



# Idaho Farm Bureau. Quarterly

Winter 2020 • Volume 20 Issue 1

**How dam  
breaching  
could impact  
agriculture**

**Farm Bureau  
policy, 10**

**Idaho hop  
acres rise, 28**

**Feeding the  
Economy, 29**

## Congress' New Year's resolution should be ag labor reform



**W**hile most Americans were joyfully wishing each other a happy New Year and trying to remember the words to “Auld Lang Syne,” many farmers were worried about what 2020 would bring.

As of Jan. 2, farmers who use the H-2A visa program to hire legal workers from other countries are required to pay higher wages on top of already-inflated wages for H-2A employees. This year's increase averages 6 percent nationwide. In some areas, it will be nearly 10 percent.

These increases in the H-2A program's Adverse Effect Wage Rate come at a time when farmers can hardly afford it. We have increasing competition from imported produce grown with cheap foreign labor, a trade war that has decimated our exports, weather disasters, and a farm economy that continues to be challenging.

Already, over the last five years, the national average H-2A wage has gone up 17 percent. Meanwhile, revenues for fruits and nuts are up only 3 percent, and revenues for vegetables and

See **DUVALL**, page 6

## The President's Desk

By **Bryan Searle**  
President Idaho Farm Bureau Federation

### Take time to read, consider Farm Bureau's policies



**A**fter opening this month's magazine, it will quickly become apparent that a good chunk of the space has been allotted to publishing all of the policies that are included in Idaho Farm Bureau Federation's policy book.

There are 179 policies in all, and they cover a myriad of topics, from water to wolves, hemp, aquifer recharge, cloud seeding, grazing and dams.

The policies also make clear where Farm Bureau stands on important issues such as commodity commissions, pest control, fair trade,

timber management, biotechnology, wildfire control and animal care.

Also included in the organization's policy book is a little about the basic purpose of Farm Bureau and its core beliefs, including where it stands on the U.S. Constitution, states' rights, economy in government and capitalism.

I encourage you to read through some of Idaho Farm Bureau Federation's policies and become familiar with the core principles the organization stands on.

See **SEARLE**, page 7

## Inside Farm Bureau

By **Rick Keller**  
CEO Idaho Farm Bureau Federation

### We are Farm Bureau



**Y**ou are part of Farm Bureau. Nationally, Farm Bureau is nearly 6 million member families. Idaho has a total of 80,635 member families. Collectively, Farm Bureau is the state's and nation's largest farm organization.

Farm Bureau members produce most of your food, the fiber that goes in your clothes, inputs for ethanol and biodiesel fuels, and timber used to construct your homes.

Farm Bureau represents America's farmers and ranchers on the local, state, national and

international levels.

Idaho Farm Bureau Federation is ranked as the most influential farm group in Boise and American Farm Bureau Federation as the most influential farm group in Washington, DC.

Farm Bureau is nonpartisan but politically active to achieve members' goals.

Farm Bureau is The Voice of Agriculture™ and rural Idaho.

Farm Bureau represents all commodity interests and is involved in all issues that are

See **KELLER**, page 6

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From the editor

# Farm Bureau policies developed by members

This winter edition of our Quarterly magazine is the edition where we choose to run Idaho Farm Bureau’s entire policy book.

These policies have been developed by Farm Bureau members at the grassroots level over the past 80 years and they guide the organization’s efforts throughout the year.

We believe it’s important for all of our members to be able to see where Idaho Farm Bureau stands on certain issues that are important to the organization’s members.

Keep in mind that these policies have been developed by IFB members themselves and have been voted on by delegates from all of the organization’s county Farm Bureaus, delegates that were chosen by Farm Bureau members in those individual counties.



*Sean Ellis  
Idaho Farm Bureau  
publications editor*



Photo by Sean Ellis

Idaho Farm Bureau Federation voting delegates from across Idaho debate a proposed policy during IFBF’s 80th annual meeting, which was held Dec. 3-5 in Coeur d’Alene. See all of IFBF’s policies beginning on page 10.

Submitted photo

**COVER PHOTO:** A barge moves cargo through the Columbia-Snake River system. For a story about how important the dams on that system are, see page 4.

# DAM IMPACT



Submitted photo

Cargo is moved down the Columbia-Snake River system. A new study concludes that transportation impacts related to breaching dams on the Columbia-Snake River system would cost at least \$2.3 billion.

## Study: dam breaching would hurt economy, environment, farmers

By Sean Ellis

*Idaho Farm Bureau Federation*

PORTLAND – A recently released study concludes that transportation impacts related to breaching dams on the Columbia-Snake River system would cost the nation at least \$2.3 billion.

It also found that removing the lower four dams on the Snake River to improve salmon runs, as some groups are proposing, would negatively impact the environment and threaten the existence of at least 1,100 farms in Idaho, Washington and Oregon.

Wheat is the No. 1 crop in the Pacific Northwest – Idaho, Oregon and Washington – in terms of total acres and the Columbia-Snake River system is the top wheat export gateway in the United States.

About 58 percent of the nation’s wheat destined for export travels through the river system, which also produces about 60 percent of the electric power used in the region.

Some groups support breaching the four lower Snake River dams as a way to benefit endangered salmon and steelhead.

Removing the dams would make the river system unnavigable for barges that move wheat, barley and other products to port for export.

“As this study shows, the Snake River dam system is the most efficient option for transporting goods such as wheat, generating renewable energy via hydro-power and preventing flooding in the Pacific Northwest,” said Idaho Wheat Commission Commissioner “Genesee Joe” Anderson, who farms in the Lewiston area. “While removing or breaching the Snake River dams will not increase salmon numbers with any certainty,

there would definitely be negative impacts on people, including growers.”

If the dams ever were removed, it would have a large negative impact on Idaho wheat growers, said IWC Executive Director Blaine Jacobson.

Wheat is Idaho’s No. 2 crop in terms of total revenue and half of the wheat grown in Idaho is exported, almost all of it through the Columbia-Snake River system.

Wheat is grown in 42 of Idaho’s 44 counties and helps support the local economies in a large portion of the state’s rural areas, Jacobson said. Idaho is the No. 5 wheat growing state in the nation and has led the nation in yields per acre four of the last five years.

“Wheat is a steady, consistent contributor to Idaho’s economy,” Jacobson said. “Barging is the most cost-effective and environmentally friendly way of getting our wheat to market.”

When other factors such as power generation, the efficiency and environmentally friendly benefit of moving goods by barge vs. rail or truck, and total jobs connected to the river system are considered, “It boggles my mind that breaching the dams is even a consideration,” he added. “There is no question the dams boost the PNW economy and the benefit of the river system vastly outweighs the cost of maintaining it.”

The Columbia-Snake system is the third largest grain export gateway in the world.

The study was commissioned by the Pacific Northwest Waterways Association and conducted by FCS Group, a financial and economic consulting firm.

PNWA is a non-profit trade association with 135 members in Idaho, Oregon and Washington that advocates on behalf of the river system.

The study was released during the Idaho Wheat Commission’s annual PNW Export Tour, which brings Idaho wheat growers to Portland to educate them on the region’s wheat industry, including providing them an overview of the benefit of the river system.

Talk of breaching the dams is not new but the pressure from groups that support doing that goes in cycles and



Submitted photo

**A barge moves cargo through the Columbia-Snake River system. A new study concludes that transportation impacts related to breaching dams on the Columbia-Snake River system would cost at least \$2.3 billion.**

right now, the pressure is on an up cycle, PNWA Executive Director Kristin Meira told tour participants.

In response to a lawsuit brought by dam removal supporters, a federal judge has ordered federal agencies that operate the river’s hydropower system to review all reasonable options for operating it in order to minimize the impact on endangered salmon.

A draft environmental impact statement on the system’s operation is expected soon and its release will be followed by a public comment period.

Meira said it’s important that growers and other wheat industry partners have their voices heard on the issue because the groups supporting dam removal are organized and vocal.

“These groups are incredibly active in D.C., so your voices are needed back there,” she said. “This is a time when the folks in the different state capitals, in our federal agencies and our federal decision makers, all need to hear from growers, shippers and everyone who supports keeping these dams.”

The study found that removing the dams would lead to higher rail rates, negatively impact air quality and cost the nation more than \$2.3 billion over the next 30 years.

Removing the dams, the study found, would increase diesel fuel consumption by almost 5 million gallons per year because barges would be replaced by less efficient truck-to-rail shipments.

The share of goods moved to export terminals on the West Coast by barge would decrease and the amount moved by trucks and rail cars would increase.

The increased reliance on truck-to-rail shipments would result in an additional 24 million miles of travel per year on county, state and federal roads.

The study also found that dam breaching would likely increase grain transportation and storage expenses by 50-100 percent and put more than 1,100 farms at risk of bankruptcy.

The Columbia-Snake River system is a 465-mile federal waterway that provides farmers as far away as the Midwest access to international markets.

Besides being the No. 1 gateway for U.S. wheat exports, the system is the No. 2 gateway for corn and soybean exports and the No. 1 gateway for West Coast wood and auto exports.

According to PNWA, about 14 million metric tons of wheat destined for export move through the system each year, as well as 8 million metric tons of soybeans,

See **DAMS**, page 8

# DUVALL

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*Continued from page 2*

melons have not increased at all. That means any increase must come out of the farmer's own pocket.

For many, that pocket is empty. But the U.S. Department of Labor does not consider agriculture's ability to absorb the additional costs when it implements annual changes to the wage rate.

The average H-2A Adverse Effect Wage Rate for 2020 is \$13.99 per hour for farm work in the U.S. And that's on top of paying for workers' housing and transportation to and from their homes.

Compare that cost to Canada where workers are paid between \$8.72 and \$11.55 per hour for their work on fruit and vegetable farms, or Mexico and Central and South America where workers are paid a fraction of that amount. It's hard for a U.S. farmer to compete with foreign growers when their labor costs are so much lower than ours.

There are sectors of agriculture that

cannot even use the H-2A program because it requires that the work be seasonal. Year-round farmers such as dairy farmers and mushroom growers have no legal way of meeting their labor needs when there are too few U.S. workers who are willing to fill those jobs.

The word "sustainability" is often used these days, referring of course to worthy environmental goals. But farms cannot be sustainable if labor costs continue to outpace and outstrip farm revenue.

Already, American farms of all sizes, but especially small and medium-sized farms, are at the point where many do not see a future in labor-intensive agriculture.

That's bad for farmers. It's bad for rural economies where agriculture is a primary economic driver. It's bad for businesses that serve farmers, such as banks or transportation companies. And, worst of all, it's bad for every citizen of this country, as we become more

reliant on imported food.

Farm Bureau is asking the U.S. Senate to recognize the urgent need for legislation that improves the H-2A program for all farms, including addressing the rising Adverse Effect Wage Rate and providing solutions for year-round agriculture.

As we make our New Year's resolutions, most of us settle on a goal we've been putting off for too long—perhaps years or even decades. For the past 20-plus years, agriculture has urged Congress to pass agricultural labor reforms that help all farms meet their labor needs and help them compete with foreign producers. It's time for Congress to make, and keep, a New Year's resolution to solve this problem.

We simply cannot continue on the current path. We resolve to work with Congress to pass legislation that addresses the needs of all farms and prevents further erosion of our ability to grow our food here in our own country. ■

# KELLER

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*Continued from page 2*

of concern to farmers and ranchers, including taxation, regulations, land-owner rights, food safety and services to the farm community.

Farm Bureau's strength lies in its grassroots. Farm Bureau is a voluntary organization of member families joining together to solve common problems.

Anyone interested in the welfare of Idaho's farmers and ranchers is welcome to join the state's largest and most influential farm organization. Farm Bureau's strength stems from individuals working together.

To understand Farm Bureau, it is important to start at the local rather than the national level. It is in the 2,800-plus county Farm Bureaus across the nation that programs are developed to meet the

needs of member families.

Farm Bureau relies on its member families for strength and direction. Thousands of volunteer leaders serve on county Farm Bureau boards and

**'Farm Bureau's strength lies in its grassroots. Farm Bureau is a voluntary organization of member families joining together to solve common problems.'**

committees. From social outings and educational workshops to political involvement and community forums, Farm Bureau offers programs and services for the entire family.

County Farm Bureaus are the foundation of state Farm Bureaus. Once county Farm Bureaus set policies, they select voting delegates to voice their beliefs at state Farm Bureau annual meetings. These delegates determine which policies will provide direction for the state Farm Bureaus.

Farmers and ranchers serve as the officers and directors of state Farm Bureaus and work, with the help of professional staff, to carry out the policies of the organization.

Farm Bureau remains politically strong, offers educational resources for promoting agricultural literacy and telling agriculture's story, provides leadership training opportunities for all members and saves you money through member benefits and discount programs.

Thank you for being Farm Bureau. ■

Continued from page 2

I also encourage you to consider for a moment how those policies were created and why the policy that Farm Bureau members like you create is so important and powerful.

Most of our policies start as an idea in a lone individual's head. That person feels strongly enough about their idea to propose it as a Farm Bureau policy to their local county Farm Bureau.

If the person comes with a sound agricultural issue, makes a good argument for their proposed policy and convinces other county Farm Bureau members that it is necessary, that local county Farm Bureau will approve the policy and forward it to their district where, if approved, it would be moved to Idaho Farm Bureau Federation's house of delegates, which is made up of all of the state's county Farm Bureau organizations.

During IFBF's annual meeting in December, voting delegates from each county Farm Bureau in the state meet to debate current and proposed policies that have gone through this process. If a majority of those delegates agree with a proposed change, that proposal makes it into IFBF's policy book.

If warranted because it addresses an important national issue, that policy can be sent to American Farm Bureau Federation, where voting delegates from all states will debate and vote on it. This took place at our convention in January where a delegate body of 346 delegates debated various proposals and what was approved became policy and went into AFBF's policy book for 2020.

A lot of thought goes into IFBF policies and changes in the group's policy book don't happen by accident. Sometimes, at the county or state level, intense debate occurs over a proposed policy change and that debate can include discussion about commas and other grammatical issues.

By the time a policy makes it into IFBF's official policy book, members can be sure a lot of thoughtful discussion occurred over it and every angle was looked at.

That's important because elected officials throughout the state and nation regularly refer to IFBF's and AFBF's policy books when debate over a certain issue arises. How Farm Bureau feels about a certain issue is important to them because they know IFBF represents more than 80,000 member families throughout the state and AFBF represents 5.8 million members across the nation.

They also know that while members may disagree and argue in-depth about certain policies while the debate over them is taking place, once the group votes a certain way on that issue, the entire organization stands behind the policy.

While running for Congress, Rep. Russ Fulcher, R-Idaho, reached out to Farm Bureau, wanting to sit down and review some issues of concern and become better educated on them.

A couple of us sat down with him and reviewed current priority issues.


Fulcher has said many times to Farm Bureau that while he served as a state elected official and now as a national elected official, he has two books in the top drawer of his desk: "One is the Bible and the other one is the little white booklets on policy from Farm Bureau."

IFBF's & AFBF's policy books are important to lawmakers like Congressman Fulcher because they understand how Farm Bureau policy is developed

It's important to remember that our policies were developed by members at the grassroots level. All of IFBF's policies started at that level. They were not created by me or Farm Bureau staff: they originated from the minds of people just like you.

I encourage all IFBF members to become familiar with our organization's policies and get involved with the organization.

You can contact your county Farm Bureau office to find out when regular meetings are held. Show up, get involved and help shape the policies that direct the state's and nation's largest general farm organization. ■

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Submitted photo

**A barge moves cargo through the Columbia-Snake River system. A new study concludes that transportation impacts related to breaching dams on the Columbia-Snake River system would cost at least \$2.3 billion.**

## DAMS

*Continued from page 5*

3 million tons of wood products and 9 million tons of corn.

According to the study, shifting transportation of commodities from barges to truck and rail would increase carbon and other harmful emissions by more than 1.3 million tons per year. That is equivalent to adding 181,889 passenger cars or 90,365 homes.

According to the PNWA, it would take about 35,000 rail cars or 135,000 semi-trucks to move all the cargo that is barged on the Snake River.

Meira said she believes a highlight of the study was its finding that removing the dams would create more emissions.

“Barging is the cleanest, most efficient

way of moving all of that high-quality U.S. wheat overseas,” she said.

If people say they are in favor of addressing climate change and having a healthy environment, Meira added, “You can’t be in favor of breaching because that’s headed in the wrong direction.”

During the PNW Export Tour, participants visited Shaver Transportation, which moves wheat headed for export down the river on barges.

Rob Rich, vice president of marine services for Shaver, said the reason the Columbia-Snake River system is so successful is that the option of barging or shipping products by rail provides necessary competition that keeps prices competitive.

“We’re successful out here and the

reason we’re successful is that shippers have two options to receive wheat,” he said. “Where you have barging and rail, you have competition. Where there is less ways to ship, there’s less ways to make a profit.”

Besides impacting the PNW’s important agricultural sector and affecting the environment, removing the four lower Snake River dams would also undoubtedly result in higher power costs in the region, Meira said.

Together, the four dams produce enough electricity to power 800,000 homes.

“Those dams are producing a tremendous amount of power and they are efficient,” Meira said. “If you breached the dams, electric rates would go up, not down.” ■



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# Idaho Farm Bureau®

## IFBF Policy for 2020

The following policy statements were developed over the past 80 years by Idaho Farm Bureau volunteer members. IFB members meet every year to discuss, amend, delete and create the policy statements that guide the organization. The policy development process takes place at the county and district level throughout the year. Then the entire organization meets in early December to update the policy book. The policy comes from our grassroots members and is then used to guide Idaho Farm Bureau's lobbying, public relations and membership efforts throughout the year. To see a four-minute video on how Farm Bureau policy is developed, visit <https://www.idahofb.org/how-fb-policy-is-made>

### BASIC PRINCIPLES

#### **Purpose of Farm Bureau**

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

Farm Bureau is local, statewide, national, and international in its scope and influence, and is non-partisan, non-sectarian, and non-secretive in character.

#### **Farm Bureau Beliefs and Philosophy**

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

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

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

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

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

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

We believe that a strong and viable agricultural industry is one of the most important cornerstones in the foundation

of our national security, and the importance of that role in society must never be taken for granted. Economic progress, cultural advancement, ethical and religious principles flourish best when men are free, responsible individuals. The exercise of free will, rather than force, is consistent with the maintenance of liberty.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

We believe in the right of every man to choose his own occupation; to be rewarded according to his contribution to society and to save, invest, spend, or convey his earnings to his heirs.

These rights are accompanied by the responsibility that each man has to meet the financial obligations he has incurred.

We support a society free of drug abuse.

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

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

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

#### **The Constitution**

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

delegated to the federal government. The constitutional prerogatives of each branch of government should be preserved from encroachment.

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

In defense of our Constitution, and of the sovereignty of the U.S.A., we oppose the centralization of power worldwide into one world government.

### **State's Rights and Sovereignty**

We support the protection and defense of states' rights and state sovereignty over all powers not otherwise enumerated and granted to the federal government as specified in the 10th amendment to the constitution. The federal government must respect state laws and state agencies. All lands within the boundaries of Idaho, excluding those lands as allowed by Article 1, Section 8, Clause 17 1 of the U.S. Constitution and ceded to the federal government by the Idaho Legislature, shall be subject solely to the laws and jurisdiction of the state.

### **Religious Life**

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

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

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

### **Capitalism - Private Competitive Enterprise**

We believe in the American capitalistic,

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

### **Economy in Government**

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

State expenditures and growth of personnel on the public payroll should not be allowed to expand faster than the population and should be compatible with the percentage of economic growth of the state.

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

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

We support economy at all levels of government.

### **Education**

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

We believe education starts with the

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

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

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

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

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

### **Political Parties**

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

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

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

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

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

## **COMMODITIES**

### **1. Agrichemicals/Pesticides**

1. We support:
  - 1.1. Increased research and labeling for minor-use pesticide registrations; and
  - 1.2. The continued use of approved pesticides and/or related products until conclusive scientific evidence proves there is an unacceptable risk; and
  - 1.3. Compliance with federally approved label instructions absolving farmers or commercial applicators from liability claims of environmental pollution.
2. We oppose:
  - 2.1. Establishment of zones of agricultural

land in which any kind of legal application or storage of agricultural chemicals is curtailed without sound, scientifically validated evidence to warrant curtailment; and

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

## 2. Commodity Diseases

1. We support:

1.1. The quarantine of all sources of the potato wart virus;

1.2. Active research and the dissemination of information to all interested parties related to rhizomania and urge that any imposed restrictions be based on scientific data;

1.3. Any phytosanitary action taken by the Idaho Department of Agriculture to protect the Idaho potato industry from the threat of the "Pratylenchus Neglectus" nematode;

1.4. The rewrite of the Idaho Plant Pest Act to include language to protect growers from being subject to unnecessary search and seizure without probable cause, and advanced warning to enter a premises; and

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

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

## 3. Commodity Commissions

1. We support commodity commissions having:

1.1. Self-governing status with no political influence;

1.2. Boards solely elected by the growers/producers;

1.3. Uniform provisions to run referendums;

1.4. Commissioner districts representing even areas of production;

1.5. The right for legal entities to cast votes in elections; and

1.6. Nominations held for a month-long period followed by a month-long voting period so that all growers can be represented and participate.

## 4. Commodity Sales

We support expansion of Idaho agricultural markets, domestic and foreign. We also support trade missions abroad

to better inform our producers and the hosting of foreign delegations to our state in efforts to increase our market share.

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

We oppose double discounts by grain dealers.

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

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

## 5. Environmental Studies

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

## 6. Fair Trade

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

## 7. Field Testing Biotechnology Products

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

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

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

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

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

## 8. Food Safety/Government Accountability

We strongly believe a government agency making public health decisions that result in product recalls, product

seizures or destruction of perishable goods must be held accountable when such decisions prove false. Such agencies must be required to compensate or indemnify individuals and companies for the monetary losses that occur because of poor or false regulatory decisions.

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

## 9. Industrial Grade Hemp

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

## 10. Lien Law

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

We oppose delivered feed being encumbered by a blanket lien from a financial institution until the grower/supplier is paid in full.

## 11. Seed Indemnity Fund

We support aligning the financial reporting requirements for the Seed Indemnity Fund and the Commodity Indemnity Fund.

## LIVESTOCK

### 12. Animal Care

1. We support:

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

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

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

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

2. We oppose:

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

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

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

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

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

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

### **13. Animal ID**

1. We support:

1.1. Procedures and or equipment for an animal ID program that makes it possible to trace an animal back to its original location;

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

1.3. Having the Idaho State Department of Agriculture determine acceptable methods of identification, including hot or cold brands, for the state; and

1.4. Eliminating the mandatory brand inspection for equine in Idaho.

### **14. Bovine Tuberculosis**

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

### **15. Brucellosis**

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

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

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

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

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

### **16. CAFO Regulations**

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

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

### **17. Data Confidentiality**

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

### **18. Domestic Cervidae**

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

### **19. Equine**

1. We support:

1.1. Construction of new slaughtering facilities and/or use of existing processing facilities in Idaho to slaughter equines without duress;

1.2. The right of individuals and nongovernmental organizations to save horses from slaughter as long as they take possession of the horses and are responsible for their care and feeding;

1.3. The continued classification of equines as marketable livestock and oppose any efforts to classify them as pets or companion animals;

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

1.5. Funding for USDA food service inspectors in facilities that harvest horses.

2. We oppose:

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

### **20. Foot and Mouth/BSE Disease**

We support stringent controls to protect Idaho's livestock industry from foot and mouth disease and BSE (bovine spongiform encephalopathy).

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

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

### **21. Law Enforcement Training**

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

### **22. Livestock Brands**

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

### **23. Manure Management**

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

1. We support:

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

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

2. We oppose:

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

### **24. State Meat Inspectors**

We support state certified meat inspectors for small meat processing plants.

### **25. State Veterinarian**

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

## **WATER**

### **26. Aquifer Recharge**

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

### **27. Bureau of Reclamation Reservoirs**

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

### **28. Cloud Seeding**

We support cloud seeding and encourage continued investment in its application and research.

We support the Legislature and the Idaho Water Resource Board continuing to study and fund cloud seeding efforts.

### **29. Comprehensive State Water Plan**

1. We support:

1.1. The Governor appointing individuals to the Idaho Water Resource Board who will protect the water resources of the State;

1.2. Requiring legislative approval before establishing minimum stream flow, instream flow, reconnect permits, river basin plans and state water plans;

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

1.4. Legislative approval for water agreements made between the state and federal government.

2. We oppose:

2.1. Minimum stream flows until sufficient storage facilities are built to supply priority needs first.

### **30. Dams**

We support the Northwest Power Planning Council focusing its efforts on issues that will provide the region with its current and future power needs.

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

We support municipalities, federal agencies and tribes advocating for and funding additional storage projects to help meet the increasing demand for water, and avoid taking irrigation water from agricultural purposes.

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

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

### **31. Effluent Trading**

We support the concept of effluent trading.

### **32. Flood Control**

We support additional storage facilities, increased recharge, and federal land transfers to state ownership to control future flooding.

### **33. Ground Water Districts**

We support changing the boundaries of local groundwater districts that are directly connected to the underground aquifer to include those who are not currently participating but are of a common ground water source.

We oppose any diminishment of authority of local water districts or groundwater districts through creation of a Groundwater Management Area.

### **34. Mid-Snake Data Collection**

We support the Legislature appropriating additional funding to enable the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) to conduct data collection and analysis to complete the water quality report of the Upper Snake/Rock Subbasin in support of Idaho's Department of Environmental Quality (IDEQ) Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) development.

### **35. Moratorium**

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

### **36. Outstanding Resource Waters**

We support the Basin Advisory Groups (BAGs) and Watershed Advisory Groups (WAGs) process as it pertains to Outstanding Resource Waters (ORWs).

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

### **37. State Purchase of Water Rights for Mitigation**

We support the state purchasing and holding water rights for the purpose of mitigation, so water trade may benefit aquifer recharge and groundwater conservation.

### **38. Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs)**

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

### **39. Transfer of Water Rights**

We believe all water in Idaho should be

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

1. We support:

1.1. Re-evaluation of the need for flow augmentation on the grounds that the science does not support any biological benefit.

1. We oppose:

2.1. The transfer of water rights to the Bureau of Reclamation (BOR);

2.2. The taking of water for fish flushing. Water held by the Idaho Water Resource Board will be held and used for purposes intended and in accordance with state law; and

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

### **40. Waste Management**

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

### **41. Water Development on New Non-Ag Development**

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

### **42. Water Quality**

1. We support:

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

1.2. The development of BMPs for recreational uses; and

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

2. We oppose:

2.1. The DEQ having the authority to arbitrarily impose penalties on landowners without first identifying the problem and giving the landowner an opportunity to correct the problem. If there is a difference of opinion

concerning the extent of the problem, a reasonable and cost-effective appeal process of the DEQ decision should be available to the landowner; and

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

#### **43. Water Quality Standards**

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

#### **44. Water Rights**

1. We support:

1.1. State ownership and control of Idaho water held in trust for the residents of the State of Idaho, and will oppose any policy, program or regulation, including Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) relicensing, which would infringe on this right;

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

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

1.4. Permittees on federal land being recognized and acknowledged as the owners of stock water rights in their allotments as their livestock provide beneficial use under state law and the water rights are an appurtenance of the private base property;

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

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

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

1.8. The privatization of Idaho irrigation canal systems;

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

1.10. The concept of conjunctive-use

management when scientific evidence is available to support such management;

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

1.12. Idaho water law that denies considering flood control releases as a beneficial use.

2. We oppose:

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

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

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

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

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

2.6. The adoption of source water protection plans/ordinances by local government that create land use policies prohibiting generally accepted farming and animal agriculture practices/activities;

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

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

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

#### **45. Water Spreading**

We support voluntary conservation of water use by updating irrigation systems. Increases in irrigated acres (water spread acres) due to redesigning or remodeling irrigation systems or development of areas

within a recorded water right, should not be excluded from irrigation. Conservation should not adversely affect the full use of an irrigation water right.

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

#### **46. Water Use - International Water Agreements**

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

#### **LAND USE**

##### **47. Government Land Transactions**

1. We support:

1.1. No net loss of private property;

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

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

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

1.5. Requiring any entity which acquires property from the federal government, to compensate grazing preference holders on the former federally administered lands for the loss of their property rights if that entity does not continue to maintain and protect those rights;

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

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

1.8. No net loss of tax base with all land exchanges and sales. Tax obligations must stay with the property.

2. We oppose:

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

#### **48. Government-Managed Lands**

1. We support:
  - 1.1. Multiple-use management of federal and state lands with protection of the traditional rights of use;
  - 1.2. A study of the Payment In Lieu of Taxes formula to determine if it is meeting its purpose and is equitable in its distribution of funds;
  - 1.3. The equal-footing doctrine and insist on the passage of legislation to establish a deadline for complete transfer of public land back to state jurisdiction and management;
  - 1.4. The Idaho Legislature joining with other states in the West, in an interstate compact, with respect to the transfer of public lands;
  - 1.5. The timely salvage of trees in burn areas within our state;
  - 1.6. Legislation that would promote harvest of trees and forage on federal and state land to help prevent and control wildfire;
  - 1.7. The use of land-use management plans by county governments to encourage state and federal agencies to coordinate and protect the land within their tax base;
  - 1.8. The legislature and the governor asserting their authority and taking all necessary measures to protect the citizens and counties of the state of Idaho from federal agency overreach;
  - 1.9. The release of federal, state and local government held lands for development or private use; and
  - 1.10. Proactively utilizing Good Neighbor Authority, or similar programs to more productively manage federal lands in Idaho.

#### **49. Grazing**

We believe grazing to be an effective tool in maintaining sustainable rangeland, forests, improving watersheds, wildlife habitat, reduction of wildfire potential, and supporting ranchers and rural community economies.

1. We support:
  - 1.1. The protection of grazing on public lands as a viable economic solution for managing agencies of rangeland by reducing forage minimizing costs for fighting catastrophic wildfires;
  - 1.2. "Best Management Practices" by all State and Federal agencies, land grant colleges and research facilities on how

grazing affects habitat for all wildlife including sage grouse leks;

1.3. "Rangeland Management Plans" that use current science-based information developed by the Idaho Department of Lands, BLM, Forest Service, and NRCS including the development of a certification process recognized by these agencies which would allow grazing permit holders to submit voluntary forage monitoring data to be used in the creation and development of said plans;

1.4. Range management plans should be developed in careful and considered consultation, cooperation, and coordination with local government, permittees, lessees and landowners involved;

1.5. The Idaho Rangeland Resource Commission, the Experimental Stewardship Program, and the Coordinated Resource Management Program encouraging producer control and supporting fees;

1.6. Our local NRCS "Grazing Land Conservation Initiative" (GLCI) and the "Conservation Reserve Program" (CRP) and its programs of intermittent grazing which pay producers to set aside marginal ground to enhance soil health;

1.7. Grazing fee formulas for AUM's currently used by Idaho Department of Lands, BLM, Forest Service, and (PRIA) which are based upon forage monitoring by agencies and permittees under the "Federal Land Policy and Management Act" of 1976 (FLPMA);

1.8. The current grazing permit holder to have first right of refusal when land is sold and when there is no permit holder, the adjacent landowner should be given the first right of refusal based on appraised value;

1.9. All holders of grazing preference be fairly compensated when federal land is sold, traded, or exchanged and any entity acquiring property from the federal government to compensate grazing preference holders;

1.10. Requiring any entity which acquires property from the federal government to compensate grazing preference holders for loss of their property rights if that entity does not continue to maintain and protect those rights;

1.11. Funding from both federal and state governments for the operation and research of the U.S. Sheep Experiment Station in Dubois;

1.12. A grazing preference right being transferred from one base property to

another base property, if the transferor shall own or control the base property from which the grazing preference right is being transferred and file with the authorized officer a properly completed transfer application for approval to the respective agency;

1.13. Selling of a permit by a holder to another interested party that will continue using the permit for its original intended purpose;

1.14. The new "Outcome Based Grazing Authorizations" of 2017, which is designed to offer a more coordinated approach to resolve disputes between the BLM and its partners within the livestock grazing community when issuing trading authorizations; and

1.15. All stakeholders being a part of the vetting process when curtailment, termination, or fee increases of any existing grazing permits or allotments are proposed.

2. We oppose:

2.1. The reduction or curtailment of any grazing activity for the creation or recognition of wildlife corridors;

2.2. The U.S. Forest Service ruling that will prevent transferring grazing permits for 25 head or less;

2.3. The termination of grazing permits for administrative errors or omissions of the land managing agency;

2.4. Mandatory forage monitoring by livestock permittees on federal lands as proposed by the Federal Land Management Policy Act;

2.5. The termination or curtailment of permittees because of livestock proximity to bighorn sheep, bison, and sage grouse; and

2.6. The purchase or retirement of grazing permits or allotments by any State or Federal agency, group, or individual whose sole purpose is to not allow any further grazing.

#### **50. Idaho Forest Practices Act**

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

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

#### **51. Landfills on BLM Lands**

We encourage the development of new, and the continued use of existing, county landfills on BLM lands.



## **52. Local, State or National Land Designation**

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

We oppose Craters of the Moon becoming a national park.

## **53. Mineral Rights**

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

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

## **54. Mining**

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

## **55. Notification of Property Damage**

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

## **56. Open Range**

We oppose any changes to Idaho open range and fence laws.

## **57. Pest Control**

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

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

We support legislation that requires local, state and federal governments to manage lands to prevent spread of noxious weeds and pests from their lands to adjoining lands, crops and animals.

## **58. Protecting Farm Land**

There should be no governmental taking of private property rights by restriction of use without just and due compensation.

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

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

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

## **59. Regulation of Agricultural Practices**

1. We support:

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

1.2. Farmer participation in voluntary airshed quality programs; and

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

2. We oppose:

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

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

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

2.4. Efforts to regulate logging slash burning on private timberlands by the Idaho State Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ).

## **60. Right to Farm**

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

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

## **61. Riparian Management**

Proper multiple-use management of riparian areas is essential.

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

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

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

## **62. State and County Noxious Weed Control**

1. We support:

1.1. Strong enforcement of Idaho's noxious weed law by the state and counties, together with appropriate use of special management-zone provisions;

1.2. Idaho Transportation Department weed control policies at both state and district levels be required to be in compliance with the Idaho Noxious Weed Law each year by controlling all infestations of noxious weeds in a timely and effective manner and by controlling noxious weeds on the full width of all rights of way;

1.3. Enforcement of timely and effective noxious weed control by all railroads on their rights of ways within the state; and

1.4. Adding dog rose (*Rosa canina*) and sweet briar (*Rosa eglanteria*) to the Idaho noxious weed list.

## **63. Timber Management**

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

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

## **64. Wilderness and Restrictive Zones**

1. We support:

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

1.2. Adding adequate fire breaks in existing wilderness areas.

2. We oppose:

2.1. All dedication of land in Idaho for wilderness and roadless areas and support

the release of lands currently held in Wilderness Study Areas (WSA) back to multiple-use management. All lands designated as non-suitable for wilderness must be immediately released from WSA status;

2.2. Designation of lands in Idaho as biosphere reserves, corridors or buffer zones, using the Lands Legacy Initiative, the Antiquities Act or National Monument Declarations by the executive branch of the government;

2.3. Any expansion of the boundaries of the Sawtooth National Recreation Area (SNRA);

2.4. Any reinterpretation of the mandates of the SNRA which would impose further use restrictions; and

2.5. The reduction or curtailment of any grazing or farming activity for the creation or recognition of wildlife corridors.

### **65. Wildfire Control**

1. We support:

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

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

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

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

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

1.6. An aggressive initial attack and suppression on all forest and rangeland

wildfires on public land and firefighting suppression activities in addition to fire management, in order to protect our water basins and watersheds.

2. We oppose:

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

## **FISH AND WILDLIFE**

### **66. Animal Damage Control**

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

### **67. Animal Threat and Public Safety**

It shall be the responsibility of U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services and any state agencies, that manage predatory or proven problem animals, to notify all residences within a five-mile radius using a 9-1-1 reverse calling system of potential conflict in their area.

### **68. Endangered Species Act**

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

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

1. We support:

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

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

1.3. Eliminating the marking of hatchery fish.

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

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

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

2. We oppose:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

### **69. Fish and Game Department**

1. We support:

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

1.2. The Fish and Game Department controlling the concentration of wildlife numbers on all lands and being prohibited from entering into agreements

to limit access to any area, without approval of the local governing authority;

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

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

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

1.6. Reducing the depredation deductible. Compensation by IDFG for crop loss due to depredation shall be for actual loss minus the one-time deductible and should be expediently paid with no pro-rating;

1.7. Oversight of the depredation account by the Idaho Department of Agriculture with technical support provided by Idaho Fish and Game;

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

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

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

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

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

2. We oppose:

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

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

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

2.4. Idaho Fish and Game abdicating responsibility for year after year losses due to depredation impacts regardless of other reimbursements; and

2.5. Idaho Fish and Game utilizing animal depredation claims to count against actual production history (APH).

#### **70. Fish and Game—Prior Notification**

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

#### **71. Fish and Game—Private Reservoir Companies**

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

#### **72. Fish and Game/U.S. Fish & Wildlife Responsibility**

1. We support:

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

1.2 Requiring state or federal wildlife personnel to file an environmental and economic impact statement before they can release non-native insects or plants in Idaho or make regulations that affect the counties and/or the state;

1.3 The Idaho State Department of Agriculture's ban on the release of deleterious exotic animals into the State of Idaho; and

1.4 Requiring all state and federal agency personnel going through the elected county sheriff for all law enforcement.

2 We oppose:

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

2.2 Relocation or release into the wild of wolves or grizzlies that have been raised in captivity; and

2.3 The Idaho Fish and Game

Department engaging in activities that encourage only non-consumptive uses of fish and wildlife species in Idaho.

#### **73. Fish Species Population Management**

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

#### **74. Grizzly Bear**

1. We support:

1.1 Delisting the grizzly bear from endangered species status;

1.2 A hunting season on the grizzly;

1.3 Requiring the costs associated with grizzlies, including triple damages for depredation costs, to be borne by the federal government, and its agencies such as U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services;

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

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

2. We oppose:

2.1 The reintroduction of grizzly bear into any area of the state of Idaho; and

2.2 The relocation of any known problem bear that has threatened human safety outside a recovery zone regardless of the number of strikes against it.

#### **75. Introduction of Salmon**

We oppose the introduction of salmon above the Brownlee Dam.

#### **76. Invasive Species**

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

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

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

## 77. Sage Grouse

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

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

We support private sector rearing and releasing of sage grouse.

## 78. Salmon Recovery

1. We support the following salmon-recovery alternatives:

1.1. Physically modifying the dams rather than tearing them down or lowering the water levels;

1.2. Improving barging such as net barge transportation;

1.3. Privatizing salmon fisheries for stronger fish;

1.4. Controlling predators of salmon;

1.5. Utilizing new hydroelectric turbine technologies to achieve the goals of increased power production and reduced hazards to fish; and

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

## 79. Snake River Basin Snails

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

We oppose the future listing of new snail species.

## 80. Wolves

1. We support

1.1 All methods of year-round wolf control and population management statewide;

1.2 Funding for government agencies tasked with wolf management and support appropriate compensation for damages incurred by producers;

1.3 Adding wolves to the IDF&G depredation list so that depredation on livestock can be paid by the IDF&G Big Game Depredation and Prevention Fund; and

1.4 Requiring when possible, all wolf carcasses to be presented for testing for communicable diseases, especially the tapeworm *Echinococcus granulosus* which causes Hydatid Disease in livestock, elk, deer, and humans.

## EASEMENTS

### 81. Conservation Easements and Scenic Easements

We support continuation of conservation

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

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

## ENERGY

### 82. Affordable Energy

1. We support:

1.1. Transparency in how energy monopolies plan to incur expenses and make investments that are passed on to ratepayers;

1.2. Thorough, fair and publicly involved process for evaluating rate requests and setting rates; and

1.3. Increased focus on removing barriers to widely available and affordable sources of energy.

### 83. Alternative Energy

We support the development of alternative energy.

We oppose a broad moratorium on alternative energy projects.

We support county control in the siting of these projects.

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

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

### 84. Bonneville Power Administration Credit

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

### 85. Electrical Energy

1. Hydroelectric Dams:

1.1. We support

1.1.1 The continued careful use of water as one of our renewable natural resources through existing and the construction of new hydro projects, as future demands for electrical energy increase;

1.1.2 The adaptation of hydro projects to generate power for sale; and

1.1.3 The relicensing of dams, including Hells Canyon Complex, using a least cost mitigation plan reflecting the desire for the customers to have a reliable power source at reasonable rates.

2. Renewables:

2.1 We Support:

2.1.1 Utilities operating in Idaho developing economically feasible renewable energy portfolios;

2.1.2 The construction of economically feasible power generation facilities in Idaho, including those that use plant and/or animal residue or logging slash; and

2.1.3 An annual true-up for net metering rather than a monthly true-up.

3. Regulations:

3.1 We support:

3.1.1. State agencies removing barriers that prevent utilities from increasing Idaho's power generation capacity; and

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

3.2 We oppose:

3.2.1 Any deregulation, reorganization, merger or consolidation of power generation or transmission which could result in loss of water rights, less service or increased rates; and

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

4. Transmission:

4.1 We support:

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

4.1.2. The initiation of on and off ramps in transmission lines within the state of Idaho.

### 86. Farm Produced Fuel

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

### 87. Fossil Fuels

We support the mining and drilling of fossil fuels.

We support the legislature ensuring that rules for oil and natural gas production safeguard the water aquifers for all citizens and protect property owners' rights to use their property.

If a local government entity bans the development of mineral rights in its jurisdiction, it should be considered a property rights "taking" and compensation should be provided to the property owner.

### 88. Nuclear Energy

We support the generation of electricity from nuclear reactors in meeting our future energy needs and urge the development of permanent disposal sites

for radioactive waste material where it will not endanger the aquifer in Idaho.

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

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

We support the Idaho National Laboratory providing the lead role in advancing the development of this technology.

### **89. Power Demand Control Program**

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

### **90. Renewable Fuels**

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

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

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

### **91. Utility Companies**

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

## **LABOR**

### **92. Legal Aid**

We oppose state funding of Idaho Legal Aid Services.

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

### **93. Minimum Wage**

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

### **94. New Hire Reporting**

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

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

### **95. Unemployment Insurance**

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

### **96. Workers Compensation**

Workers compensation for agricultural employers should provide:

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

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

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

## **TAX**

### **97. Agricultural Property Tax Shifts**

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

### **98. Assessed Value of Ag Production Land**

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

1. We support:
  - 1.1 Assessed values being capped at a 5% increase in any given year;
  - 1.2 The retention of five-acre minimum productivity option and the Bare Land & Yield Option for forest lands; and
  - 1.3 Legislation that allows county commissioners to appeal an assessment change by the Idaho State Tax Commission for a category of property.

### **99. Budget Caps**

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

school districts, etc., in increasing local property taxes.

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

### **100. Fuel Tax**

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

We support having non-taxed dyed-fuel available for off-road use.

### **101. Impact Fees**

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

We support simplification of current impact fee rules and procedures.

### **102. Investment Tax Credit**

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

### **103. Local Option Taxation**

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

### **104. Maximum Levy Rates**

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

### **105. Personal Tax Privacy Rights**

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

### **106. Property Tax**

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

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

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

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

We support efforts to amend the Idaho Forest Tax Law to allow forest landowners to designate and maintain multiple timberland parcels under respective Bare Land and Yield (Category 6) or Productivity (Category 7) classifications.

## **107. Property Tax-Funding Local Government and Schools**

1. We support:

1.1 Gradually reducing the property tax burden to fund public schools and local government;

1.2 Legislation mandating that plant facilities levy monies can be used only for capital expenditures related to school operation and maintenance;

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

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

2. We oppose:

2.1. Judges being allowed to levy taxes;

2.2. Indefinite or permanent supplemental school levies on taxpayers, regardless of the number of consecutive levies passed; and

2.3. School districts carrying over plant facilities levy funds to finance the construction of new buildings or the acquisition of additional property.

## **108. Sales Tax**

We oppose removing the sales tax exemption on production items.

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

## **109. Services Tax**

We oppose all tax on services.

## **110. Special Taxing Districts**

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

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

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

We support a 10-year sunset on all special taxing districts, after which they would

require re-authorization by the voters to continue.

## **111. State Budget**

We support zero-based budgeting.

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

We oppose balancing budget shortfalls by any tax increase.

We oppose any state funding of Planned Parenthood.

## **112. Super Majority**

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

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

## **113. Tax Compensation for Federal and State Managed Lands**

We recommend that a fee in lieu of taxes be assessed on all lands removed from tax rolls by state or federal agency management. We favor an annual fee equivalent to local private property tax on land.

## **114. Tax Liens**

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

## **115. Tax Refund Extension**

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

## **116. Taxing Districts Sharing 31 Administrators**

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

## **117. Urban Renewal Districts**

We support the repeal of urban renewal laws.

## **LOCAL AFFAIRS**

### **118. Annexation**

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

We support adding forest land to the land annexation statute.

## **119. County Commissioners**

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

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

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

## **120. Distribution of Federal Fines**

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

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

## **121. Elections**

1. We support:

1.1 Allowing Idaho residents who own real property in a taxing district to vote on any tax proposal in that district;

1.2 Consolidation of all elections, including school bonds/levies to the May and November elections;

1.3 A Mandatory pre-registration requirement to be eligible to vote in all local bond elections;

1.4 Requiring photo identification, proof of residency and proof of U.S. citizenship for new voter registration;

1.5 Pay raises for elected officials only taking effect after the official stands again for election; and

1.6 Changing the number of members of the Idaho redistricting commission to 7 with the majority on the commission reflecting the current partisan makeup of the legislature.

## **122. Emergency Response Fees**

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

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

## **123. Public Hearings**

Public hearings that affect a given area

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

#### **124. Zoning**

County commissioners should control all zoning in the county. Zoning should be site specific within the county.

We oppose the use of blanket zoning ordinances, including sustainable development and smart-growth initiatives.

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

### **EDUCATION**

#### **125. Adolescent Nutrition**

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

#### **126. Ag in the Classroom**

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

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

#### **127. Career Technical Education**

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

#### **128. Contracts for Teachers**

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

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

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

#### **129. Education Funding**

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

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

#### **130. Education Standards and Assessments**

1. We support using:

1.1. Professionally established standards and assessments that can be modified to reflect locally recognized educational values, goals and philosophy; and

1.2. Standards to ensure the progression of a student that reflect a comprehension of the subject.

#### **131. Knowledge of Constitution**

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

#### **132. Local Control of Education**

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

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

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

#### **133. Mandatory Agriculture Education Class**

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

#### **134. No Increase in School Time**

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

#### **135. Parental Choice in Education**

We support the voucher system for education.

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

We support optional kindergarten.

We oppose public funding of pre-kindergarten.

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

#### **136. Veterinary Students**

We support an increase from eleven

(11) to fifteen (15) seats per year for Idaho residents in the Washington-Idaho Cooperative Veterinary Medical Education Program.

### **STATE AFFAIRS**

#### **137. Agricultural Research and Extension**

1. We support:

1.1. The University of Idaho Agricultural Research and Extension Service and urge the Legislature to adequately fund this vital program;

1.2. Adequate funding to the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences to allow research to develop new improved varieties of seed that are classed as public varieties;

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

1.4. An informational exchange and cooperative effort within the tri-state area in agricultural registration and research as well as plant/animal variety improvement research. Every effort should be made by state and county officials and the University of Idaho to retain an agricultural extension agent in each county as an extension service of our land grant university. Strong pressure must be exerted to revitalize and improve the agricultural information and education programs;

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

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

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

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

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

### **138. ATV Safety**

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

### **139. Ballot Initiative**

We support requiring all ballot initiatives to collect signatures from 6% of registered voters in each of the 35 legislative districts.

### **140. Bicycle Safety**

We support bicyclists using public roadways be subject to the same laws that motorists must obey.

### **141. Cell Phone Use**

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

### **142. Commercial Auction Company Bonding**

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

### **143. Constitutional Defense Fund**

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

### **144. County Fairs**

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

### **145. Cross Deputization of Law Enforcement Officers**

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

### **146. Definition of Agricultural Buildings**

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

1.1. They are buildings where agricultural products are stored, housed or grown;

1.2. They are buildings where agricultural equipment, including licensed vehicles that are used in the production of agriculture can be fixed, repaired or stored;

1.3. They are buildings that are used for the normal servicing of an agricultural business; and

1.4. They can be used by employees as a place of employment as well as a place to have meals and take bathroom breaks as required by GAP (Good Agricultural Practices).

### **147. Executive Branch MOU/MOA**

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

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

### **148. Falsifying Reports**

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

### **149. Hazardous Waste**

We believe that each state should, to the extent possible, take the responsibility for treatment and disposal of hazardous waste generated in its state and that these waste products be disposed of in the most feasible manner that will not endanger life or resources.

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

We support a statewide hazardous materials clean-up day.

### **150. Health Insurance**

1. We support:

1.1. Private optional health insurance;

1.2. Legislation that permits, promotes, and/or assists:

1.2.1. In individual health savings accounts with tax free withdrawals for all health insurance premiums;

1.2.2. In free market solutions to health care costs and access;

1.2.3. In free clinics funded by local community/faith-based organizations; and

1.2.4. In development of Direct Primary Care in Idaho supporting the offering of wraparound health insurance policies.

1.3. Health insurance as a risk management tool by reducing and/or eliminating the number of mandated services.

2. We oppose:

2.1. The Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act and fines for individuals and employers who refuse to carry health insurance; and

2.2. Any legislation to require employers to carry health insurance on their employees whether they are seasonal or full-time.

### **151. Judicial Confirmation**

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

### **152. Legislative Testimony**

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

### **153. Liability and Tort Claims**

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

### **154. Medicaid**

1. We support:

1.1. Repeal of Medicaid Expansion;

1.2. Informing the taxpayers each year of the cost of Medicaid expansion and the effect on state budgets;

1.3. Elimination of the Idaho State CAT Fund; and

1.4. Medicaid expansion being paid for with State of Idaho general funds.

2. We oppose:

2.1. County property taxes paying any portion of Medicaid expansion.

### **155. One Senator Per County**

We support an amendment to change the Idaho Constitution to allow one senator per county.

### **156. Private Property Rights/Eminent Domain**

1. We support:

1.1. Defining private property to include, but not be limited to, all land, crops, timber, water rights, mineral rights, all other appurtenances and any other consideration associated with land ownership;

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

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

2. We oppose:



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

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

### **157. Proof of Citizenship**

We support the identification of U.S. citizenship on Idaho driver's licenses.

### **158. Proprietary Information**

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

### **159. PUC Rates**

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

### **160. Public Employees Bargaining**

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

### **161. Re-Establish Congressional Lawmaking Responsibility**

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

### **162. Refugees in the United States**

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

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

### **163. Regulation Reform**

1. We support:

1.1. Complete review of existing regulations to determine their effectiveness and appropriateness prior to assigning more restrictive regulations; and

1.2. Peer review of the existing regulations to determine their potential to mitigate the problems they address.

### **164. Regulatory Fines**

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

### **165. Rights-of-Way**

1. We Support:

1.1. Access to or through federal lands using RS2477;

1.2. Allowing county commissioners the ability to determine the validity of an RS2477 claim, the right to move an RS2477 when it occurs on private land and the ability to temporarily close an RS2477 for resource reasons. To prevent the misuse of RS2477 claims, we recognize the superiority of a property's title over RS2477 claims; and

1.3. Enactment of legislation to require that adjacent landowners be given priority to purchase at fair market value lands that have been vacated by railways, power companies, roadways, etc.

2. We oppose:

2.1. Committing easement rights-of-way obtained by public or private sectors to any new or additional purpose, either during their original usage or after abandonment, without consent of the owner of the land underlying the easement. Upon abandonment of railway or utility rights-of-way or leases, all property and rights associated with such rights-of-way or leases should revert to the current owner of the original tract; and

2.2. The use of RS2477 as a tool for the taking of private property without just compensation as prescribed in the Constitution.

3. Any party who controls or obtains title to a right-of-way must be responsible for maintaining fences, drainage systems, all field and road crossings, controlling noxious weeds and any other agreement that might have been in existence on any such acquired rights-of-way before the corridor changed management.

### **166. Right to Bear Arms**

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

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

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

the place of business or in motor vehicles.

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

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

### **167. Road Closures**

We believe when any government entity closes a road, use on these roads for commodity production should be exempted from the closure.

We oppose the closure of any existing roads.

### **168. Road Infrastructure on State Endowment Lands**

We support the Idaho Department of Lands hiring or contracting a transportation planner to organize road infrastructure on endowment lands.

### **169. State Agencies**

1. We support:

1.1. The Soil Conservation Commission or successor entity advising and aiding local Soil Conservation Districts by providing technical support and funding at the statutory level;

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

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

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

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

2. We oppose:

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

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

### **170. State Building Code**

We support amending the State Building

Code to prevent infringement on private property rights through excessive permit requirements.

### **171. State Hatch Act**

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

### **172. State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO)**

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

### **173. State Legal Reform**

1. We Support:

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

1.2. Legislation by the Idaho Legislature that would require any entity bringing such lawsuits to post substantial bonds based on the potential harm of the lawsuit. Individuals who file complaints against an agricultural operation and request an investigation must pay a fee to cover administration costs. Complete names, addresses and phone numbers are required on each complaint;

1.3. Legislation to elect district judges when appointments are made within one year of the next election;

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

1.5. Legislation to amend Idaho state statutes to ensure that justice and equity prevail in the awarding of attorney fees;

1.6. Idaho courts using only the United States and Idaho laws in the court system;

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

1.8. Requiring judges to inform jurors of the legality of jury nullification.

### **174. States' Rights and Sovereignty**

We support a law stating that Idaho and

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

### **175. Transportation**

1. We support:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

1.16. Alternative solutions to wildlife overpasses.

2. We oppose:

2.1. A tax or fee increase on fuel;

2.2. A tax or fee increase on vehicles;

2.3. The removal of the Port of

Entry system from the Department of Transportation; and

2.4. Idaho Transportation Department (ITD) wildlife overpass construction unless wildlife overpasses are the most effective solution.

### **176. Trespass**

1. We support:

1.1. Programs to educate the public about private property rights and about trespass laws. Landowners retain the right to refuse access within the current law;

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

1.3. Making it unlawful to enter any facility to use or attempt to use a camera, video recorder, or any other video or audio recording device without permission from the owner or authorized agent;

1.4. A law placing the burden of trespass on the trespasser instead of the landowner; and

1.5. Mandatory education regarding current trespass laws and private property rights in the Hunter education program.

### **177. Tribal Jurisdiction on Reservations**

We support the requirement that tribes and the affected municipalities and counties collaborate and coordinate to ensure that the best interests of the tribe and the surrounding communities are served if a tribe submits a retrocession resolution to the governor.

We oppose any act by the State of Idaho to return to the federal government any jurisdiction acquired over Indian tribes under Federal Public Law 280.

### **178. Unfunded Mandates**

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

### **179. Welfare Reform**

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

# Word Search

## Pizza: Ingredients from agriculture

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

Cheese

Crust

Dough

Flour

Pepperoni

Sauce

Mozzarella

Tomato

Basil

Parmesan

Mushrooms

Onions

Sausage

Bacon

Olives

Peppers

Pineapple

Spinach

Garlic

Oregano

Anchovies

Chicken

Meatballs

Salami

Pastrami

Artichoke hearts

Ham

Hamburger

# Idaho hop production rises again in 2019

By Sean Ellis

*Idaho Farm Bureau Federation*

POCATELLO – Hop production in Idaho rose for the eighth straight year in 2019 and both Idaho and U.S. hop production reached a record level, again.

U.S. farmers produced a record 112 million pounds of hops in 2019, up from 107 million pounds during 2018 and 106 million pounds in 2017, according to estimates by USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service.

In Idaho, hop production totaled a record 17 million pounds in 2019, up 5 percent from 16.2 million pounds in 2018 and 21 percent more than the 14 million pounds produced in 2017.

The combined harvested hop acreage in the United States totaled a record 56,544 acres in 2019, a record. All but a minimal amount of the nation's hop production comes from Washington, Idaho and Oregon.

Idaho hop acreage totaled a record 8,358 in 2019, up from 8,140 acres in 2018. Statewide yields averaged 2,034 pounds per acre, up from 1,995 in 2018.

NASS put the total value of Idaho's 2019 hop crop at \$89 million.

Idaho hop acres have risen sharply since 2011, when 2,265 acres of the crop were harvested. That number rose to 2,596 in 2012 and then 3,356 in 2013, 3,743 in 2014, 4,863 in 2015, 5,648 in 2016, 7,125 in 2017, 8,140 in 2018 and 8,358 in 2019.

Idaho hop producers said they were a little bit surprised that hop acreage and production continued to increase in 2019, both in Idaho and nationwide.

"It surprises me a little bit because the market has softened considerably for some varieties, especially the public varieties," said Idaho hop producer Mike Gooding.

Hop producer Brock Obendorf, chairman of the Idaho Hop Commission, agreed, and both he and Gooding expect the growth in hop acreage to begin to slow.

Obendorf noted that while Idaho's hop acreage continues to increase, the growth rate has slowed.



Photo by Sean Ellis

**A new hop yard is built in a field near Homedale in March 2019. Idaho and U.S. hop production reached another record level in 2019.**

"The percentage of growth has come way down," he said. "For the past five to seven years, it's been a healthy industry and I think it's going to continue to be a healthy industry, but I think we're going to see the pipeline get full and we're going to see a lot less growth."

"It's going to continue to be a solid market but I definitely think it's going to slow down a little bit," Gooding said. "It would really surprise me if (production) goes up significantly (in 2020)."

Idaho passed Oregon in 2016 to become the No. 2 state in the nation for hop production and the Gem State passed Oregon in 2017 in hop acreage as well. Since then, the gap between No. 2 and No. 3 has only widened, in both acreage and production.

While hop acres and total production in Idaho has risen significantly in recent years, hop acreage in Oregon has decreased. According to NASS, Oregon farmers produced 13 million pounds of hops on 7,306 acres in 2019. Oregon's hop acreage in 2019 declined from 7,725 in 2018 and 8,216 in 2017.

Washington leads the nation in hop pro-

duction, with 82 million pounds produced from 40,880 acres in 2019.

U.S. hop production has soared as well since 2012. Since then, hop acreage in the United States has swelled from 29,683 acres to 56,544 acres.

The increase in U.S. hop acres has been driven by the nation's fast-growing craft brewing industry.

While the growth in the U.S. craft brewing industry has slowed recently, other nations are seeing rapid growth in that industry and U.S. hop exports are healthy as a result, Gooding said.

The large increase in Idaho hop acreage in recent years has resulted in hops becoming one of the state's most valuable crops. Until very recently, hops ranked well outside the top 10 Idaho farm commodities in terms of total farm cash receipts.

Based on the NASS estimate that values Idaho's 2019 hop crop at \$89 million, hops is likely to rank No. 8 in 2019 on the list of Idaho's most valuable farm commodities.

Since 2015, the value of Idaho hop production has increased from \$31 million to \$89 million. ■

# Farm and food sectors have massive impact on U.S., Idaho economy

By Sean Ellis

*Idaho Farm Bureau Federation*

POCATELLO – While farmers make up only about 1 percent of the nation’s total population, the expanded impact they have on the overall economy is massive, according to a nationwide economic impact study that shows the food and agriculture sectors are responsible for a huge amount of economic activity.

The study’s research, which can be seen at [FeedingTheEconomy.com](http://FeedingTheEconomy.com), was commissioned by 23 food and agriculture organizations, including American Farm Bureau Federation.

The study shows that one-fifth of the nation’s economy is directly or indirectly related to the agriculture and food sectors.

It found that the industries are responsible for 46 million jobs in the nation, which is one of every four American jobs, as well as \$2 trillion in wages, \$913 billion in taxes and \$154 billion in exports.

The total economic impact of the food and agriculture industries was estimated at \$7 trillion.

The study also breaks down the impact by state.

In Idaho, the combined food and agriculture industries are responsible directly and indirectly for 370,532 jobs, \$16.8 billion in wages, \$6.5 billion in taxes and \$786 million in exports.

Idaho Farm Bureau Federation President Bryan Searle, a farmer from Shelley, said many people involved with the agriculture and food industries already know their sectors play an important role in the state and U.S. economies.

Even then, he said, the numbers shown by the study are eye-popping.

“The study shows that the nation’s agriculture industry, in conjunction with the food sector, plays a vital role in the state and national economy,” he said. “I encourage farmers, ranchers and others to



Photo by Sean Ellis

**Onions are sorted at a processing facility in southwestern Idaho in September. A nationwide study found that the agriculture and food sectors combined account for one-fifth of the nation’s overall economy.**

share the results of this study because they really do show how critical the ag industry is to Idaho and the nation.”

“While more and more Americans are becoming interested in the food they eat, we must ensure they know the value of what farmers and ranchers do,” Sen. Pat Roberts, R-Kansas, chairman of the Senate Agriculture Committee, stated in a Feeding The Economy press release. “Everyone can benefit from knowing of the great contribution of agriculture to our economy, to our rural communities, to our security, to our culture and yes, to our natural resources. We need resources like the FeedingTheEconomy.com report to better tell this story.”

In the press release, House Agriculture Committee Chairman Collin Peterson, D-Minn., said a lot of people don’t understand the significant impact that agriculture has on their lives.

“The more resources farmers and ranchers have at their disposal to help connect with folks in their community and talk more about the economic significance of farming and ranching, the more those much-needed conversations

can take place,” he said.

The study captures the direct impact the food and agriculture sectors have on the economy as well as the indirect economic activity they generate.

“Together, these impacts have a multiplier effect on the already formidable direct impact of food and agriculture,” the news release states.

Excluding the multiplier effects, these two sectors are directly responsible for 22.8 million American jobs, the report found.

“These food and agricultural jobs represent total wages of \$729 billion, federal tax contributions of \$537 billion, state tax contributions of \$376 billion and generate economic output of \$2.1 trillion – proving that agriculture and its related industries have a sizable impact on the U.S. economy,” an American Farm Bureau Federation analysis of the study concluded.

According to the AFBF analysis, the underlying data used for the study was based on 2016 employment and output data, and industry growth rates were used to estimate 2019 levels. ■





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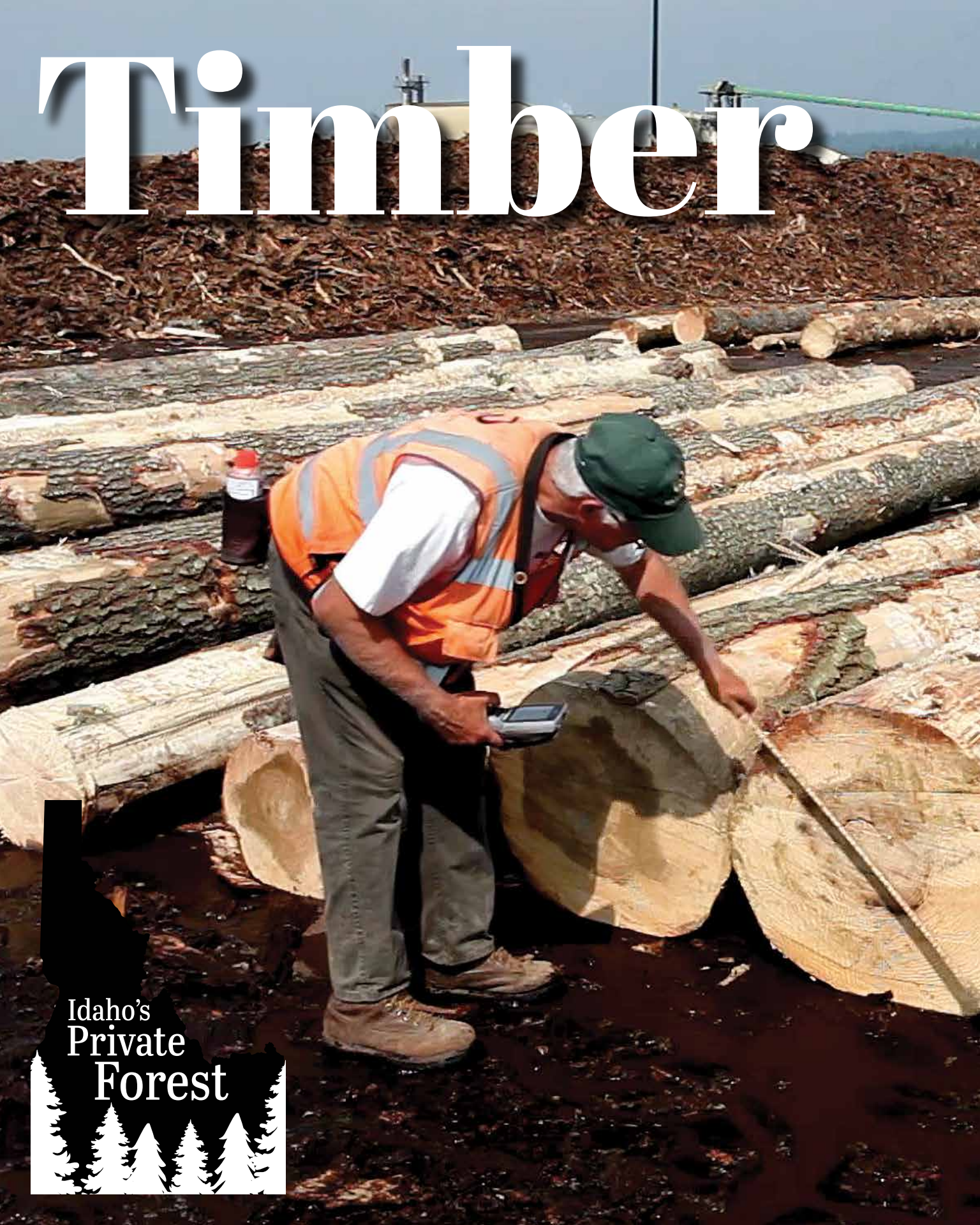
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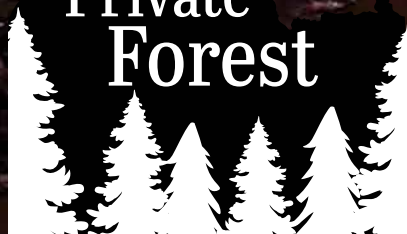
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# Timber



Idaho's  
Private  
Forest





# Marketing logs in the Inland Northwest

By Chris Schnepf  
*University of Idaho*

Many forest owners in the Inland Northwest – Idaho, Montana, eastern Washington and eastern Oregon – have relatively good markets for their logs, particularly in communities with moist, productive forest types. But in the drier parts of the region, the number of mills competing for logs has dwindled in the last 20 years.

When factoring log prices, long hauling distances, logging costs, taxes and all the other variables in assessing timber harvest profitability, it may not be worth hauling logs to a mill.

But what if you can't wait? You may need to make a thinning or regeneration cut sooner than later, to reduce trees' moisture stress, change species composition to deal with insects or disease, lessen fire risk, increase understory plants, or a whole variety of other reasons.

Most forest owners would like to break even or spend as little money as possible with such stand treatments.

When prices are low and costs are high, it becomes even more important to look at a whole suite of factors affecting a timber sale's bottom line. Not paying attention to these details may have more effect on timber sale profitability than limited mill choices or perceived difference between scaling practices at different mills.

Do your log market research. Some consulting forestry firms offer log price reports on their websites, where you can get a general picture of log prices for different species. But it is worth contacting mills to see if they pay higher prices for logs that meet certain specifications.

Mills are increasingly specialized, with different mills using different log species and sizes. Mills may pay more for logs meeting their specifications or less for logs that don't. For example, many Inland Northwest mills now pay less for logs that

are too large.

Check for mills' specific defect deductions. For example, many mills reduce prices for logs with blue-stain fungi. Also look beyond standard log sizes (e.g. 16.5', 33' log lengths). Individual mills may pay more for logs cut to specialized lengths.

Are you selling logs "camp-run" to one mill? If so, you may be missing a higher price for some of the logs you are considering harvesting. For example, logs that will make the grade for utility poles may be worth twice as much as other logs.

Mills may sort out specific types of logs to re-sell to other mills that pay more for them. Sort logs and claim the premium yourself by hauling different types of logs to the specific mills paying the best prices for them.

Don't forget to factor in transportation costs, volume of logs, etc. The cost of hauling logs to a distant mill may cancel out any price premium you could get for them.

Look beyond boards. Some forest owners have purchased portable sawmills, or hired someone with one, to produce beams, slabs or a variety of dimensional lumber either for their own use or for sale locally. With a little searching, you may find firms in your region that are looking for smaller quantities of wood for a variety of value-added, "locally grown" wood products.

For example, a firm in Missoula, Mont., makes a variety of such products "using timber sourced only from Missoula's urban forest and local forest restoration projects."

You can get at timber sale profitability on the cost side of things, too. A skilled logger is often worth paying more for, but logging costs come directly from your profit. Do market research on loggers just as you would mills. Check around for the going prices for logging your type of site in your locale. Shop around for the best



combination of logging price and quality.

We often hear stories of loggers offering a deal to split mill payments “50-50” with the landowner. Do the math. These 50-50 agreements may make some sense if prices are low or logging prices are high.

But these agreements make less sense (for forest owners) as log prices rise or logging costs drop. For example, on relatively flat ground that could be logged with a CAT, the going price for logging on a 40-acre parcel might be \$150-\$225 per 1,000 board feet (MBF). If you are getting \$600/MBF for your logs and splitting 50/50, the logger would be getting \$300/MBF!

Most forest owners value their forest nearly as much as their homes. Would you have a home built with a contractor on a handshake? All timber sales should have a written contract. A contract can communicate log manufacturing standards and other issues affecting timber sale profitability.

See: Contracts for Woodland Owners (OSU EC 1192), Producing and Selling Logs for Maximum Revenue (EM 9047), and Selling Timber and Logs (OSU EC 1587) all available at <https://catalog.extension.oregonstate.edu/topic/forestry-and-wood-processing/timber-harvesting-and-sales>.

How your logs are being manufactured (cutting fallen trees into logs to be hauled to the mill) also impacts timber sale profitability. Hire loggers who can get the most from your trees by minimizing high stumps and felling breakage, and by manufacturing logs to reduce scaling deductions for log length, sweep, crook, stump pull, diagonal cuts or deviations from mill specifications.

Are you hauling logs that lose half their value from defect deductions? Was the log worth paying to haul to the mill? Low quality logs may be worth more left on the forest floor as they help cycle nutrients, feed beneficial fungi, and build soil, ultimately increasing growth of future crop trees, and future timber sale profits.

They also contribute to wildlife and other qualities most forest owners value highly. Don't even take them to landings – they do more good distributed throughout the woods. The fire risk associated with such logs is much lower than for finer logging slash.

Landowners working with a consulting forester may make more from their timber sales, even after paying consulting fees, and are



Photos by Chris Schnepf

**Portable sawmills can help forest owners add value to logs from their property.**

**PREVIOUS PAGE: Paying close attention to how logs are manufactured for the mill can improve timber sale profitability.**

typically more satisfied with a logging job.

Consulting foresters pay for themselves by: putting sales out on competitive bid (where appropriate); having a feel for the most profitable timing for a timber sale; helping landowners choose a logging firm with the best combination of price and quality; bringing forest owners together to market logs to get better prices by offering larger sale volumes (where appropriate); and by using their knowledge and experience with markets, loggers, and timber sales to follow up on timber sale details much more efficiently and effectively than an individual landowner could.

Are you paying more tax on timber harvest income than required? To the extent you treat your forest property as an active business (at least for tax purposes), you can also deduct forest management expenses. For more details on this topic see the National Timber Tax Website ([www.timbertax.org](http://www.timbertax.org)).

Timber sales profitability is not about fixing one problem. Higher timber sale profits come from careful attention to a variety of details that add up to higher returns. Writing things down in a forest management plan and in timber sale agreements helps you track details. We aren't making any promises that a given landowner could take advantage of all these factors, but they are all worth investigating.

If a given stand's treatment does not pen-

cil out as a timber sale, there could possibly be other funds available to do the treatment through cost sharing programs such as the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP), managed by the Natural Resources Conservation Service.

Regardless of how much money you do or don't make on a harvest, remember that the primary value of a given treatment may be a forest that is more resilient in the face of fire, drought, insects or any of the other factors that may diminish forest health and growth.

It may also be an opportunity to further non-timber goals on your property, such as allowing more light to the understory to increase forage for livestock or provide more food or understory habitat for certain wildlife species.

Be sure to continually monitor all the factors discussed in this article, as they may change. Log prices may increase, new mills may be built, new products that use different types of logs may develop, etc. One of the nice things about forestry is if the markets for your logs are not good, you can often wait. If your forest is not over-dense, your trees will keep growing.

*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](mailto:cschnepf@uidaho.edu). ■*

# Word Search Answers

Pizza ingredients

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

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## MISCELLANEOUS

Antique wood cook stove. 1908 Home Comfort. Emmett, ID 208-365-1681.

Two bookcases - one antique and one vintage. 39"x51" lawyer's bookcase. Antique 48"x60" double glass door oak bookcase

w/carved waterfall top. Both in excellent condition. Juliaetta, Id. Mike 208-276-3101.

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The book: 'Over a Century of Murder in Idaho county' \$35. New Kollmorgen 24VDC 400-watt powerful brushless Currie Scooter motor with built-in controller. This motor is sold, high quality. \$100. Grangeville, Id. Call Kurt 208-983-0599.

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

Pre-1970 Idaho License Plates Wanted: Also Revere Ware

and Solar-Sturges Permanent cookware, and old signs. Will pay cash. Please email, text, call, or write. Gary Peterson, 115 E D St, Moscow, ID 83843. gearlep@gmail.com. 208-285-1258

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# U of I program aims to provide financial assistance to producers

By John O'Connell  
*Intermountain Farm and Ranch*

A new University of Idaho program aims to compile a robust dataset on agricultural production in Idaho to help the state's food producers better assess their own business choices.

UI's new Farm Business Management and Benchmarking Program will also provide one-on-one financial assistance to Idaho farmers, ranchers and dairymen with operations of all sizes.

UI experts in agricultural economics will offer producers training in creating financial statements, ratios, benchmarks and budgets, as well as insight into using the information to improve their operations.

"As we've gone around the state, we've learned producers and their understanding of agricultural finances is super varied," said Sidnee Rose Hill, coordinator of the new program. "Some people don't know anything about finances and profit and losses and some have business degrees."

Hill said the service should be especially useful to beginning farmers and ranchers, who will learn to make the types of financial statements that are periodically requested by lenders.

The program will be funded for three years by a \$469,000 grant from the National Institute of Food and Agriculture.

Each year of the grant, Hill plans to conduct thorough interviews with 50 Idaho producers who provide a good representation of Idaho's major commodities, keeping their information anonymous. She also hopes to tap into producers' data from a few major dairy companies.

"We will collect financials, depreciation, cost analysis — pretty much the whole snapshot of their operation," said Hill, who is a cattle rancher.

Hill said the data gathered through her program will be used to supplement an agricultural database maintained by University of Minnesota Extension, called FINPACK. For example, the data should help farmers determine if they're paying the right amount of labor and other farm inputs.

"Idaho is really underrepresented in the financial benchmarks," Hill said.

Due to the lack of composite farm data for Idaho, the state's potato growers, for example, must often make financial comparisons using data from farmers in the East, where production practices and expenses are much different.

The grant will also fund a UI master's student's efforts to gather data on how Idaho producers view risk, as well as how well positioned producers are to handle risky circumstances. Hill said the student will study producers' willingness to purchase crop insurance,



Photo by Sean Ellis

**A new University of Idaho program aims to compile a robust dataset on agricultural production in Idaho to help the state's farmers better assess their business choices.**

as well as their receptiveness to taking out high-interest loans.

A new web page for the program will be created, linked to UI's agricultural business page.

UI Extension economist Ashlee Westerhold spearheaded the grant. UI Extension economist Ben Eborn will assist in the consultations.

Eborn said farm organizations in Midwestern states pool producers' costs, returns and other data, enabling farmers to draw comparisons with similar operations and ascertain their strengths and weaknesses. He said Idaho is behind in that effort.

"Idaho producers are so varied. We grow so many different kinds of crops. It's more challenging to find similar operations to compare, but it's completely doable," Eborn said.

Westerhold said UI creates annual enterprise budgets with conservative estimates of average farm expenses.

She said data that will be collected from the grant should be "better than our enterprise budgets because it's their data and what they see from their suppliers instead of a running average of input suppliers."

Westerhold said pooling data should also help officials determine if specific sustainability practices are cost-effective in local conditions. ■



# Dairy a major part of Idaho's economy

By Sean Ellis

*Idaho Farm Bureau Federation*

POCATELLO – Dairy is the biggest part of Idaho's agricultural sector so it makes sense that the industry would have a significant impact on Idaho's economy.

But it's unlikely most Idahoans understand just how huge that impact is.

According to recently crunched 2018 data, Idaho's dairy industry is responsible for 47,000 jobs directly and indirectly.

The calculations were made by the U.S. Dairy Export Council and National Milk Producers Federation based on 2018 data from the U.S. Department of Agriculture and U.S. Census Bureau.

The national milk organizations used that data to create charts that show the economic impact of the dairy industry in each U.S. state.

The calculations also looked at the role that dairy exports play in each state.

Idaho dairy exports totaled \$407 million in 2018, according to the calculations, and they generated \$894 million in economic impact in Idaho.

"The dairy industry's impact on Idaho's economy is very big," said Idaho Dairy-men's Association Executive Director

Rick Naerebout.

The calculations recently released by USDEC and NMPF are updates of previously crunched data. IDA works with University of Idaho agricultural economists to review the data and create a report that shows the broad impact dairy has on Idaho's economy.

U of I researchers are currently crunching the recently released data.

A previous U of I report showed that Idaho received \$10.4 billion in economic output in sales from the dairy industry in 2015, and dairy represented \$160 million in state and local taxes.

Total milk production in Idaho has grown since 2015 so it's likely those numbers are even higher now.

Naerebout said IDA uses the data to drive home the industry's importance to lawmakers.

"We use that data when we talk to legislators to show the overall impact of the dairy industry on Idaho's economy," he said.

Naerebout said legislators typically have some idea that dairy has a major impact on Idaho's economy but the data helps IDA show just how big that impact is.

The data is especially useful if legisla-

tion is being proposed that could negatively impact the industry, he said.

"We can use it to say, here's what dairy brings to the table and based on what you are proposing, it could have a negative impact on the industry," Naerebout said.

Idaho's 425 dairies, with a combined 590,000 cows, produce about 15 billion pounds of milk per year and the state ranks No. 3 in the nation in total milk and cheese production.

Idaho's dairy operators brought in \$2.4 billion in farm cash receipts last year, making dairy the top sector of the state's agricultural economy, with almost a third of Idaho's total farm cash receipts coming from milk production.

The NMPF and USDEC calculations emphasize the role that dairy exports play in helping support the U.S. economy. According to the calculations, the United States exported \$5.6 billion worth of dairy products in 2018 and those exports created 85,351 jobs.

The economic impact from those exports was estimated at \$11.9 billion. ■

University of Idaho photo

**According to recently crunched 2018 data, Idaho's dairy industry is responsible for 47,000 jobs directly and indirectly.**

*“It’s a huge commodity in this whole region and it just made sense to celebrate it. It’s an uncelebrated hero to the region.”*

— Ryan McEuen, owner of E Street Deli in Rupert

# Giant sugar beet drop rings in new year in Rupert

By Sean Ellis

*Idaho Farm Bureau Federation*

RUPERT – A giant, two-story tall sugar beet was slowly lowered in Rupert Town Square just before midnight Dec. 31 to ring in the new year.

The inaugural event is a nod of respect to the humble sugar beet, which is a major but quiet part of Idaho’s agricultural economy, said event organizer Ryan McEuen, owner of E Street Deli in Rupert.

Sugar beets bring in about \$300 million per year in farm-gate receipts to Idaho farmers, making that crop one of the state’s main agricultural commodities.

McEuen said he hopes the New Year’s Eve sugar beet drop helps bring that crop some of the respect it deserves.

“It’s a huge commodity in this whole region and it just made sense to celebrate it,” he said. “It’s an uncelebrated hero to the region.”

Rupert sugar beet farmer Duane Grant applauded the event and said it is a fun way to celebrate the crop that has underpinned much of southern Idaho’s economy for 100 years.

The sugar beet processing factory in nearby Paul, which is more than 100 years old and produces more sugar annually than any other facility in the world, “provided the economic horsepower to really develop this valley,” Grant said. “The sugar beet industry was here before the potato industry, the malt barley industry and the dairies.”

“This sugar beet drop is fun, appropriate and significant and my hat’s off to the folks that put it together,” Grant said.

The annual New Year’s Eve Idaho potato drop that occurs in Boise attracts the attention of national and international media and McEuen said the planned beet drop has already caught the attention of major national media, including CNN and ABC.

“The event has caught wildfire,” he said shortly before the drop, which he hopes to turn into an annual event. “It’s going to turn downtown Rupert into Times Square.”

He also said fairs and rodeos have already contacted him, asking if they can display the giant beet later in the year.



Submitted photo

A giant sugar beet, shown under construction here, was lowered just before midnight in Rupert Town Square to ring in the new year.



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