 452, Farmers' Right to Repair, and killed the bill in the Idaho House. Several legislators allied with the IFF voted for a substitute motion to kill the bill in committee even though a motion to fix the bill had already been made. Idaho farmers and ranchers deserve to have the same property rights for their farm vehicles that car and pickup truck owners have, which is to repair their vehicles as they choose.

## **3. How can Idaho best balance the needs of all land users when it comes to multiple uses on state and federal lands?**

- State and federal lands belong to the people, and those lands should be managed to provide the best use and enjoyment for the people.

## **4. What is your position on Idaho water rights and the priority doctrine (first in time, first in right)?**

- I support first in time first in right. I support allowing local groundwater districts to provide water bank water to senior water rights users to prevent harm to junior water rights users. I support the state purchasing and holding water rights to mitigate water shortages and expanding water storage capabilities to stop the taking of irrigation water from agriculture.

## **5. With the rapid growth in the state, how does Idaho maintain its values and principles and avoid excess regulation?**

-In 2021 the IFF opposed Senate Bill 1079, dealing with agricultural grants, causing 23 Republican Idaho House members to vote against it. This bill did not increase funding, just cut red tape to make the grants easier to implement. There was no reason to vote against this bill except to demonstrate the primacy of the IFF over agriculture. The IFF's values are radically different from historical Idaho values. The IFF has been spreading anarchist ideologies disguised as conservatism. This includes paying and defending a self-described anarchist, Parrish Miller, who is one of the IFF's main "bill scorers." Parrish Miller has called for America to be destroyed and has said it is justifiable to kill police while resisting arrest. That is NOT maintaining Idaho value



# Brad Little - Running for Governor



## **1. What challenges do you see facing agriculture in the next five years? What is the best way to address those challenges?**

- Idaho's incredible growth comes with many opportunities but also challenges for Idaho's important agricultural industries. Just to name a few - federal regulation, water, and competing resources. Growth is best managed at the local level, and we need to make sure local communities are planning for "smart growth." Farms feed America and power Idaho's economy, and family farms need to remain part of the fabric and heartbeat of our local communities. During my first term we have made unprecedented strategic investments in water

infrastructure and quality. These investments will better position Idaho to combat some of the excessive regulations coming down from the Biden administration.

## **2. Why are property rights important and what can you do as an elected official to help preserve property rights in Idaho?**

- Property rights are enshrined in Idaho law. As Governor, I have worked hard to protect and maintain the lightest hand of government on private property owners. As blue states around us continue to disregard private property rights, Idaho will continue protect the dream of most Americans to feel safe and secure in the ownership of their property.

## **3. How can Idaho best balance the needs of all land users when it comes to multiple uses on state and federal lands?**

- Idaho has abundant and vast public lands, and we need work to increase access for recreation and pragmatic resource management. Idahoans depend on these lands for their livelihoods, and I will continue to push on the Biden administration for the responsible management of our lands in Idaho.

## **4. What is your position on Idaho water rights and the priority doctrine (first in time, first in right)?**

- As a rancher and farmer, I understand the scarcity and importance of water in Idaho. Without the priority doctrine we would not be able to prioritize the delivery of water in a way that safeguards our property rights. Some of my investments in water include more efficient storage and delivery systems to stretch this finite resource as far as possible.

## **5. With the rapid growth in the state, how does Idaho maintain its values and principles and avoid excess regulation?**

-We need to continue investing in our rural communities and promote responsible and reasonable land management because our communities rely on it. Farmers, ranchers, loggers, and mill workers depend on continued, predictable access to our natural resources. During my first term I reduced regulatory friction at the state level and made Idaho one of the friendliest places to do business. In fact, we cut or simplified a remarkable 95-percent of regulations since I took office! I am proud that Idaho now claims the title of "least regulated state in the country." My family has a long history in Idaho agriculture, and I understand firsthand the negative impacts of excessive regulation. With our efforts to cut red tape, we are removing rocks from the shoes of small business in Idaho.



# Scott Bedke - Running for Lieutenant Governor



## **1. What challenges do you see facing agriculture in the next five years? What is the best way to address those challenges?**

- I believe water rights are a major issue that will continue to be front and center for Idaho's agricultural industry. I've had success in mediating and settling longstanding water disputes that have plagued Idaho for decades. Between summer droughts and Idaho's growth, these issues will likely continue, and I am committed to using my experience to find solutions that will work for all parties. Whenever we can avoid these costly legal battles through negotiation and legislation, we should do so. I also believe federal regulatory issues will be a challenge going forward. We must ensure that federal agencies, like the EPA, USFS, and BLM are not encroaching upon the rights of farmers and ranchers.

Currently, federal fiscal policy has resulted in unsustainable price increases. This kind of inflation raises our basic input costs in a way that we cannot sustain for long. That leads me to my last issue of concern, labor. Finding and retaining a skilled work force has become increasingly difficult. We need to look for opportunities to expand our workforce development, beginning in our public school system, to make sure that Idaho always has a well-educated workforce.

## **2. Why are property rights important and what can you do as an elected official to help preserve property rights in Idaho?**

- Protecting property rights is the main reason I entered politics. To make a long story short, a federal bureaucrat threatened to run my family ranch out of business over water rights and other issues. The BLM and USFS tried to take away our right to utilize the water on public land. Under Idaho's Constitution, all water in the state must be put to beneficial use. The federal agencies tried to claim that they qualified for the water right by using our livestock. Eventually the court upheld our water rights claim to utilize our state-based water right on public land. It has always been, and will continue to be, my priority to protect private property rights, because that is the foundation on which everything else is built.

## **3. How can Idaho best balance the needs of all land users when it comes to multiple uses on state and federal lands?**

- Like many other issues, the best way to balance the needs of all is by ensuring an honest and open line of dialogue where all stakeholders are involved in the decision-making process. Since 1976, the multiple use concept has served us well. As Idaho grows, there will be increasing demands on the amenities that we have all come to expect from the public lands in Idaho. Cooperation, coordination, and communication have been the keys to our success to this point and will continue to be so in the future.

## **4. What is your position on Idaho water rights and the priority doctrine (first in time, first in right)?**

- Living in the arid West means that the use and conservation of water will always be a driver in our policy decisions. In Idaho, we conjunctively manage the surface water and the ground water as one resource. Our water policy is predicated on the principles of "first in time is first in right." I support this. As water users, we have proven that we can negotiate and solve the inevitable conflicts that arise as scarce water resources are allocated. This will continue to require our best efforts. I believe that my experience in this area uniquely qualifies me to be a useful contributor in water policy decisions going forward.

## **5. With the rapid growth in the state, how does Idaho maintain its values and principles and avoid excess regulation?**

-By electing conservative, pragmatic, proven leaders. Idaho didn't fall its way to the top. We are the fastest-growing state in the Union, both in population growth and in economic activity. Our state has been discovered for a reason: because Idaho is the best place to live, work, and raise a family. As Speaker of the House, I've led the charge to cut red tape and make Idaho the least regulated state in the nation. By doing this, we've bolstered an already probusiness environment that benefits small and large businesses.



# Terri Pickens Manweller - Running for Lieutenant Governor



## **1. What challenges do you see facing agriculture in the next five years? What is the best way to address those challenges?**

- Water access will continue to challenge farmers, particularly along the Snake River. Idaho leaders need to work with communities and farmers to ensure that our precious water is conserved and used to its maximum benefits. Water conservation may include upgrading and expanding water storage and transportation.

## **2. Why are property rights important and what can you do as an elected official to help preserve property rights in Idaho?**

- Property rights are at the core of our society. As an elected official, I would support our laws regarding property ownership. And, when it comes to taxation, I would certainly look for opportunities to provide tax relief where property taxes become burdensome or endanger the continuation of otherwise viable businesses.

## **3. How can Idaho best balance the needs of all land users when it comes to multiple uses on state and federal lands?**

- The best way to balance needs is to make sure stakeholders are at the table and that multiple interests are listened to and considered. Balance, by definition, means that one competing interest doesn't get greater consideration than another competing interest.

## **4. What is your position on Idaho water rights and the priority doctrine (first in time, first in right)?**

- Idaho has done a fairly good job of sorting out water rights claims and resolving water rights conflicts over the years. As the "first in time, first in right," doctrine has been the underpinning concept for Idaho water rights laws, it should continue to guide our decision-making.

## **5. With the rapid growth in the state, how does Idaho maintain its values and principles and avoid excess regulation?**

- Idaho's rural character and wide open spaces have made Idaho a place where we respect individuality and freedom. Attempts to privatize public lands diminish Idaho's character and offer fewer opportunities for Idaho's newer generations to experience the ruggedness that shaped our forefathers. Likewise, when rural landowners and members of the agricultural industry are incentivized to sell off traditional farmland and ranchlands, our state's character is also diminished. Laws that allow and encourage urban areas to build up, rather than out, can work to stem sprawl and protect ag lands and open country.



# Phil McGrane - Running for Secretary of State



## **1. What challenges do you see facing agriculture in the next five years? What is the best way to address those challenges?**

- Idaho is one of the fastest-growing states in the nation. Our quality of life and conservative values are attracting people from all over. As our population grows, it increases some of the challenges facing agriculture in our State, namely: Urban Encroachment – As the demand for housing rises, so does the demand for our land. As a state, we need to be constantly mindful of the value of our productive agricultural land while also respecting private property rights. This requires community engagement and decision-making at the local level. Finite Resources – Water, Land, and other resources in our State are limited. With the growth

comes a much greater demand for the natural resources we rely upon for farming, ranching, and more. We need to ensure we have policymakers willing to recognize the importance of food security and our agricultural roots. Private Property Rights As we grow, we need to continue to protect and respect personal property rights. We need to limit the interference of government and recognize these rights. Urban sprawl and development can create both pressures and opportunities for property owners, including farmers

## **2. Why are property rights important and what can you do as an elected official to help preserve property rights in Idaho?**

- In Idaho, we believe in limited government. This is best recognized by respecting private property rights. Each landowner should feel secure in determining what is best for their land. As we grow, we need to protect these rights and ensure that those coming to our State respect these rights as well. Whether maintaining a farm or selling one's land, we need to respect the rights of landowners.

## **3. How can Idaho best balance the needs of all land users when it comes to multiple uses on state and federal lands?**

- Our lands are some of our most cherished resources. It's one thing they aren't making more of. The Idaho Land Board plays a vital role in helping maximize the use of our land while also working with users and partners to ensure the many benefits of these lands in the long term. I am proud to have the support of the Idaho Logging Contractors PAC and the Idaho Cattleman's PAC. Both are key partners who rely upon our state and federal lands for timber harvests and grazing. They each recognize the mutual benefit that comes from working together to ensure we protect our lands and maximize their return. Some of the biggest challenges we face are protecting our lands from fire and environmental policies restricting their use. The Land Board is a leader in working with our neighboring landowners to protect what we have. It's important that we continue to advocate for the expansion of the good neighbor authority to assist in managing the federal land in our State to help reduce the risk of fire and other dangers that impact neighboring landowners in Idaho.

## **4. What is your position on Idaho water rights and the priority doctrine (first in time, first in right)?**

- As a fourth-generation Idahoan, I learned the importance of water in this State at a young age. When attending law school I made it a point to study water law. I recognize the importance of the prior appropriation and the beneficial use doctrine. Water is the lifeblood of so much of our State, especially agriculture. As we grow, we need to continue recognizing our existing water rights while also ensuring that we maximize the beneficial use of this finite resource. This will become an increasing challenge as more people move into our State and create new demands for power and tech that will compete with the food producers of our State for our water. I am committed to working with our Farm Bureau to ensure that future generations can benefit from what has been built in our State.

## **5. With the rapid growth in the state, how does Idaho maintain its values and principles and avoid excess regulation?**

-My grandfather taught me the value of living off the land, helping a neighbor when they need a hand, to be fiscally conservative, and the value of a hard day's work. These weren't his values; these are Idaho's values. I want my children to share these values as they grow up in this State. As people move in and outside groups attempt to influence our State, we need to be vigilant about protecting these values. As Secretary of State, I am committed to ensuring transparency in our campaign finance laws and holding those accountable who try to influence our State.



# Brandon Woolf - Running for State Controller



## **1. What challenges do you see facing agriculture in the next five years? What is the best way to address those challenges?**

- Agriculture has been a cornerstone of our great state from settlement to statehood and into the modern era. However, today we see many young people from generational agricultural families moving away from the craft. As leaders, we need to ensure we invest and support the framework of our great state to ensure it does not fade away or we will see fewer and fewer farms, dairies, ranches, and other pivotal food production happening in Idaho. This will change our export market drastically in the next five years as we have already started to see.

Rising inflation has significantly impacted farmers and ranchers as rising costs cut into their bottom line and hurts profitability. To stop sprawling growth and loss of generational farms, we must reinvigorate our young people to continue their family legacy, or create a new legacy by joining the farming community while creating good financial policy that reduces the impacts affecting these critical industries.

## **2. Why are property rights important and what can you do as an elected official to help preserve property rights in Idaho?**

- Idaho continues to experience incredible growth, and as an elected official it is important to understand the significance of land ownership to our great state. Limiting government and keeping decision-making local ensures that landowners are able to determine what is best for their land, discuss policy with decision-makers closest to home, and ensure their rights are protected.

## **3. How can Idaho best balance the needs of all land users when it comes to multiple uses on state and federal lands?**

- Keeping public lands open to the public is a paramount objective of Idaho leadership. The ability to recreate, graze, etc. safely and responsibly on our public lands is one of the many benefits this great State offers. As Idaho grows, these amenities will see increased demands, and if not protected may be misused. Making new trails, cutting fences, and not following acceptable use guidance will lead to the loss of these amenities for everyone. We must collaborate and cooperate with our local community, state, and federal partners to increase education, penalize bad actors, and create incentives to drive compliance.

## **4. What is your position on Idaho water rights and the priority doctrine (first in time, first in right)?**

- The scarcity and importance of water in Idaho cannot be understated. As we deal with drought and growth continues, watersheds are pushed to their limits to support our community and agricultural industries. Priority doctrine has helped manage this critical resource and must continue to safeguard this resource going forward.

## **5. With the rapid growth in the state, how does Idaho maintain its values and principles and avoid excess regulation?**

-I believe the best way to ensure Idaho maintains the values and principles that make our state attractive is to keep policymaking as close to home as possible. The best policy is made by those closest to the issue, local to the area, and who understand the impact of the policy on their neighbors. As statewide elected officials we must safeguard against federal infringement of these rights and ensure we give people the freedom to make decisions and understand how the communities can work together to resolve issues, and not legislate from on high.



# Tom Arkoosh - Running for Attorney General



## 1. What challenges do you see facing agriculture in the next five years? What is the best way to address those challenges?

-The answer to both questions is the same: adaptability. Agriculture will struggle with inputs, environmental changes, and regulatory challenges. Inputs: The cost of money, fuel, parts, operations, all are accelerating upward. Interest rates are rising for the first time in 10 years. Oil prices have obviously spiked. Congress has so far not been successful in improving the H2A program to facilitate labor availability. To prosper until commodity prices react to these changes, the agricultural sector will need to be especially conscious of the cost of doing business, and adapt accordingly. Environmental changes: A University of Idaho study predicts future harmful climate changes. Idaho agriculture already demonstrates adaptability experimenting with new cropping practices and irrigation innovations. Idaho government and irrigator are

collaborating to increase the water budget through both increases in storage and better practices. Regulatory challenges: These are not new, but continue. Some could, however, be beneficial. For instance, a push to protect grazing availability on public lands is afoot. Different than the above concerns, the Attorney General's office can have a material effect in this arena by ensuring real science and good sense precedes any regulation. Agriculture provides one out of eight jobs in Idaho, and 18% of our gross domestic product. This must be fostered and facilitated.

## 2. Why are property rights important and what can you do as an elected official to help preserve property rights in Idaho?

-Without property and contract rights that are ultimately enforceable by a functioning judiciary agriculture is not sustainable. Further, without assurance of the security of land as collateral, banks will not loan. One third of Idaho farmers are of retirement age. Without the ability to pass property to their successors, enterprise after enterprise would simply dissipate until farming met extinction. The importance of private property rights to any economic endeavor is obvious and irrefutable. In this arena, the Attorney General can be exceedingly helpful, or harmful, by both correctly picking his conflicts and picking the correct side of those conflicts. For example, my opponent has made contradictory declarations, first that the Attorney General's office should not advise the legislature, which means that on questions of the protection of property and due process, he will abandon the field. Subsequently, he has declared the Attorney General should partner with what he calls "conservative legislators," meaning those who will spend the entire session on cultural issues, not business or property protection. Either way, his focus will not be on what matters most to agriculture.

## 3. How can Idaho best balance the needs of all land users when it comes to multiple uses on state and federal lands?

-Different uses require different responses. A recreational use such as camping or fishing differs substantially from an economic use. Recreational uses seldom involve the user investing in the land by making improvements and husbanding the resource. Further, recreational users do not depend on public land use for economics. To the extent allowed by law, the Attorney General should advocate those who invest in improvement of public land should get credit for those investments.

## 4. What is your position on Idaho water rights and the priority doctrine (first in time, first in right)?

-The priority doctrine is constitutional. I have had extensive experience in the SRBA and water issues. I have concluded that litigation does not provide the best tool for resolution of everyone's goal, which is to keep the water flowing. Negotiation paves a better pathway. The state has an important role and responsibility in these negotiations, both to provide leadership and to contribute its share of funding to solve issues and smooth rough spots. I am fully equipped by experience to immediately make a meaningful contribution to the effort. (As further background, I have spent a lot of time on the farm irrigating crops.)

## 5. With the rapid growth in the state, how does Idaho maintain its values and principles and avoid excess regulation?

-Understandably, the values of work, thrift, innovation, honesty, and the like can dissipate under regulatory burdens which may encourage slick dealing, sloth, or discouragement to the point of failure. While the Attorney General does not write the rule book, he enforces it. How an Attorney General interprets the rules has a material importance to outcomes. My 44 years of legal practice with agricultural clients, many in the administrative, business and water spheres, uniquely informs my understanding of Idaho agriculture, its needs and proper regulatory direction. This I can bring to the table. With my understanding I will be able to defend, protect and promote the vast diverseness of agriculture throughout the state.



# Raúl Labrador - Running for Attorney General



## **1. What challenges do you see facing agriculture in the next five years? What is the best way to address those challenges?**

- In an increasingly integrated global economy, for Idaho's agriculture economy to remain competitive we will have to ensure that our farmers have access to a stable labor force; modern and affordable equipment; and the least-restrictive regulatory structure. Legal questions are an important part of these issues, including legal questions related to water rights; predatory commodity dumping from overseas; and burdensome federal regulations. As Idaho's Attorney General, I will work to make sure that legal obstacles that stand in the way of Idaho agriculture are simplified and that Idaho is aggressively defending the agricultural "backbone" of our state economy.

## **2. Why are property rights important and what can you do as an elected official to help preserve property rights in Idaho?**

- The Founding Fathers recognized property as the essential basis of a free republic. A government that does not recognize private property rights will not recognize any limitation on its power. As Idaho's next Attorney General, I will work to keep private property rights at the center of our state law and, where appropriate, I will bring suit in state or federal court to vindicate the property rights of Idaho's people. Also, I will also stand shoulder-to-shoulder with Idahoans who fight in the courts to vindicate their rights, or the rights of their fellow-citizens. We have a Constitutional Defense Fund designed to compensate Idahoans who prevail in litigation. I'll ensure this fund compensates Idahoans fairly for the rights they defend or vindicate for our people.

## **3. How can Idaho best balance the needs of all land users when it comes to multiple uses on state and federal lands?**

- Idaho's elected policymakers in the legislature must work to balance the interests of land users through carefully crafted law and minimal regulation. As your Attorney General, my job will be to enforce those laws and ensure that all interested parties also follow the law.

## **4. What is your position on Idaho water rights and the priority doctrine (first in time, first in right)?**

- With Idaho's growth there will be increasing pressure on one of our most precious--but limited--resources: water. If the fights occurring throughout the West are any guide, it is likely that the future of water rights in Idaho will be contentious. But with the right leadership -- and the power to convene opposing parties or disparate interests -- we can navigate the future without falling into the pitfalls that have been disastrous for many of our neighbors. I am the right leader to do so. I respect the doctrine of "first-in-time is first-in-right" as a cornerstone of our state law and that should form the starting point for any discussions about what the future will look like.

## **5. With the rapid growth in the state, how does Idaho maintain its values and principles and avoid excess regulation?**

- Our beautiful home has been discovered. This is a blessing and a burden. The Idaho Way of Life is now a proven standard such that many of our fellow Americans want it for their families. But we must manage this growth and ensure it does not destroy the strength of our communities, our agricultural heritage, or the beautiful and rugged landscape of our state. The first trap we must avoid is thinking that growth can be reversed or eliminated. Next, we must ensure that we remain nimble excessive regulation or onerous laws that penalize our economy or undercut Idaho's traditional industries, like agriculture, will drive Idaho in the wrong direction. Instead, we must maintain what makes Idaho such a great place to live while remaining vigilant and responsive to the changes that come with our state's current growth. Policymakers in the legislature and county and municipal leaders throughout the state will have the primary role in shaping how we respond to growth. As Idaho's Attorney General I will ensure that the policies and regulations implemented by the legislature and local elected leadership are consistent with our constitution and laws and are fairly enforced.



# Debbie Critchfield- Running for Superintendent of Public Instruction



## **1. What challenges do you see facing agriculture in the next five years? What is the best way to address those challenges?**

- We must protect Idaho's agricultural economy with the continued growth and changes to our state economy. There will be competition for every drop of water. Productive farm ground is being converted to subdivisions and parking lots at alarming rates as our agricultural base is reduced and the growing public is further removed from the knowledge and appreciation for food production. The costs of inputs, like fuel and fertilizer add to current challenges. The labor shortage is no small matter. There are challenges associated with national and global agriculture markets. We must sustain Idaho's agricultural way of life through an emphasis on skills and job-related training in our school for a trained workforce. We must link

Idaho students with Idaho careers, which helps provide our agricultural communities a trained workforce. For the rising costs of doing business, we need a new president. For water, we must not give up our control, particularly that which is available to production agriculture. Whether it's managing our dams or supporting innovation in efficient water use, a better educated workforce and consuming public will provide long term support for Idaho agriculture.

## **2. Why are property rights important and what can you do as an elected official to help preserve property rights in Idaho?**

- Property rights are the foundational piece of our personal rights and our free market system. Government has a tendency to infringe on these rights, whether it's through increased taxation, the expansion of regulation, or the pursuit of policies that subordinate property rights. The most important thing I can do to uphold Idaho property rights is ensure taxpayers are receiving value in education and a return on their investment. We need a statewide discussion about local property taxes and the impact on communities with supplemental levies and bonds. Until we have a new and more fair system for funding education, every education dollar must get to students and teachers in the classroom.

## **3. How can Idaho best balance the needs of all land users when it comes to multiple uses on state and federal lands?**

-We see the challenges of federal mismanagement of lands. Catastrophic wildfires on our federal lands clearly illustrate this point. Livestock grazing and logging are not only important industries that sustain our rural economies while providing food and fiber to the public, but should be recognized and utilized as effective tools in reducing fuel loads on federal and state lands. Idaho's growing population combined with the challenges brought on by COVID has created skyrocketing numbers of recreating public on state and federal lands. We must mitigate the effects of increased recreation pressures while facilitating better managed opportunities for the public to enjoy the beauty of the state. My perspective will be to balance the needs of all land users while supporting those uses that generate the resources and revenues necessary to sustain local economies and local schools. Local communities must have more input on the day-to-day management of public lands. The state must continue its efforts to drive more active management of state lands, providing an example for the federal government on properly managing federal lands in Idaho. We must also work to get greater say over the management of our federal lands.

## **4. What is your position on Idaho water rights and the priority doctrine (first in time, first in right)?**

- I support water rights as administered by the priority doctrine. We must continue building water storage across Idaho as our future is dependent on these efforts. We are concerned with proposals and growth that threaten the existing water infrastructure.

## **5. With the rapid growth in the state, how does Idaho maintain its values and principles and avoid excess regulation?**

-When I look at other states with excessive regulation, I think a big problem is their citizens' views on the proper role of government and respect for free market capitalism. They elect officials that create policies and laws that erode our Constitutional principles. Idahoans have a healthy skepticism of government overreach and regulation and this is reflected in its elected officials. As Superintendent, I intend to support local control and pursue efforts that reduce red tape for parents, schools and educators. Local trustees and families should be leading our schools, not bureaucrats in Boise.



# Word Search

## Potato Varieties

Answer key on page 37

C	H	I	E	F	T	A	I	N	O	R	K	O	T	A	H
A	E	D	T	U	A	P	M	D	C	W	N	D	C	S	L
S	T	N	G	N	I	L	R	E	G	N	I	F	U	Y	P
C	I	H	T	W	R	P	B	E	H	G	S	R	M	E	A
A	H	M	S	E	B	E	R	L	D	P	D	U	N	L	D
D	W	T	G	P	N	O	D	N	F	L	F	B	K	L	I
E	T	N	D	N	I	N	A	F	O	M	A	Y	N	O	R
T	A	F	E	R	G	L	I	G	H	J	K	S	P	W	O
R	P	K	E	S	R	W	N	A	T	R	H	A	O	K	N
K	M	P	G	O	C	O	B	B	L	E	R	N	N	D	D
G	U	T	N	R	K	N	A	B	R	U	B	T	T	L	A
S	P	E	R	U	V	I	A	N	P	S	I	I	I	R	C
D	H	F	Y	E	L	L	O	W	F	I	N	N	A	U	K
N	A	G	A	T	A	P	D	C	R	S	T	A	C	S	B
S	L	P	R	T	B	E	Y	T	S	E	J	A	M	S	L
W	H	I	T	E	R	O	S	E	H	D	E	L	P	E	U
J	E	U	L	B	E	L	P	R	U	P	E	T	I	T	E

### Russet

Burbank  
Norkotah  
Ranger  
Goldrush  
Centennial

### Purple-Blue

Peruvian  
Majesty  
Adirondack Blue

### Yellow

Yukon gold  
Yellow Finn  
Agata  
Santina  
Bintje

### Red

Chieftain  
Norland  
Red La Soda  
Pontiac  
Ruby

### White

White Rose  
Cascade  
Superior  
Kennebec  
Cobbler  
Fingerling  
Petite



# Idaho Farm Bureau



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## HOTELS



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# IDAHO FARM BUREAU ANNOUNCES SUPPORT FOR LEGISLATIVE CANDIDATES

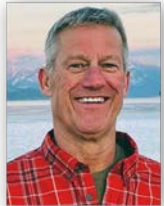
The Idaho Farm Bureau Federation has a Political Action Committee named Agra-PAC. The purpose of Agra-PAC is to assist state legislative candidates who are philosophically aligned with Farm Bureau policies and positions to win their election. Based upon recommendations from county Farm Bureaus, the following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

**We encourage you to support them at the polls on November 8th!!**

## District 1 Boundary & Bonner Counties



Scott Herndon  
Senate Seat



Mark Sauter  
House Seat A



Sage Dixon  
House Seat B

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



Heather Scott  
House Seat A



Dale Hawkins  
House Seat B

## District 3 Kootenai County



Doug Okuniewicz  
Senate Seat



Vito Barbieri  
House Seat A



Jordan Redman  
House Seat B

## District 4 Kootenai County



Ben Toews  
Senate Seat



Joe Alfieri  
House Seat A

## District 5 Kootenai County



Ron Mendive  
House Seat A



Tony Wisniewski  
House Seat B

## District 6 Latah, Lewis & Nez Perce Counties



Dan Foreman  
Senate Seat



Lori McCann  
House Seat A



Brandon Mitchell  
House Seat B

## District 7 Adams, Idaho & Nez Perce County



Cindy Carlson  
Senate Seat



Agra-PAC endorsed  
candidates continued

**District 7 continued**  
Adams, Idaho & Nez Perce County



Mike Kingsley  
House Seat A



Charlie Shepherd  
House Seat B

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



Matt Bundy  
House Seat A



Megan Blanksma  
House Seat B

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



Abby Lee  
Senate Seat



Jacyn Gallagher  
House Seat A



Judy Boyle  
House Seat B

**District 10**  
Ada & Canyon County



Tammy Nichols  
Senate Seat



Mike Moyle  
House Seat A



Bruce Skaug  
House Seat B

**District 11**  
Canyon County



Chris Trakel  
Senate Seat



Julie Yamamoto  
House Seat A



Chris Allgood  
House Seat B

**District 12**  
Canyon County



Ben Adams  
Senate Seat



Jaron Crane  
House Seat B

**District 13**  
Canyon County



Brent Crane  
House Seat A



Kenny Wroten  
House Seat B

**District 14**  
Ada & Gem County



Scott Grow  
Senate Seat



Ted Hill  
House Seat A



Agra-PAC endorsed  
candidates continued

**District 14 continued  
Ada & Gem County**



Josh Tanner  
House Seat B

**District 15  
Ada County**



Codi Galloway  
Senate Seat

**District 18  
Ada County**



Janie Ward-Engelking  
Senate Seat



Brooke Green  
House Seat B

**District 19  
Ada County**



Chris Mathias  
House Seat B

**District 20  
Ada County**



Chuck Winder  
Senate Seat



Joe Palmer  
House Seat A



James Holtzclaw  
House Seat B

**District 21  
Ada County**



Treg Bernt  
Senate Seat



James Petzke  
House Seat A



Jeff Ehlers  
House Seat B

**District 22  
Ada County**



Lori Den Hartog  
Senate Seat



John Vander Woude  
House Seat A



Jason Monks  
House Seat B

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



Todd Lakey  
Senate Seat



Melissa Durrant  
House Seat A



Tina Lambert  
House Seat B

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



Glenneda Zuiderveld  
Senate Seat



Agra-PAC endorsed  
candidates continued

**District 24 continued**  
**Gamas, Gooding &**  
**Twin Falls County**



Chenele Dixon  
House Seat A



Steve Miller  
House Seat B

**District 25**  
**Twin Falls County**



Linda Wright Hartgen  
Senate Seat



Lance Clow  
House Seat A



Gregory Lanting  
House Seat B

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



Laurie Lickley  
Senate Seat



Michael Pohanka  
House Seat A



Jack Nelsen  
House Seat B

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



Kelly Anthon  
Senate Seat



Douglas Pickett  
House Seat A



Clay Handy  
House Seat B

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



Jim Guthrie  
Senate Seat



Richard Cheatum  
House Seat A



Dan Garner  
House Seat B

**District 29**  
**Bannock**



Dustin Manwaring  
House Seat A



Jacob Stevens  
House Seat B

**District 30**  
**Bingham & Butte County**



Julie VanOrden  
Senate Seat



David Cannon  
House Seat A



Julianne Young  
House Seat B

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



Van Burtenshaw  
Senate Seat



**District 31 continued**  
**Clark, Fremont, Jefferson**  
**& Lemhi County**



Jerald Raymond  
House Seat A



Rod Furniss  
House Seat B

**District 32**  
**Bonneville County**



Kevin Cook  
Senate Seat



Stephanie Mickelsen  
House Seat A



Wendy Horman  
House Seat B

**District 33**  
**Bonneville County**



Dave Lent  
Senate Seat



Barbara Ehardt  
House Seat A



Marco Erickson  
House Seat B

**District 34**  
**Madison County**



Doug Ricks  
Senate Seat



Jon Weber  
House Seat A



Britt Raybold  
House Seat B

**District 35**  
**Bannock, Bear Lake,**  
**Caribou & Teton County**



Mark Harris  
Senate Seat



Kevin Andrus  
House Seat A



Joshua Wheeler  
House Seat B

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Photos by Sean Ellis

“Tailgate Talks,” a 56-page booklet that includes Spanish translations, contains simple conversations about 25 different safety topics common to farms and ranches.

## Ag groups create ‘Tailgate Talks’ farm safety booklet

**By Sean Ellis**

*Idaho Farm Bureau Federation*

POCATELLO – Idaho agricultural groups have created a new booklet designed to help farm producers and managers discuss important safety topics with their employees.

Called “Tailgate Talks,” the 56-page

booklet features simple discussions that address a wide variety of safety concerns inherent on farms and ranches.

“What’s in Tailgate Talks is what we consider to be some of the most relevant things that could lead to potential injuries or cause consequences in a farming operation,” said Rick Waitley, executive director of Leadership Idaho Agriculture, which

created the booklet in collaboration with the Idaho Dairymen’s Association.

The whole goal of the booklet is to help protect the heart of any farm or ranch: its workers, said Rick Brune, who farms in Kimberly and is a member of Idaho Farm Bureau Federation’s board of directors.

“Our most valuable asset is our employees and we have to keep them safe and



productive,” he said. “We have to keep our workers safe and make sure they have confidence is what they’re doing.”

The various safety discussions contained in the booklet are also translated into Spanish.

“Without our workers, we’re nothing. If we’re not taking care of our workers, we’re not able to function,” said Oakley farmer and rancher Blake Matthews, who was serving as chairman of the board of trustees for LIA when the decision was made to create the booklet. “Our bread and butter is our workers and if we don’t take care of them, keep them healthy and safe, we don’t succeed.”

The Idaho Dairymen’s Association created a similar booklet three years ago that is focused solely on the dairy industry.

When IDA Executive Director Rick Naerebout spoke to Leadership Idaho Agriculture members about that booklet, Brune and other LIA members saw the need for a similar booklet that addressed safety topics common to all of agriculture.

That led to the creation of the new edition of Tailgate Talks — “Reuniones Rápidas” in Spanish – that addresses 25 safety topics common to the agricultural industry.

“These Tailgate Talks apply to every facet of agriculture,” Matthews said. “We think it will have a great impact on all of agriculture in Idaho.”

He said the various safety discussions addressed in the booklet are simply put and easy to understand.

“If you had to try to come up with it on your own, you probably wouldn’t be able to cover those topics correctly,” he said. “But with this, it’s laid out very simply and it’s also laid out in both Spanish and English.”

The different topics covered in the booklet are designed to facilitate a 5 to 10-minute conversation between a farm manager and employee or even a farm visitor about a certain safety issue, Naerebout said.

The topics include everything from confined spaces, tractor operation, grain bins and manure storage structures to irrigation, harvest safety, moving cows, electrical systems and chemical safety.

“I think this book provides a good, basic, all-around platform to start a discussion on different safety issues there are on a farming operation,” Brune said. “Just sit down on the tailgate and have a discussion in the morning once in a while to refresh people’s minds about farm safety issues.”

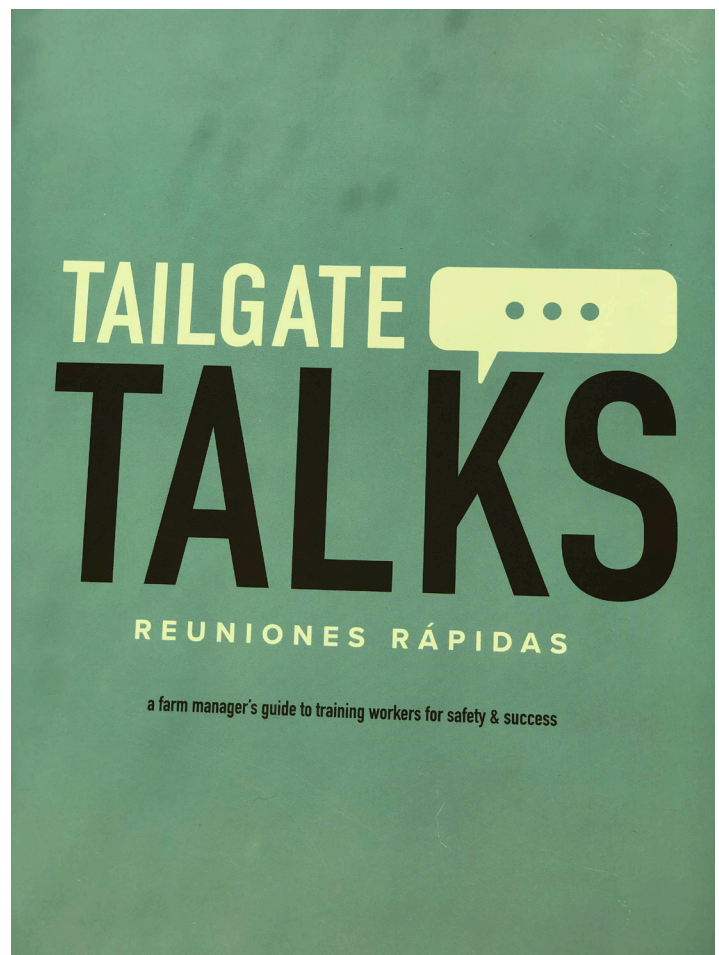
The end goal, Naerebout said, is to make sure everyone on a farm is familiar with the various safety issues inherent on agricultural operations.

“At the end of the day, everybody wants the same thing; they want to go home to their family,” he said.

The booklets are sponsored by several ag groups, including Idaho Farm Bureau Federation.

Many of the booklets have already been distributed to county Farm Bureaus and other grower organizations and commodity groups.

There are almost 25,000 farms and ranches in Idaho and 44,355 principal agricultural producers – those who make the main decisions on a farm or ranch – according to the 2017 Census of Agriculture. Another 41,000 people work on farms and ranches in



**“Tailgate Talks” was created to help farm managers address farm safety issues with workers in a simple, easy to understand format. It contains Spanish translation of all the safety topics included in the 56-page booklet.**

Idaho.

Waitley said a major effort is underway by LIA and other ag organizations to get as many of the booklets distributed as possible.

“Those books are doing us no good sitting in boxes” he said. “They need to be in the hands of producers who can be sharing the content and the information from there.”

“We’re trying to get them to as many grower organizations as we can,” Waitley added. “Once people have thumbed through the book, it pretty well sells itself because people see the value of the content.”

The booklet contains some important safety information and reminders that will be valuable to everyone on a farm, from owners to employees to visitors, Matthews said.

“There is some very good training for especially those that haven’t been brought up around farming,” he said. “Even for those of us who have, it’s something for us to think about and help us pay attention to the things that we need to.”

For more information or to order the booklets, visit [www.leadershipidahoag.org](http://www.leadershipidahoag.org), or contact the LIA office at (208) 888-0988. ■



# Idaho farmers markets have bounced back nicely from COVID

By Sean Ellis

*Idaho Farm Bureau Federation*



Photos by Sean Ellis

People shop at the Boise Farmers Market Aug. 13. Idaho farmers markets appear to have bounced back nicely since the beginning of the COVID restrictions.

BOISE – Idaho’s farmers markets had a tough go early in the COVID pandemic, but they appear to have bounced back nicely since then and some are reporting record sales, traffic and vendor numbers.

“We have bounced back,” said Tamara Cameron, executive director of the Boise Farmers Market. “We are back to our pre-pandemic figures as far as sales go. It’s been a good year.”

There are 50 farmers markets located throughout the state.

“From what we have been hearing ... most farmers markets have rebounded well from pandemic shutdowns and restrictions, and some were actually experiencing record numbers of vendors and shoppers ...” said Ariel Agenbroad, a University of Idaho Extension educator for food systems and small farms in Ada County who also serves as treasurer of the Idaho Farmers Market Association board of directors.

One silver lining of the COVID pandemic is that it really emphasized the importance of farmers markets, said Dawn Larkzeiler, an Idaho Preferred marketing specialist for the Idaho State Department of Agriculture who also serves on the IFMA board.

“People want to know where their food comes from,” she said. During the pandemic, “They were trying to go straight to the source, getting to meet farmers and their families. That was something we didn’t see go away. It’s a blessing in disguise.”

One thing the pandemic did do was force farmers markets to adapt and innovate and in some cases, that innovation turned out to be permanent.

In the case of the Boise Farmers Market, the COVID restrictions resulted in the market creating a drive-through option that allowed people to order online



straight from a vendor and then have their items ready in bags to be picked up as they drive through.

“We have a consistent number of customers who love it, for a variety of reasons,” said BFM vendor Janie Burns, a member of the market’s board of directors.

Burns said the market never would have created that drive-through service if not for COVID. “We had to do it,” she said. “And now it’s easy and we’ve embraced this technology. It’s just another way of reaching customers.”

Larkzeiler said a lot of that type of innovation, including delivery services, has occurred at other farmers markets in the state since COVID hit.

Agenbroad said although many farmers markets are seeing record numbers of vendors and shoppers, they have been hit with a new challenge in the way of “dramatic increases in primary input costs, both for vendors and the markets.”

This is especially hard for markets with vendors who travel to bring produce to their markets in more remote locations or places where the growing season is short, she said.

“Some market managers have been thinking about how to incentivize these vendors to continue making the trip to their market, whether by reducing or elim-



**Over 50 farmers markets are located throughout Idaho and seem to have bounced back after struggling through the COVID pandemic, with some experiencing record numbers of vendors and shoppers.**

inating their vendor booth fee, offering them a gas credit, etc.,” Agenbroad said.

She said just about every type of vendor has had to raise their prices to reflect the higher costs of inputs and labor.

The good news when it comes to farmers markets in Idaho is that they are open and appear to be thriving, at least when it comes to crowd counts and the number of vendors.

These markets provide an important income source for a lot of small- and medium-sized farmers around Idaho, and they also provide a lot of food to a lot of people in the state.

With 50 farmers markets in Idaho, “It’s pretty easy to locate fresh produce no matter where you are in the state,” said Larkzeiler. ■

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S	T	N	G	N	I	L	R	E	G	N	I	F	U	Y	P
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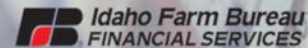
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Photo by Jake Howard

Cutting firewood locally can prevent the transfer of insects and diseases to new locations.

# Nestling in for winter: Harvesting firewood in Idaho

By Audra Cochran  
*University of Idaho*

The fall season in Idaho is quite simply my favorite time of year. There is a chill in the air, the Western larch plantations are showing their bright colors, and the hillsides are dotted with small puffs of smoke from campfires.

As busy as Mother Nature is preparing for the impending winter months, many of her human counterparts are as well. Nestling in for the winter means keeping warm, and in the Inland Northwest that often means cutting firewood.

Many homeowners utilize wood stoves to help with home heating, which can help reduce heating bills. The Environmental Protection Agency lists Oregon, Washington, and Idaho in the top 10 for wood burning states, respectively.

While there is nothing quite like warming up next to a wood fire, there can be some concerns to keep in mind as well.

## Picking the right wood and wood stove

As picturesque as chimney smoke in the fall can be, for others, particulate emissions are a concern. With increasing fire activity in the western United States and prolonged smoke exposure, extending emissions into the fall can prolong health concerns.

In response to that, the technology in wood stoves has greatly improved.

“All wood stoves certified under the New Source Performance Standards...meet the particulate emissions limit of no more than 4.5 grams per hour,” according to the EPA.

What do you do if your wood stove is older than 2015? Idaho, Oregon, and Washington all provide their residents with tax incentives and credits, to help offset the cost of upgrading.

Another thing to keep in mind is the variety and quality of wood you are burning. When chosen correctly, wood can be a good alternative to other fuel sources (heating oil, propane, natural gas, electricity, etc.).



Figure 1 by University of Missouri Extension Forestry Specialist Hank Stelzer details the heating value of common heating fuels in relation to one cord of firewood.

Common firewood species preference in the Inland Northwest include firs, Western larch (tamarack), or pines.

Seasoned firewood, that has had a chance to cure (dry out) for an extended period to reduce water content, is typically best. It burns at a higher heat and combusts more fully, reducing the amount of particulate matter and smoke released.

Replacement fuel	Energy equivalent
No. 2 heating oil <sup>2</sup>	108 gal
Propane <sup>3</sup>	165 gal
Natural gas <sup>4</sup>	150 therms
Electricity <sup>5</sup>	3,341 kwh

Figure 1: amounts of various fossil fuels and electricity needed to equal the usable heat released from one cord of firewood. (Publication: Wood Fuel for Heating, Dr. Hank Stelzer, University of Missouri Extension Forestry, <https://extension.missouri.edu/publications/g5450>).

### Safety when gathering firewood

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reports that nearly 36,000 people are treated for injuries sustained while operating a chainsaw. If you are new to operating a chainsaw, it is highly recommended that you take a chainsaw safety course.

These programs are available through your local county extension offices, or there are several courses available online. Occupational Safety and Health (OSHA) (<https://www.oshaeducation-center.com/compliance-training/logging-and-chainsaw-safety/>) and Stihl (<https://www.stihl.com/video-tutorials.aspx>) both offer online course options.

These courses will teach you the safety requirements when handling a chainsaw, personal protective equipment, chainsaw parts, mechanics, and general maintenance, cutting techniques, and potential hazards; all things that help keep the operators and bystanders safe.

It is also important to be mindful of your surroundings while cutting firewood. People are often harvesting firewood throughout the summer months, increasing the risk of fire starts from saw chain sparks.

It is also important to be aware of dead, standing snags or other trees or branches that may have become twisted, broken, or caught under another tree or limb. These can cause significant risk of head injuries or death if they come down on individuals during felling.

### Safety in transport and storage

There is a lot of ingenuity that comes out when people seek to transport firewood, from pickup beds to homemade trailers.

It is important to be mindful of not overloading your vehicle and securing your load appropriately. This could avoid a major

collision or extra re-loading work on your part.

Another concern is transporting firewood long distances, and the risk of transporting invasive species or diseases along with them.

Certain insects can live within the firewood for extended periods of time and be introduced to a new region. It is recommended that you cut or purchase firewood locally, to help mitigate the risk.

Finally, consider where you are going to store your firewood once you get it home. Do you have a shed, will you stack and cover it outdoors, or will you put it on your porch?

One thing to try and avoid is stacking your firewood too close to your home. This can create a risk of fire or insects getting inside your home. It could also help save you on your insurance bill, too!

As you cozy up next to your warm wood fire this fall and winter, you can enjoy the fruits of your hard-earned labor. Keeping a few things in mind ahead of time may help save you on more than just your heating bill.

*(Audra Cochran is a University of Idaho Extension educator in Lewis County. She can be reached at [audrac@uidaho.edu](mailto:audrac@uidaho.edu))* ■



Photo by Audra Cochran

**Harvesting firewood from a local forest can be a good way to heat your home in the winter.**

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