

The Ag Agenda

Farmers & Ranchers Are Strongest When We Stand Together

By Zippy DuvallPresident American Farm
Bureau Federation



Neighbors helping neighbors is a cornerstone on which Farm Bureau was founded. It's how we get things done. The more I travel across this land, the more I'm convinced we all need to understand the issues our fellow farmers and ranch-

ers are facing, whether ten miles down the road or thousands of miles across the country.

The challenges facing agriculture are very much like a diverse ecosystem, but when you take a closer look, you'll find that most American farmers are all tackling one common invasive species: a federal system that too often lacks respect for individual property rights, economic competitiveness and fairness in general. From the Waters of the U.S. rulemaking and the Endangered Species Act, to public lands and water rights—the federal government continues to slap burdensome regulations on farmers without con-

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The President's Desk

Gearing Up For Fall Elections

By Bryan Searle President Idaho Farm Bureau Federation



I've been in conversations recently where many people expressed frustration and confusion with politics in general and over which candidate to choose in this fall's elections. People from across the political spectrum seem unsatis-

fied with the candidates on this ballot.

One magazine reported that when voters were asked who would make a better president out of Hillary Clinton, Donald Trump and a baked potato, the spud garnered 98 percent of the votes.

There are a lot of unknowns with Donald Trump, while Hillary Clinton has a long political career marked with scandal. Many of the people I've spoken with say neither candidate is qualified, they don't know who to vote for

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Inside Farm Bureau

Sugar, Litigation, GMOs and Mae Nakahata

By Rick Keller CEO Idaho Farm Bureau Federation



I have recently commented about Mae Nakahata from Maui. Mae, a past vice president of the Hawaii Farm Bureau, stopped by the Idaho Farm Bureau offices in late July as she and other representatives from the Hawaiian Com-

mercial and Sugar Company (HCSC) visited Idaho looking at alternative crops that can be raised on the 36,000 acre sugar plantation on

Maui. Recently, HCSC announced it is closing at the end of the year, the last sugar cane plantation and mill in Hawaii. Sugar brought the immigrants, jobs, infrastructure, economy and lifestyle to Hawaii. Maui Gold sugar will be no longer, after 145 years.

For decades HCSC has been in the courts, defending its rights to grow and produce sugar cane. The latest battle was Maui's banning most GMO's on the island. HCSC won in court, and the judge's decision is now on appeal with the

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Cover: Overall cost for a summer barbecue went up by 6 percent this year according to an American Farm Bureau cost survey analysis. Read more about it on page 38. Photo by Steve Ritter



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Attorney Argues for Public Lands Transfer

By Jake Putnam

POCATELLO - Idaho should control its public lands.

That's the word from George Wentz the renowned New Orleans attorney who thinks States have a constitutional right to manage and control public lands within their borders.

Wentz gave a public land lecture at the Idaho Farm Bureau's Summer County Presidents Meeting in Pocatello in late July.

"The western states including Idaho are treated very differently than the other 38 states," said Wentz.

Idaho Farm Bureau Public Affairs Director Russ Hendricks says the public land debate has reached a fevered pitch in the Gem State because of wildfires and troublesome issues like the Endangered Species Act

"Farmers and ranchers are interested because they've seen the mismanagement of public lands in Idaho. Every year we're burning more public land because the government refuses to acknowledge the build-up of infestations, grass and brush fuels and the failure to manage land properly. Ranchers have seen the mismanagement first-hand and know states will protect the land while allowing greater access," said Hendricks.

Wentz told County Farm Bureau Presidents that federal control of public land violates the U.S. constitution's equal sovereignty provisions. He said vast holdings of federal land in western states makes those states no more than second class citizens.

"As a matter of constitutional law, the federal government doesn't have the power to maintain the majority of the land within a few sovereign states," Wentz said.

There's a blaring constitutional question concerning the federal government's



George Wentz is an attorney who lives in Sandpoint. He was hired by the State of Utah to generate a legal strategy that would allow states to take over federally-controlled public land within their borders. He made a presentation during the Idaho Farm Bureau Summer County President's Meeting in Pocatello in late July.

Photo by Steve Ritter

power to permanently control public land within the borders of the western states. He added that unelected federal bureaucrats, most thousands of miles away, exercise more police power than Governor Otter or even the Idaho State Legislature. He stressed that the citizens of Idaho cannot vote-out a Washington bureaucrat.

Wentz' analysis centers on a couple of theories that give western states standing in federal court. The first is based on the principle of equal sovereignty mandating a state's equal level of independence. He also explained the equal footing doctrine that requires states admitted to the Union, receive all the sovereign rights enjoyed by the original 13 colonies, including the right to control land within their borders

"The constitution was designed to protect the life and liberty of his people," he said. Our founders wanted sovereign power defused. This is because the more power is concentrated, the easier it is to abuse that power."

Another theory states that when Idaho was granted statehood, the deal was made under the promise that the federal government would "timely dispose" of public lands within its borders as with the other western states If the court rules in favor of this claim, it wouldn't necessarily require them to sell the land as they were obliged to do in the past, but they could not retain it forever, and would most likely transfer management to the state, according to Wentz.

"Wentz demonstrated that there are legal, historic and constitutional reasons why this effort is appropriate," said Hendricks, "and the federal government's decision in 1976 to completely change course and no longer honor their obligation, then decide out of blue that they're going to retain the land in perpetuity is completely wrong and it's their duty to turn the lands over to the western states"

Western states have no political power, no dominion over land and no ability to develop commerce. Wentz said.

"Idaho is forever denied the same opportunities as the colonies in terms of political power at the federal level. If you wanted to gerrymander the nation, to prevent Idaho from ever gaining political power in Washington, you'd take away 61-percent of its land," said Wentz.

Wentz says that the government has used the Federal Lands Policy Management Act (FLPMA) and other laws to hold onto that public land and that's effectively kept public land in federal hands

"In 1976 the federal government used the Federal Land Policy and Management Act to forever hold onto public lands and I think it's unconstitutional. But until we prove it in court they'll continue to rely on the act. I can't get the State of Utah to go along with this legal action with a 4-4 tie in the U.S. Supreme Court, so we'll wait and see what happens with appointments and this election." said Wentz.

The Deseret News in Salt Lake reported earlier this year that legal costs to get the measure to the U.S. Supreme Court could top the \$14 million dollar mark.

"A \$14-million dollar price tag for legal costs is just a drop in the bucket," said Hendricks, "compared to what we're spending just to fight fires. This year, Idaho's share of firefighting efforts was close to \$60 million dollars. I don't think it would be a stretch for Idaho to commit \$1 million to the effort, and if all western states did the same it would cover the bill. That effort allows us to better manage the resources and generate receipts that would compensate the small initial investment"

Wentz gave a similar presentation to lawmakers last winter at the Idaho Statehouse The hearing was packed with outdoorsmen worried that transferring public land would mean loss of access.

"I think sportsmen need to look at this issue differently," said Hendricks. "Right now they're systematically locked out of their favorite places to hunt, fish and camp now by the federal government. Every year the BLM and Forest Service are closing roads and there's more gates with padlocks and travel restrictions. The whole purpose of the state taking management of these lands is to allow greater access

and the chance to enjoy the land and to not have it burned up and destroyed."

In recent years, at least 10 other states have considered legislation similar to Idaho's with Utah taking the lead in the fight. Some states have passed measures calling for studies of the land-transfer issue, with emphasis on economic feasibility and legality.

"There's a growing number of lawmakers, organizations and interested parties that are working on proposals ensuring that Idahoans have control of the public lands within Idaho rather than distant bureaucrats," said Hendricks.



Entrepreneurs Chase their Hog Business Dream

Article and photos by John Thompson

Matt and Jessica Henderson have high hopes of becoming successful, sustainable, farm-to-table entrepreneurs one day. But a big part of their operation is missing.

The Henderson's produce pork, beef, grain and alfalfa near Swan Lake in southern Bannock County. But for several years their hog business has been limited by lack of processing capacity. About 20 years ago the farm was marketing 1,500 hogs per year through Tri-Miller Pork in Hyrum, Utah. But the plant was sold and later closed, forcing the family business to scale back, according to Matt's father, Monte Henderson

Since then, the family has worked with small processing plants in several local towns but none of them have been capable of processing as many hogs as the Henderson's were able to grow and sell.

A possible solution to the family's problem appeared in June in the form of the American Farm Bureau Federation's Rural Entrepreneurship Challenge. It's a business competition that surfaces innovative rural entrepreneurs who are working on agricultural and food businesses across the country. Now in its third year, the competition is for entrepreneurs with agriculture and food business ideas that positively impact rural communities in the U.S. This is the first national business competition focused exclusively on rural entrepreneurs working on food and agriculture businesses. A total of \$145,000 in startup funds will be distributed to 10 agriculture and food businesses in rural communities this fall.

Matt and Jessica filled out the forms, created a three-minute long video and entered the competition last month. They are hoping to come away with enough money to build their own processing plant on the family farm and attain the proper training to open a retail meat shop.

The top 10 teams will be announced in October 2016 in Washington, DC. The top teams include six semi-finalist teams who will each receive \$10,000 and four finalist



Matt Henderson shows one of the small pigs in his family's barn. Matt and his wife Jessica recently entered a nationwide entrepreneur competition. They hope to win money that will help them build a hog processing plant on their farm.

teams who will compete for \$85,000. The finalist teams will compete in a live competition at AFBF's 98th Annual Convention in Phoenix, AZ, in January 2017.

The four finalist teams will compete for the Farm Bureau® Entrepreneur of the Year and \$30,000. The finalists will also compete for the People's Choice Award and \$25,000. The two remaining runner-up teams will each receive \$15,000.

To be eligible, applicants need to 1) be a current Farm Bureau member, 2) have a business related to agriculture or food, and 3) have a for-profit business. Agriculture and food businesses include but are not limited to the following: farms and ranches, agricultural technology, value-added food processing, food hubs, community supported agriculture programs (CSAs), farm-to-table restaurants and farmers' markets.



The Henderson family sells about 120 4-H pigs every spring.

This competition seeks to fulfill Farm Bureau's mission to enhance and strengthen the lives of rural Americans to build strong, prosperous agricultural communities.

Monte Henderson further explained the problem: "The problem we ran into is we can only get X number of pigs killed, especially from August to Christmas," he said. "Right now I'm on the books clear through December with local butcher shops and they can only handle 15 to 20 hogs per month. It throws off our timeline and when we have hogs ready to slaughter but nowhere to send them it costs the business money."

Another problem the family has encountered is not being able to sell whole hogs on demand for weddings, luaus, and other parties because of the need to go through another business for processing.

Matt said his father Monte did a good job of establishing a business with strong demand and he wants to see it thrive once again.

"My dad built a reputation with people who know they can come here and buy clean pigs out of a clean barn and we want to see that continue on," he said. "I want to see us take the middle-man out of the equation here and create our own farm to table market"

Jessica added that it's been a long-term goal for the family to build and operate a retail butcher shop. It's the next step in the evolution of this family business. She had previous experience with AFBF competitions. The couple has previously entered the Young Farmer and Rancher Excellence in Agriculture competition. She also had previous experience making videos.

"The process of filling out the forms and making the video made us think about how we can do things better and how we can solve our problems," said Matt. "We're using social media in our marketing and there is good demand for high-quality pork in this area. But it takes a special person to deal with pigs."

The family sells about 120 pigs every spring for 4-H projects and tracks how those animals score at the various county fairs in the area. They are working to improve their genetics.

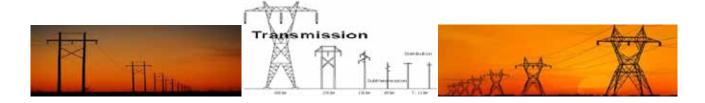
The American Farm Bureau received over 350 applications from rural entrepreneurs in dozens of states. The applications were more than double the amount received last vear.



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DUVALL

Continued from page 2

sidering what it takes to keep an agricultural busiand ness running.

As your AFBF president, I want to see firsthand what you're facing on your farms and ranches, so I can tell your stories to our lawmakers on Capitol Hill and to farmers in other regions. On my recent travels through the West, I saw the impact of regulatory overreach. I saw how public lands are withering under federal constraints and mismanagement. Ranchers are being trampled by federal agencies that want to drive them off public lands their families have used—and helped for—for generations.

Overpopulation of wild horses and burros is just one example of how the government is serving neither man nor beast out

West. Instead of the public image of strong, wild horses galloping free, with beautiful manes flying in the air, most of these animals barely survive. Dehydrated and starving, they have devastated the landscape and local ecosystems through severe overgrazing. The Bureau of Land Management by law must control the excess population or give ranchers the license they need to help mitigate the problem. BLM has done neither.

Time and again farmers and ranchers have used their ingenuity and tireless work ethic to preserve natural resources and build up local communities. But when agriculture is pushed out, natural resources often go to waste.

Western forests have suffered crushing losses from the destructive mountain pine beetle. Yet federal agencies have allowed nature to run its course. wiping out millions of acres of Western trees, rather than working with local farmers and businesses to establish best practices to stop the pests, reduce fuel for wildfires and preserve forests and local timber industries. The result is bare mountainsides and depressed rural economies where businesses have been forced to pull out. Farmers and ranchers use good business sense to conserve natural resources, but when we're driven out, who's left to care for these lands that were meant to be a source of national pride?

The challenges facing agriculture are significant, but not insurmountable. Our Farm Bureau strength comes through when we reach across regions to help our neighbors from all walks of agriculture. Our Creator, in many passages throughout the Bible, instructs us to love

our neighbors and treat them as we want to be treated. When Southerners needed support in their efforts to strengthen the safety net for cotton growers, farmers from across the country united behind their neighbors in the South. One of my proudest moments as a Farm Bureau member was when voting delegates from other regions were debating cotton policy at the AFBF Annual Convention last January and said, in effect, we stand for all of agriculture—we must help each other.

Through my travels and conversations with farmers and ranchers in every region. I hope to raise awareness of regional challenges, such as the Western problems I have seen recently, and give Farm Bureau members more examples of how they can help their neighbors and stand united for all of agriculture.

KELLER

Continued from page 2

9th Circuit, but HCSC cannot see the end to the cost of litigation, so it is closing the sugar production.

Biotechnology, of which GMOs are a part, has proven to be an important tool for better sustainability and food security. It helps farmers grow more food while improving the environment. For example, biotechnology reduces the use of costly inputs and improves weed management, allowing farmers to reduce tillage for better soil, water and air quality. Today, roughly 90 percent of corn, cotton and soybeans grown in the U.S. have been

improved through biotechnology, and farmers are choosing biotech traits when growing other crops such as alfalfa, sugarbeets and canola.

Despite rapid adoption by farmers and a strong scientific consensus that biotechnology does not pose health and environmental risks, regulatory burdens are slowing research and innovation of new biotech traits and are starting to reduce U.S. farmers' international competitive advantage. In addition, activist groups routinely threaten the availability of new traits by blocking sciencebased regulatory decisions, filing lawsuits and advocating for labeling mandates, which

is \$500 yearly hit on a typical family's food budget.

Currently, nearly 2 billion people on our planet are malnourished. According to the UN, the global population will reach over 96 billion in the year 2050, which places an imperative on finding ways to meet daily human caloric needs in an environmentally sustainable way. It will be necessary for farmers to produce as much food in the next 50 years as was produced in all previously recorded history. Science, innovation, and precision will be required to produce this amount of food without destroying the environment

GMOs are safe. GMOs keep food affordable. GMOs provide a future of healthier and more nutritious food. GMO's allow farmers to produce more, with less. GMOs improve farm incomes domestically and in third world countries. GMOs require fewer chemicals. GMOs improve water quality. GMOs reduce greenhouse gases.

The social protests have shut down an institution, laving off 675 employees. Mae and her husband Warren are weary of the fight, but they will continue seeking ways to resolve conflicts. Hopefully their trip to Idaho in search of a more acceptable crop will be realized.



Workers pick asparagus from a field in Payette County last spring. A nationwide labor shortage is threatening crop harvest in 22 states. Photo by Steve Ritter

Labor shortage Threatens 2016 Crops

By Jake Putnam

HAZELTON - Farmer Rick Brune has dodged hail, heat and bug infestations this summer but he says the most difficult calamity he's facing is the lack of farm labor.

"In the Magic Valley it's become a big issue because bigger companies like Cliff Bar, Chobani, and Standlee Hay have taken a lot of the part time employees and

made them full time workers"

Brune says competition pushed up wages and the supply of workers has dried up even more this year because of H-2A paper delays last spring. H2-A is a federal program that provides seasonal work visas to farm laborers. He says farmers are not seeing the young first time workers from Mexico anymore.

"It's really difficult if you can find workers and even if we found them we can't compete with \$18-\$20 dollars an hour," he said. "The pool of available labor has dried up."

Delays in processing visas for workers have led to a chronic worker shortage not only in Idaho but across the nation.

The American Farm Bureau got involved

saying they fear that crops will rot in the nation's fields this vear and communication with state Farm Bureaus across the nation have revealed worker shortages in more than 20

"Many farmer members have called us and state Farm Bureaus asking for help," said American Farm Bureau President Zippy Duvall. "They face serious hurdles in getting visas for workers in time to tend and harvest this year's crops. Paperwork delays have created a backlog of 30 days or more in processing H-2A applications at both the Department of Labor and United States Citizenship and Immigration Services"

Farmers have relied on the H-2A agricultural visa program to fill gaps in the nation's Ag labor system but Duvall says the program is far from perfect. Processing and procedural delays, such as the government use of US postal service instead of electronic communications mean losses from unharvested crops.

Duvall says this is a serious issue that won't go away without wholesale changes. "If you have a crop that's ready and your harvest window is narrow and your workers show up late, you'll lose your crop. We're going to have to make a choice, we either have to import our labor, workers to harvest our crops-or we'll have to import our food."

An informal survey of state Farm Bureaus revealed that farmers in at least 22 states using the H-2A program have been affected by administrative delays that have caused workers to arrive days and even weeks late, leading to a variety of fruits, vegetables and other crops rotting in the field.

The situation is just as dire for Idaho Farm Bureau President Bryan Searle. He says labor is a big concern in Idaho and says the H-2A program is bro-

"There are encouraging developments in Washington and I hope it's in time," Searle said. "We're relying on friends and family to help us this year. We're reaching out to people to see if they can take a week off in the fall to help out. We have family coming back to the farm that haven't been back in years. Migrant labor means a lot to U.S. Agriculture."

Duvall said the Labor Department too often fails to comply with rules that require it to respond to farmers' requests before crews are needed

"Crops can't wait on paperwork," Duvall said. "DOL is routinely failing to approve applications 30 days prior to the day farmers need workers. That delay, coupled with delays occurring at USCIS, places farmers in an impossible situation We've heard from members who are already missing their window of opportunity to harvest. They are already facing lost revenue."

Duvall repeated AFBF's call for Congress to pass responsible immigration reform that provides farmers access to a legal and stable workforce. He also outlined possible solutions to the challenge, including modernizing agency H-2A approval procedures. He said DOL and USCIS both rely on sending documents to farmers by regular mail, which he called "unacceptable in 2016."

The number of illegal Mexican immigrants living in the U.S. has dropped by a million since 2007, according to a Pew Center report. Meanwhile the U.S. Census Bureau reveals the number of new immigrants crossing the border was down to 240,000 last year. The numbers reveal that strict border enforcement under the Bush administration started the decline, plus Mexico's economy is stronger while generating more jobs plus a decrease in births, according to the Migrant Policy Institute.

None of these statistics are alarming to Idaho farmers. they've seen fewer illegal Mexican workers between 2002 and 2012. That's when the number of new field workers on U.S. farms fell by 75

percent according to the National Council of Farmer Cooperatives.

"The AFBF has worked on labor reform for 20 years now. We've held our ground, we've improved a few things and we hope to move forward," said Searle who attended the AFBF Labor meetings in Washington in July.

Duvall said AFBF is also working with the Agriculture Department «to be an advocate for farmers and take whatever steps it can to ensure farmers get the workers they need to harvest this years crops."

Farm Bureau is calling for Congress to pass responsible immigration reform that provides farmers access to a legal and stable workforce.

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The BLM recently hosted a tour in Owyhee County to look at rehabilitation efforts after the Soda Fire. Photo by Steve Ritter

Secretary of the Interior Tours Soda Fire Scene

Bv Jake Putnam

Grandview—Secretary of the Interior Sally Jewell saw the transformation for herself, a quarter of a million acres of range reduced to ash last summer now lush and green.

Last August great waves of fire swallowed up the Owyhee range destroying sage, rangeland and cattle operations.

When the smoke cleared great walls of dust and blowing ash swept the plain and the next environmental disaster was just a flash flood away. The BLM sent teams of scientists to work out a plan. The massive fire started last August 10 and scorched more than 280,000 acres of rangeland stretching from Grandview to eastern Oregon.

"The amount of science that's being learned

here is nothing short of incredible," Jewell said at a news conference at the Interagency Fire Center, "and I think all that knowledge will advise us for many years to come."

BLM Natural Resource Specialist Cindy Fritz was one of hundreds of experts that hit the ground running last summer to aid the parched land. She says the BLM was committed to the rehab effort from the start spending some \$14 million dollars to date and says things are off to a good start.

"We've been doing the reseeding efforts since last fall. This was the first step to restore the range and have sage grouse habitat out here again," said Fritz. "First and foremost is soil stabilization and includes attacking the spread of invasive species. After a fire it's an open palette out here because

after a fire we have the power to put in perennial grass and not only stabilize the soil but be competitive against invasive species in the long run." According to Fritz, the BLM used 14 different seed mixes during the emergency recovery.

Ranchers on the tour were free to speak and many blamed decades of government mismanagement.

"The reason this country burned so hot is because the last 40 years, they took more and more cattle off the range," said Owyhee County rancher Ed Wilsey. "They took the sheep off the range and all this organic overburden built up, that duff was a foot deep under the sagebrush and that's nothing but

See SODA REHAB page 26





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Rural depopulation is an alarming trend in many Idaho counties. Farm Bureau file photo

Idaho's Rural Depopulation Trend Remains Prevalent

By John Thompson

Over the last ten years some of Idaho's rural counties have grown while others continue to show an alarming rate of depopulation, according to a new report from the Idaho Department of Labor.

Idaho's eastern region shows the most counties with a sustained population decline, but every region in the state has at least one county on the downswing and some others remained mostly flat. The Idaho Department of Labor classifies seven counties as urban, including Kootenai, Nez Perce, Ada, Canyon, Twin Falls, Bannock and Bonneville. Of the remaining, 15 rural counties grew in population since 2010, 20 dropped and two were stagnant.

Counties showing the most severe depopulation statistics since 2000, include Clark at -14.1 percent, Butte at -13.6 percent, Shoshone at -9.7 percent, Elmore at -9.6 percent Bear Lake at -7.8 percent, Caribou -7 percent, Custer -5.7 percent, and Clearwater -4.9 percent, while Lemhi and Washington remained flat.

Ethan Mansfield, an economist with the Idaho Department of Labor said county population data is collected every ten years by the U.S. Census Bureau. That sets a benchmark and then within that time period estimates are made based on historical trends that come from birth and death rates and migration.

Mansfield created a population data visualization workbook that contains a wide range of information on trends in Idaho. It can be viewed at the following link: https://public.tableau.com/views/IdahoPopulation_0/PopulationEstimates?:embed="y&:display count=yes&:showTabs=y">https://public.tableau.com/views/IdahoPopulation_0/PopulationEstimates?:embed="y&:display count=yes&:showTabs=y">https://public.tableau.com/views/IdahoPopulation_0/PopulationEstimates?:embed="y&:display count=yes&:showTabs=y">https://public.tableau.com/views/IdahoPopulation_0/PopulationEstimates?:embed="y&:display count=yes&:showTabs=y">https://public.tableau.com/views/IdahoPopulation_0/PopulationEstimates?:embed="y&:display count=yes&:showTabs=y">https://public.tableau.com/views/IdahoPopulation_0/PopulationEstimates?:embed="y&:display count=yes&:showTabs=y">https://public.tableau.com/views/IdahoPopulation_0/PopulationEstimates?:embed="y&:display count=yes&:showTabs=y">https://public.tableau.com/views/IdahoPopulation_0/PopulationEstimates?:embed="y&:display count=yes&:showTabs=y">https://public.tableau.com/views/IdahoPopulation_0/PopulationEstimates?:embed="y&:display count=yes&:showTabs=y">https://public.tableau.com/views/IdahoPopulation_0/PopulationEstimates/">https://public.tableau.com/views/IdahoPopulation_0/PopulationEstimates/">https://public.tableau.com/views/IdahoPopulationEstimates/

Mansfield said rural Idaho's long-term trends are troubling. Some counties are worse off than others. "Broadband connectivity is the only thing that connects rural areas to the markets and it makes it really difficult to attract people without it," he said. "Agriculture is huge but is no longer the employment driver it once was because of technical innovation."

He said people who want to live in areas with incredible beauty and open spaces

must be willing to live on less and forego many of the luxuries associated with city life. Job training centers and business incubators have helped reverse rural depopulation trends in some states. He cited Colorado's Western Slope as a rural area where the business model has changed from agriculture and natural resource based to a high-tech service industry driven by light manufacturing. That change has helped reverse rural depopulation in some cases, he said.

When asked about the preponderance of federal land in some counties and whether it's contributing to rural depopulation, Mansfield said he understands the resentment of many rural Idaho residents. However, as an economist, fighting the federal government is not a productive use of his time, he said.

"One of the biggest economic development goals needs to be making these beautiful rural areas places where the youth want to come back to and put down roots," he said. "But it's difficult to rely on natural resource jobs to bring prosperity in today's political

economy. In fact, it's nearly impossible."

Federally-managed land increases sales receipts in many Idaho counties, but it also inhibits development. A county's proximity to a metro area has a lot to do with its potential for economic development. "In Custer County for instance, if the entire area was private land would you even have development?" he asked. "There are a lot of factors at play in addition to the number of acres of federal land. I don't think federal land is the right thing to blame until you experience development pressures that are limited by federal land."

Mansfield added that he believes people who live in cities and want to capture the natural amenity values of rural Idaho are applying pressure on the natural resource industries. "The American value system is changing," he said. "It's not that the BLM wants to erase mining and grazing from the landscape. There are larger forces at play that impact the closure of mills and mines"

Priscilla Salant, director of the McClure Center for Public Policy Research, in Boise, said rural counties in south-central Idaho have grown in recent years. A study released by the University of Idaho in August 2015, tracked statewide population data since the nationwide recession that lasted from 2007 to 2009.

However, it's important to note that the growth in those south-central counties is largely Hispanic farm workers, who now make up 14 percent of Idaho's rural population

The UI study shows an urban growth rate since the recession of 6 percent and the rural rate as flat. Salant said five Idaho counties show a net outmigration trend with more deaths than births. They include Clearwater, Shoshone, Lemhi, Washington and Idaho.

"That reflects decades of young people leaving and older folks aging in place," she said. "That, in my mind is alarming."

With regard to counties with high percentages of federal land, Salant said there are economists who believe the existence of federal land is an asset for rural America However, the trend isn't apparent in Idaho.

"I don't see those benefits in the numbers of our public land counties," she said. "Custer and Lemhi numbers show more people leaving. Shoshone County is in trouble for other reasons including being heavily reliant on declining industries and related job losses"

She added that it's difficult to generalize

about rural Idaho because of "all the different pockets where demographic trends and economic opportunities are vastly different"

The UI Study shows jobs have been slower to recover in rural Idaho than in the urban counties. Rural counties showing significant job losses since 2010 when Idaho hit its low point include Lemhi (7 percent loss), and Bonner, Elmore and Clearwater, each with a 4 percent loss.

The wage gap between urban and rural Idaho has decreased since the recession. At the beginning of the recession the average wage in rural Idaho was \$6,939 less than in urban Idaho. By 2013 the gap narrowed to \$5,431. Unlike urban wages, wages in rural Idaho increased during the recession and have surpassed pre-recession levels, according to the UI study.

Poverty rates in both rural and urban areas peaked in 2011. Poverty rates continue to be higher in rural areas than pre-recession rates. In 2013, Madison County showed the highest poverty rate at 29 percent, followed by Shoshone County at 19 percent. Eight other rural counties had a poverty rate of 18 percent, including Boundary, Clark, Clearwater, Latah, Lemhi, Payette, Power and Washington.

Idaho Rural Population Declines Since 2000

Clark County -14.1 percent

Butte County -13.6 percent

Shoshone County -9.7 percent

Elmore County -9.6 percent

Bear Lake County -7.8 percent

Caribou County -7 percent

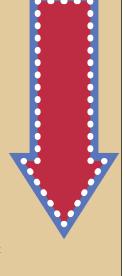
Custer County -5.7 percent

Clearwater County -4.9 percent

Benewah County -1.5 percent

Idaho and Washington counties - flat

Source: Idaho Department of Labor



Idaho Rural Population **Gains Since 2000**

Teton County 73.2 percent

Jefferson County 41.5 percent

Madison County 39.1 percent

Valley County 31.9 percent

Lincoln County 30.8 percent

Jerome County 23.4 percent

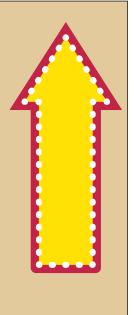
Franklin County 15.2 percent

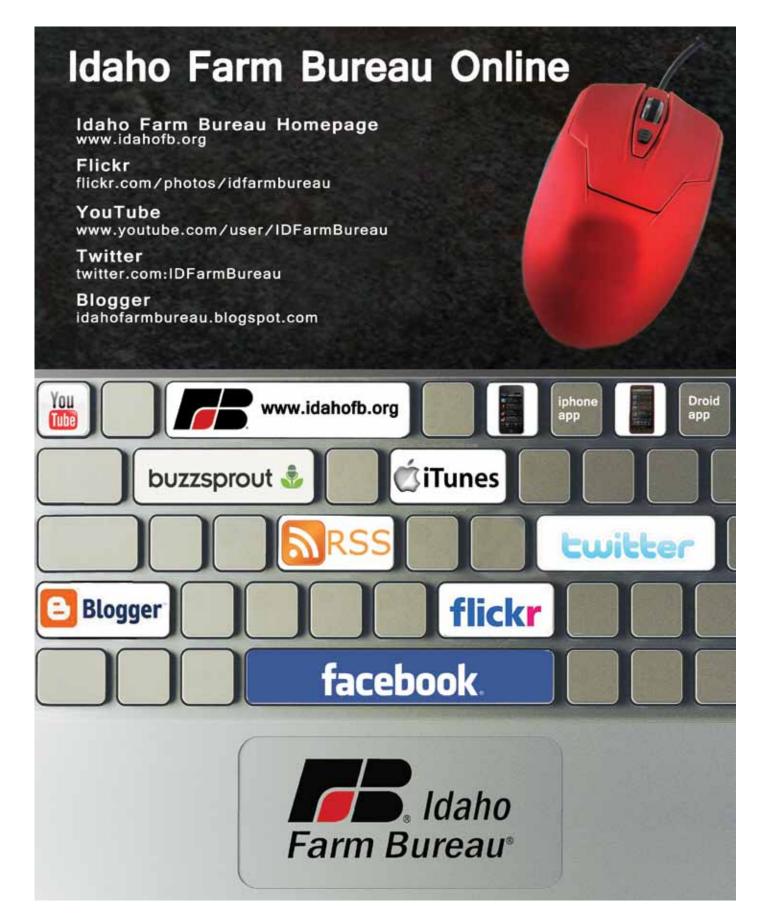
Boundary County 14.2 percent

Bonner County 12.4 percent

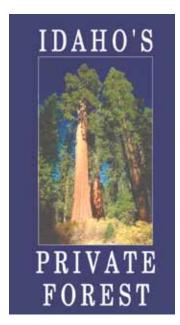
Adams County 10.5 percent

Source: Idaho Department of Labor









By Yvonne Barkley

In the insect and disease world. last years' weather and forest health conditions greatly affect this year's potential for outbreaks. Trees weakened by overstocking, drought, wind storms and wildland fires are less able to fend off attacks, allowing epidemic-sized populations of insects or pathogens to grow and cause widespread tree mortality. A strong wind event in late November 2015 and heavy snow toppled many trees throughout Idaho, causing widespread stress.

The Douglas-fir beetle (Dendroctonus pseudotsugae) infests Douglas-fir (DF) throughout its natural range. Adults and larvae feed in phloem layer of inner bark, killing trees by girdling them. Low populations of Douglas-fir beetle (DFB) are maintained in windthrown or injured DF trees scattered throughout the landscape.

Life cycle of DF beetle

The 4-stage life cycle begins when adult DF bark beetles lay small, oval, white eggs in

Douglas-fir Bark Beetle and Secondary Mortality

galleries excavated just under the bark. Yellow-white, legless larvae with brown heads hatch and start feeding on phloem; it is this feeding activity that girdles the tree, leading to its eventual death. At stage 3, pupa develop that resemble shiny white adults with wing covers wrapped around the abdomen. Adults are approximately 1/4"long, cylindrical, and reddishbrown. There is one generation per year.

Sometime between mid-April to early June beetles overwintering adults emerge and fly to new trees: beetles that overwintered as larvae attack in midsummer Females land on new host trees and initiate attacks by boring through the bark, sending out aggregation pheromones as they tunnel into the tree. This chemical scent attracts more DF beetles where. working together, they overcoming host tree resistance. Shortly after a successful attack, male beetles produce an anti-aggregative pheromone (MCH), which regulates the number of attacks in the host tree by directing additional beetles away to find other hosts.

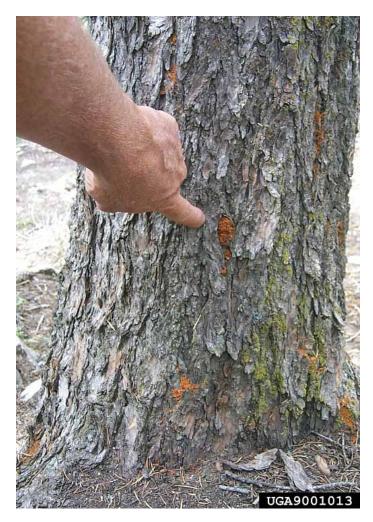
Outbreaks regularly start in green blowdown after wind or heavy snow events, or in scorched trees after a fire, where populations can build up rapidly. Beetles then move to standing healthy trees. Often the first sign of an attack is redorange boring dust (frass) that



The presence of Douglas-fir beetle (Dendroctonus pseudotsugae) can be identified by the galleries etched just under the bank, which is unique for each species of bark beetle.

collects in bark crevices and in small piles under downed logs. Newly infested standing trees will have boring dust on stems but green crowns. Foliage can begin to fade as early as that fall, but more commonly during the late winter and spring following the attack, eventually

turning the entire crown redbrown. Once an outbreak has started, it normally lasts two to three years. Additional factors, such as damage from western spruce budworm or Douglas-fir tussock moth, can prolong outbreaks. The greatest damage usually centers in dense stands



Often the first sign of an attack is red-orange boring dust (frass) that collects in bark crevice. Photo by Doug Page



Outbreaks of secondary damage to smaller-sizes of Douglas-fir can be identified by the galleries of Scolytus monticolae, a secondary bark beetle species with no common name. Photo by Tom Ekberg

of large, mature, standing DF and where DF is the dominant species in the stand.

What is different this year?

Usually, Douglas-fir trees less than 12" dbh are seldom attacked by bark beetles. This year, landowners began seeing mortality in understory, intermediate and seed tree. as well as saw timber-sized Douglas-fir. Upon investigation, scientists found Scolytus monticolae, a secondary bark beetle species with no common name. Infestations are probably drought related and have been found throughout northern Ida-

ho from Bonners Ferry to the Clearwater River valley. These beetles are much smaller than DFB and have a distinctive gallery pattern. Damage tends to be worse on marginal sites with thin or rocky soils and on the edges of cuts facing south, and populations are found mostly in intermediate-sized trees left after harvest. Damage is expected to decrease due to better soil moisture conditions during 2016.

Management recommendations

Forest insect and disease outbreaks are mainly managed by

thinning. Too many trees in a stand will not have enough light, water and nutrients to support vigorous growth, resulting in stress. Thinning trees to reduce the number of trees competing for limited resources increases the health and resiliency of the remaining trees, which allow them to fend off threats without our intervention. Thinning dense. over-crowded stands of mature Douglas-fir greatly decreases stress and chances of successful DFB infestations

Regardless of the species of beetle involved, following recommended management practices can significantly reduce risk of attack.

Monitor forest health by looking for red-brown boring dust; do not limit monitoring to older DF trees as younger, smaller trees may be under attack from secondary beetles.

Harvest standing green or fading infested trees and clean up windthrow of all sizes before beetles emerge the following spring; recently fallen DF trees 8" or larger and DF stems 12" or

See UI FORESTRY p. 35



Focus on Agriculture

4 Ways We Are Keeping Our Farm Sustainable

By Carla Wardin

When people talk about sustainability, I like to point to generational farms as an example. I'm the sixth generation in my family to live and farm on the same land. For 137 years, my ancestors have been taking care of the land and water in order to ensure that we can raise great crops for our cattle and preserve good pasture for their grazing. We have always taken care to make certain that the creek that flows behind our house is kept clean. My great-great grandma hauled water from it, my great grandma washed their clothes in it, and now we responsibly irrigate from it. We're not only taking care of it for us, we're doing it for future generations of farmers. Since my

family came back to the farm nine years ago, we have also made many strides in sustainability.

Energy efficiency

First, we installed a tube cooler, which is a more energy-efficient way of cooling milk.

Milk comes out of a cow at about 100 degrees, and it needs to be cooled to 37 in the bulk tank. We use a water jacket pipe to cool the milk and then use that water for the cows to drink. So instead of going from 100 to 37, it goes from 50 to 37 utilizing water we were already going to use for an additional purpose.

We're also using heat that is a by-product of

the cooling system.

Our bulk tank that has cooling compressors uses refrigerant, fans, and a radiator which generate heat. So we capture the heat coming off of the system and use it to pre-heat the water for the water heater. The cooling system would generate the heat anyway, but we're capturing it to help heat the water that has to be really hot for the sanitary washing system.

Nutrient management

We test the soil so we know exactly what it needs, and we test our manure so we know what nutrients we have.

See FOCUS ON AGRICULTURE p. 41



The YF&R program helps young members shape the future of agriculture, as well as their individual futures, with leadership development and personal growth opportunities. Through three competitions, members are able to showcase their leadership experience, communication skills and successful farm plans as they compete against the best of the best Farm Bureau has to offer.





As part of the YF&R competitions, winners in the Achievement Award, Discussion Meet and Excellence in Ag areas will receive their choice of a 2017 Chevrolet Silverado or GMC Sierra truck, courtesy of Chevrolet. Three national finalists in each competition will receive a Case IH Farmall 50A tractor, courtesy of Case IH, as well as a \$2,500 cash prize and \$500 in STIHL merchandise.

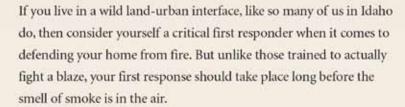
For more information about YF&R competitive events contact your state Farm Bureau or contact AFBF at yfr@fb.org or 202-406-3600.

Your Home's Ability To Withst

ZONE 1: The area nearest your house, plant only low growing plants with low fuel content ... there should be no tall plants, but since we all like shade trees pick your species wisely.

ZONE 2: Low growing fireresistant ground cover is recommended from 30 to 100 feet from your home. Properly maintained low fuel plants will slow a fire before it gets to your house.

ZONE 3: Zone three is the area 100 feet beyond your home and can contain healthy naturally growing vegetation.



With a little planning and understanding of what is important you can take key protective measures in the defense of your home.

While there are no guarantees that a home will be fireproof, creating a survivable space and taking the other steps listed can increase the chances that your home will withstand a wildfire.



We Know Idaho, We Grew Up Here.

275 Tierra Vista Drive P.O. Box 4848 Pocatello, ID 83205 (208) 232-7914

www.IdahoFarmBureauInsurance.com

- 1. Remove the fuel fire needs to reach your hon items like landscaping, woodpiles, decks, etc.
- 2. Plant more native vegetation.
- 3. Space trees at least 10 feet apart.
- 4. Keep trees and shrubs pruned. Branches sho a minimum of six feet from the ground and under trees should be no more than 18 inche
- 5. Mow your lawn regularly and dispose prom cuttings and debris.
- 6. Maintain your irrigation system.
- 1. Clear your roof, gutters and eaves of debris.



and Wildfire Depends On You.



CREATE SURVIVABLE SPACE:

- Trim branches so they do not extend over your roof or grow near your chimney
- Move firewood and storage tanks 50 feet away from your home and clear areas at least 10 feet around them.
- 10. Use only noncombustible roofing materials.
- Box in eaves, fascias, soffits and subfloors with fire-resistant materials like treated wood, reducing the vent sizes.
- Apply ¼" noncombustible screening to all vent or eave openings.

- 13. Install spark arresters in chimneys.
- Enclose the underside of decks with fire-resistant materials.
- Cover exterior walls with fire-resistant materials like stucco, stone, or brick. (Vinyl siding can melt and is not recommended.)
- Use double-paned or tempered glass for all exterior windows.
- 17. Install noncombustible street signs.
- Make sure your street address is visible from the street.

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WORD SEARCH PUZZLE: BACK TO SCHOOL

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Education Library **ANSWERS ON PAGE 29**

SEARLE

Continued from page 2

and therefore, given the choice of picking the lesser of two evils, have decided not to vote at all.

It's important to remember that when we look back over recent presidential elections, ideal candidates are few and far between. But that's not a reason for voters to opt out of the process. We need to be part of finding a solution, not making a problem worse. I'm adamantly opposed to taking a pass on this election. This election is huge for the future of our nation and the State of Idaho. It's our duty to take part in the democratic process and one of the ways we do this is to vote.

On the national level, we need to bear in mind that our next president could be responsible for seating up to four Supreme Court Justices. At present, there are four sitting justices that are over 77 years-old. If all four are replaced within the next few years, it could dramatically transform the nation's legal landscape. We could see long-standing rulings overturned and possibly see a monumental change in management of public lands throughout the West. If liberal justices are appointed, our industry can expect even more intrusion from federal agencies than we've seen during the Obama Administration. We can expect more regulatory over-reach like the Environmental Protection Agency's recent attempt to rewrite the Clean Water Act and take charge of every drop of water on every square inch of land. Further, the agencies that oversee federal lands, are likely to continue to regulate our livestock industry out of business by continuing to place arbitrary limits on federal land grazing.

In some cases the cost of increasing regulations are passed on to consumers in the form of higher prices for food, fiber and energy.

Here in Idaho, voters will decide on legislative seats, county commission seats, a constitutional amendment (HJR 5) granting rulemaking oversight to the State Legislature (see article on page 34) several local measures that could change the tax structure and many others.

We are also filling a position on the Idaho State Supreme Court and the Idaho Farm Bureau has endorsed Senator Curt McKenzie for that position. McKenzie was one of the top two vote-getters in the May primary election. Thanks to all Farm Bureau members who got out and voted in support of McKenzie.

The bottom line that just because the top of this ballot may not be everything we had hoped for, there's still lots of decisions of high-importance to make. Sitting this one out or voting for an unelectable third party candidate isn't an option for me and I hope it isn't for you either.



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SODA REHAB

Continued from page 12

fuel out there." Ranchers like Wilsev that fought the blaze say it didn't just burn, it blew up.

Not many will argue with Wilsey's assessment about fuel load on the range. The Soda Fire as disastrous as it was, provided a clean slate and the BLM was able to seed several thousand acres before the invasive species could take hold.

Cheatgrass's big advantage is the roots; they can grow more than 30 inches deep and grow later into the fall and earlier in the spring than native plants, robbing the soil's water and nutrients

"Nothing eliminates cheat grass," said Fritz, "all this rehab is a chance to release native grasses already here, to put back onto the ground what's missing. If we can get native grasses back, we can help restore habitat. The Soda fire provided that opportunity."

The fire tore into the sagebrushsteppe landscape - prime habitat for the threatened sage-grouse - in the middle of 50.000 acres designated by BLM as a Priority Habitat Management Area.

Jewell says the Soda Fire complex has served as the nation's active rehabilitation laboratory for the past 10 months and will serve as a template for years to come

"So if we do something that grows more cheatgrass, we'll understand that because we've done the science," said Secretary Jewell. While in Boise after the tour, Jewell pledged another \$10 million for the Wildland Fire Resilient Landscapes Program, a targeted fund that re-



Reseeding efforts have gone well and the extra spring rain has helped the desirable grasses to take hold. Photo by Steve Ritter

stores landscapes threatened by wildfire

On the Bruneau and Owyhee Rivers crews are cutting and grinding up the juniper trees that invaded sage grouse habitat. The \$500,000 program is being done as a cooperative effort with ranchers, the BLM, the Idaho Department of Lands and Office of Species Conservation and Owyhee County.

"We've known all along that there's habitat degradation due to wildfire and these invasive species are the primary threat to sage-grouse in Idaho," said Idaho Governor Butch Otter. "In fact cheatgrass is the most devastating invasive species in the history of West.

For the State of Idaho and the BLM, sage grouse are a priority. They don't want to see the species listed on the Endangered Species Act.

"The two biggest threats for sage grouse are fire and invasive annual grasses which plays into the fire return interval," said BLM range technician Robert Bennett. "So putting desirable plants out here to compete with invasive annuals will help this range and improve sage grouse habitat, or at least in recovering hundreds of thousands of habitat acres."

Dave Bunker is a private contractor reseeding the Owyhee range. He says that seeding needs lots of rain. "We had good moisture this past spring so our seeding operation went well and it's been a huge success."

Bunker used different grass seed designed to work in different locations. "We used crested wheatgrass, some ryegrass and few smaller varieties, like squirreltail and seven other grasses. We plant stuff that'll compete against cheatgrass and right now because of a great winter and spring it all looks fantastic."

For ranchers burned off the range they continue to struggle and will struggle for at least two more years. That's when the BLM will consider putting cattle back on the range.

"We've got cattle scattered all over the country this year. We have steers in Oregon, some more up in Cascade then some more steers in Crane Creek and Hammett and we had them there all winter," said Ed Wilsey. "It's devastating to us because we went through \$200,000 in a heartbeat last summer. We had to find them, round them up and truck them and that's a lot of work. And here on my range I've worked three months to get this land re-seeded and we got a long ways to go."



Rancher Ed Wilsey, right, wearing hat, is one of many cattleman in the area whom are critical of federal land and fire management policies. Photo by Steve Ritter







Exploring Farm Demographics

There are 3,337,450 U.S. farm operators (average age of 57) who do the work or make day-to-day decisions about planting, harvesting, feeding, marketing and so on. The operator may be the owner, a member of the owner's household, a hired manager, a tenant, a renter or a sharecropper.

In Recent Years—

The number of women farmers has increased by 29 percent to 306,209.

The number of American Indian farmers has increased by 88 percent to 79,703.

The number of farmers of Spanish, Hispanic or Latino origin has increased by 10 percent to 55,570.

The number of African American farmers has increased by 5 percent to 30,599.

Did You Know?

A total of 376,638 farms had sales of \$100,000 or more in 2011. Those operations accounted for only 17 percent of all farms, but more than 89 percent of total sales.

There were 7,800 farmers' markets in 2012, a 27 percent increase in just two years.

Texas had the most farms (247,500) in 2012, followed by Missouri (106,000), Iowa (92,200), Kentucky (85,500) and Oklahoma (85,500).

Total land in farms was estimated at 914 million acres in 2012, a decrease of 3 million acres since 2011. The average farm size was

421 acres in 2012. Since 1987. the average size of U.S. farms has averaged around 455 acres.

Farming accounts for less than 1 percent of the U.S. gross domestic product, but has economic significance beyond the farm gate. The manufacturing of farm machinery and fertilizer is mostly done in metro counties, while farm services and food processing are disproportionately located in non-metro counties. Even in many counties that are dependent on manufacturing or services, farming can be an important component of local communities.

MORE INFORMATION



©2013 American Farm Bureau Federation® Graphic Sources: NASS-USDA; Census of Agriculture (2007); ERS-ARMS Survey Photo credit: Jacki Picco, Virginia Farm Bureau Federation

TOP FARM BUREAU AGENTS

Rookie of the Month:



Zak Popejoy Schmitt Agency

Agent of the Month:



Wayne Hungate Biggs Agency

Agency of the Month:

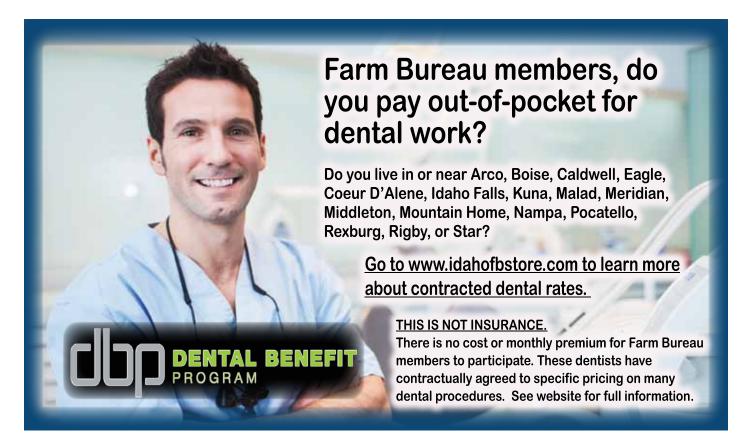


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WORD SEARCH —

ANSWERS from page 24

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A Taste of Idaho: Dutch Oven Dump Cake

Photos by Steve Ritter By John Thompson

Here's a simple dessert recipe that goes great at the family barbecue and feeds a big crowd. There are a couple of variations that are worth trying and a new product is available for Dutch Oven cooking that is a big time-saver.

First, this recipe isn't really a cake, it's a cobbler. If you'd like it to come out more like a cake, add a little more cake mix and then stir it in with the fruit. Also, some fruits will excrete more juice than others which will make the cobbler looser The other variation are new aluminum, throw-away liners that are now available for Dutch Ovens. You can buy them at CAL Ranch Store or Sportsman's Warehouse. They save a lot of time in clean up and you'll appreciate the convenience if you've ever spent time scrubbing cake mix and peaches out of your Dutch Oven.

Regarding the Dutch Oven part of this recipe, there is a simple formula for regulating heat. The size of your Dutch Oven or its circumference is the key to the formula. The most common size is 12-inch so we will go with that in this example. To cook at 350 degrees you need two more charcoal briquettes on top of the Dutch Oven and two less than the number on the bottom. In other words, 14 on top and 10 on the bottom. One additional briquette on the top adds 10 degrees. Shield your



cooking area from any breeze or wind if possible.

A quick note on cleaning Dutch Ovens: pour an inch of water in the pot and bring it to a boil. Splash the water up the sides, dump it, let it dry and then wipe it down with oil. Leave a paper towel inside the Dutch for storage to deter rust. If you must scour stuck on food, use a

tablespoon of salt. My grandfather always turned his Dutch Ovens upside down in a campfire to clean them out. But that method will leave smoky residue behind that could flavor your next meal in a way you're not expecting.

I like berry or peach cobbler the best but almost any kind of fruit is fine. The cobblers in the photographs on these pages are frozen peach and a frozen three-berry blend made up of blueberries, raspberries and blackberries.

The ingredient list is simple, fruit, cake mix and butter. Some people like to add some Sprite or Club Soda to help incorporate the cake mix. First,

fill the Dutch Oven about half way with fruit. Second, pour cake mix over the fruit until covered. Third, add pats of butter to cover the cake mix. About one and one half sticks of butter is the right amount for a 12-inch Dutch Oven Dump Cake. Bake at 350 degrees for 30 minutes. When the top is brown, it's ready to serve.



County Happenings



Morgan Hughes, right, receives a \$750 college scholarship from Custer County Farm Bureau President Rod Evans, left.

Farm Bureau members receive up to 20% off of "Best Available Rate".

















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FFA has been an integral part of agriculture programs in Idaho high schools since 1929, currently with over 12,000 Idaho agricultural education students, 92 active chartered Idaho FFA chapters, and over 4,400 Idaho FFA members. Agricultural Education is delivered through classroom and laboratory instruction, Supervised Agricultural Experience programs or work-based learning, and student leadership through the FFA organization.

FFA has provided a formal structure for thousands of members over the years to acquire leadership and public speaking skills, and learn the importance of goal setting, the value of hard work, honesty and community service. Many of our current leaders in education, business, agriculture and government got their start in FFA.

The Idaho FFA Foundation was established in 1980 as the 501(c)(3) non-profit organization for the Idaho FFA Association and is proud to provide ongoing financial support to career development events and leadership activities that help students develop their potential for *premier leadership*, *personal growth* and *career success*.

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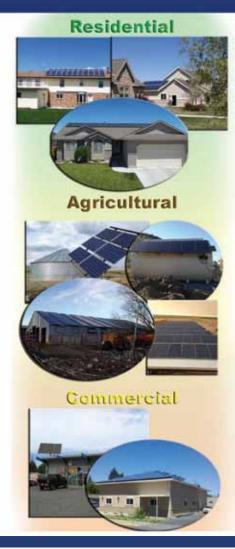
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Protect Your Freedom, Vote YES on HJR5

By Russ Hendricks

Every time I hear our national anthem I begin to ponder - is America still "the Land of the Free, and the Home of the Brave?"

Sure, we can still choose our own occupation, where we live, where we attend church, who we want to marry, etc. But there are not many other aspects of our lives or our businesses, no matter how small, that are not thoroughly regulated, whether we recognize it or not. We are not as "free" as we think

Every day thousands of unelected federal bureaucrats are proposing new rules (regulations) that you and I must comply with or face the threat of fines or jail time. Once adopted, these rules carry the full force and effect of law, yet they are not the products of our elected congressmen as required by our Constitution.

This November, Idaho's ballots will include a proposed constitutional amendment requiring legislative oversight of the rule making process. The Idaho Farm Bureau supports the proposed Idaho Constitutional amendment HJR5.

Farmers and ranchers in particular understand that the EPA, OSHA, BLM, Forest Service, U.S. Fish & Wildlife and numerous other agencies are constantly dictating what we can and cannot do, even on our own private property; despite nearly everything they mandate is not authorized by Congress or the Constitution.

These agencies get away with it because they know most citizens are not likely to risk incurring the hefty fines or prison sentences they can impose for disobedience; nor are we willing to fight it out in court.

Originally, rules were only supposed to interpret vague parts of laws by "filling in the gaps" and providing needed details for the day-today administration of laws legitimately passed by Congress. However, over time, rules have become laws themselves. Federal agencies are shamelessly regulating things that were never authorized under the Constitution or by Congress.

This blatant expansion of power severely undermines our republican form of government since voters are no longer in charge. Unelected bureaucrats are making "laws" rather than our elected representatives. Our rights are ignored and our freedom is eroding before our eyes.

Fortunately, here in Idaho the situation is better. Yet we still have a large number of executive branch agencies that make rules we must obey or face penalties. These agencies include the Department of Environmental Quality, the State Department of Agriculture, the State Tax Commission, the Idaho Transportation Department, the Idaho Department of Fish and Game,

There is one vital difference between the regulations decreed from on-high by the federal agencies and the Idaho rule-making process. Federal regulations have absolutely no direct Congressional oversight. Conversely, Idaho rules must, by law, be approved by the legislators who are elected by the people or they cannot go into effect. This acknowledges the separation of powers as articulated by our Idaho Constitution and enables our elected legislators to ensure agency rules are in compliance with the laws they have passed.

Can you imagine how much better off we would be if Congress would enact similar legislation at the federal level? This would finally rein-in the EPA and other over-zealous agencies that are stifling our economy and destroying our freedoms.

Unfortunately, this effective protection against regulatory abuse is coming under increasing pressure in Idaho from those who think this safeguard of our natural rights is a quaint relic of a bygone era. They argue agencies need more autonomy and should not be subject to oversight by the Legislature in an increasingly complex, modern society.

Since the current requirement for legislative rules review in Idaho is only a law, it could be weakened by some future legislature under pressure by activists, or overturned by an un-



Russ Hendricks

friendly court as it has been in several other states

Fortunately, there are many who recognize the need to more firmly secure this important protection of our rights from unelected and unaccountable bureaucrats. Therefore, an amendment to the Idaho Constitution (HJR5) has been proposed and will appear on the ballot on November 8 during the general election which will secure this important safeguard of our freedom.

Voting YES for HJR5 will ensure that Idaho agency rulemaking will continue to be subject to oversight by elected legislators.

Voting YES for HJR5 means that some future DEQ or State Tax Commission employee cannot implement regulations beyond their lawful authority.

Voting YES for HJR5 means that our rights will be more securely protected since rules, which carry the force and effect of law, cannot go beyond the authority granted by the Legislature.

Voting YES on HJR5 this November means that you and other voters will ensure we are once again the "land of the free."

UI FORESTRY

Continued from page 19



Landowners began seeing mortality in understory, intermediate and seed tree, as well as saw timber-sized Douglas-fir. Photo by Tom Ekberg, Idaho Department of Lands

larger can harbor DF beetles for up to a year after being killed.

Solarize or debark infested trees being transported off site for firewood use to prevent spreading beetles to new locations.

Protect live, standing trees and prevent buildup of DF beetle populations in down material by using synthetic anti-aggregation pheromone (MCH). The product is packaged in small plastic dispensers with a recommended dosage of 30 dispensers/acre evenly placed throughout the treated area or 2 per tree for individual tree protection. Applications must be made prior to beetle flight in the spring.

Monitoring forest health and thinning stands to decrease moisture stress are important forest management practices. By locating and treating small areas of bark beetles and other insect and disease problems you can significantly decrease your chances of outbreaks and increase the resiliency of your forestlands.

Special thanks to Tom Ekberg, Idaho Department of Lands, for his review of this article.

Yvonne Barkley is an associate extension forester for the University of Idaho. She can be reached at vvonnec@uidaho.edu



AMERICAN FARM BUREAU FEDERATION NEWS

Fall White-Reinhardt Mini-Grants Awarded

WASHINGTON, D.C.,— The American Farm Bureau Foundation for Agriculture has awarded 13 \$500 mini-grants to communities across the nation. The grants are awarded through the Foundation's White-Reinhardt Fund for Education program.

The grants are allocated through county and state Farm Bureaus and are used to create new agricultural literacy projects or expand existing agricultural literacy efforts.

Criteria for selecting winners included: the effectiveness of demonstrating a strong connection between agriculture and education; how successfully the project enhances learner engagement in today's food, fiber and fuel systems; and the processes and timelines for accomplishing project goals.

"The mini-grant program is our way of giving back to our grassroots members to assist in helping younger generations learn about agriculture and the role it plays in our everyday lives," said Julie Tesch, executive director of the Foundation. Farm Bureau members share free educational resources with educators in their communities as part of the program.

The White-Reinhardt Fund for Education is a project of the Foundation in cooperation with the American Farm Bureau Women's Leadership Committee. The fund honors two former committee chairwomen, Berta White and Linda Reinhardt, who were trailblazers in early national efforts to expand the outreach of agricultural education and improve agricultural literacy.

2016 Mini-Grants Awarded to State and County Farm Bureaus

Arenac County Farm Bureau, Michigan Creation of a community garden that will be harvested each fall and lessons plans for K-8 students. Students and their families will learn about where their food comes from by growing produce.

Butler County Farm Bureau, Ohio Copies of The Beeman for each of the 55 elementary schools in Butler County. Many of the schools have urban populations so this book will be a great introduction to different aspects of agriculture and related careers.

Carroll County Farm Bureau, Virginia A barn tent with interior and exterior panels that provide interactive, hands-on, virtual agricultural experiences for children. The tent will also feature accurate ag books for children to further explore agriculture. This tent will be used at fairs and schools and will teach students about cows, sheep, chickens and much more.

Gray County Farm Bureau, Kansas Specific commodity lessons throughout the year for elementary school students. In October, fourth-graders will learn about pumpkins, in November first-graders will learn about wheat and later in the year fifth-graders will learn about corn through math lessons.

Logan County Farm Bureau, Ohio "A Journey through Food" will introduce third-graders to where their food comes from. Students will meet farmers and participate in hands-on projects to learn about the ag industry and increase ag literacy.

Mecosta County Farm Bureau, Michigan Third- and fourth-grade students will learn about healthy food choices and the availability of local produce by dehydrating fruits and vegetables for take-home snacks.

Middlesex County Farm Bureau, Massachusetts Seven-hour "Day of Agriculture" teacher workshop held on a working farm. Teachers will be introduced to the Pillars of Agricultural Literacy and attend workshops with hands-on agricultural topics.

Oceana County Farm Bureau, Michigan An egg incubation project will teach stu-

dents about the life cycle and how organisms get energy from food. Some of the chicks raised may be entered in the county fair, which will help students become more aware of and involved with 4-H and agriculture.

Pickens County Farm Bureau, South Carolina Introduction of agriculture in after-school programs at three locations. Children will read accurate ag books and participate in hands-on science and gardening lessons.

Robertson County Farm Bureau, Tennessee The Life Skills Comprehensive Development Class at White House Heritage High School will plant "The Garden Table." Students will care for and harvest vegetables and fruits, developing skills and independence that will be useful in adult living.

Sangamon County Farm Bureau, Illinois Creation of Farm2Classroom educational video series. This farm video series will educate students on topics including farming technology, soil/water/environmental conservation, planting, harvesting and fertilizer/herbicide use.

Smyth County Farm Bureau, Virginia "Farm a Month" book bundles and lesson plans, as well as "First Peas to the Table" books for the Smyth County Women's Committee to use in the local community. Volunteers will visit classrooms each month to discuss a different commodity with Farm a Month. With the "First Peas to the Table" books, students will learn about peas, gardens and Thomas Jefferson.

White County Farm Bureau, Illinois White County 4-H clubs will partner with area businesses and organizations to develop Growing Illinois Food Together (the GIFT Garden Project). This garden will act as an outdoor classroom and site for ongoing community services; fruits and vegetables grown will be donated to the needy in the community.



AMERICAN FARM BUREAU FEDERATION NEWS

FB Challenge Moves Into Judging Phase

WASHINGTON, D.C., July 1, 2016 - The American Farm Bureau Federation closed entry submissions for its third Rural Entrepreneurship Challenge on June 30 and is pleased to announce the submission of 355 applications from 39 states. Judging of entries submitted by entrepreneurs competing in the challenge - who are vying for \$145,000 in startup funds - is under way.

"We are ecstatic and pleased with the great applications and innovations occurring in rural communities across the country!" said Dr. Lisa Benson, AFBF's director of rural development. "We exceeded our goal for the number of applicants and doubled submissions compared to last year."

All applications, which include a business plan, video pitch and photo, will be reviewed by judges and provided feedback. The top 10 teams will be announced in October This includes six teams who will each win \$10,000 in startup funds and the final four teams who will advance as finalists

"Our judges will be looking for solid business and financial plans," Benson said. "Innovation is one thing but the numbers are important in a competition like this. Those who can provide statistics that back their business plan will do well."

The competition provides an opportunity for individuals to showcase ideas and business innovations that strengthen and build strong, prosperous rural communities. It is the first national rural business competition focused exclusively on innovative entrepreneurs working on food and agriculture businesses

Businesses related to food and agriculture include farms or ranches, value-added processing, food hubs, communitysupported agriculture programs (CSAs), farm-to-table restaurants, farmers' markets. wineries, breweries, cideries and distilleries. Businesses can also support food and agriculture such as crop scouting, agritourism, ag advertising and marketing, and ag technology companies.

The final four teams will compete in a live competition at AFBF's 98th Annual Convention in Phoenix on Jan 8 to

Farm Bureau Entrepreneur of the Year award and \$30,000 (chosen by judges)

People's Choice award and

\$25,000 (chosen by public vote) First runner-up prize, \$15,000 and

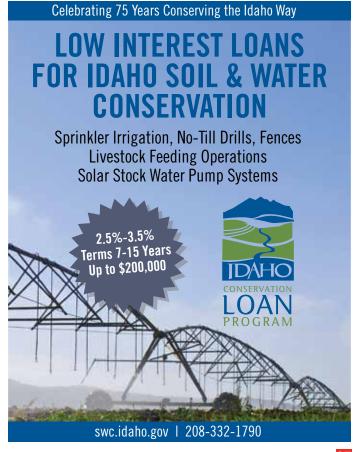
Second runner-up prize, \$15,000.

The Entrepreneur of the Year award and the People's Choice award will be awarded to two different teams. The team that wins the Entrepreneur of the Year award will not be eligible for the People's Choice Award. The competition timeline, detailed eligibility guidelines and profiles of the 2015 and 2016 finalist teams are available at Farm Bureau Rural Entrepreneurship Challenge.

Statement on Passage of **GMO** Legislation

WASHINGTON, D.C., - "Today's (July 14) House passage of GMO disclosure legislation means we now begin the work of putting in place a uniform, national labeling system that will provide balanced, accurate information to consumers. Genetically engineered crops have a decades-long track record of safety and benefits for agricultural productivity and

our environment. This legislation helps to continue those benefits by avoiding the confusion of differing and potentially misleading labeling standards from state to state. The next stop is the president's desk. We are pleased that Congress has moved quickly to finish the





All-American July 4th Cookout Ticks Up, Still Under \$6

A cookout of Americans' favorite foods for the Fourth of July, including hot dogs, cheeseburgers, pork spare ribs, potato salad, baked beans, lemonade and chocolate milk, will cost slightly more this year but still comes in at less than \$6 per person, says the American Farm Bureau Federation.

Farm Bureau's informal survey reveals the average cost of a summer cookout for 10 people is \$56.06, or \$5.61 per person.

Although the cost for the cookout is up slightly (less than 1 percent), "Prices in the meat case are starting to look better from the consumers' perspective," said Veronica Nigh, an AFBF economist. "Retail ground round prices are trending lower," she noted, pointing to the nation's cattle in-

ventory and commercial beef production, which continue to rebound from dramatically low levels in 2014 and 2015.

In addition, "On the pork side, commercial production also continues to grow and is at the highest level in 25 years," Nigh said. Spare rib prices are about the same as a year ago, while the amount of product in cold storage is up 121 percent, Nigh pointed out. "This is helping mediate the normal seasonal upswing in spare rib prices we typically see around the July 4th festivities," she said.

AFBF's summer cookout menu for 10 people consists of hot dogs and buns, cheeseburgers and buns, pork spare ribs, deli potato salad, baked beans, corn chips, lemonade, chocolate milk, ketchup, mus-

tard and watermelon for dessert.

Commenting on factors driving the slight increase in retail watermelon prices, Nigh said, "While watermelons are grown across the U.S., most come from four states – Texas, Florida, Georgia and California – which together produce approximately 44 percent of the U.S. crop. Shipments of watermelons are down nearly 8 percent compared to the same time period last year," she said.

U.S. milk production is up 1 percent compared to the same period last year. During the first quarter of 2016 (January-March), U.S. milk production reached historic levels, putting significant downward pressure on the price farmers receive for their milk.

Nigh said the increase in the price of

cheese slices highlights the spread in prices that often occurs between values at the farm, wholesale, and retail stages of the production and marketing chain.

A total of 79 Farm Bureau members (volunteer shoppers) in 26 states checked retail prices for summer cookout foods at their local grocery stores for this informal survey.

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

The year-to-year direction of the marketbasket survey tracks closely with the federal government's Consumer Price Index report for food at home. As retail grocery prices have increased gradually over time, the share of the average food dollar that America's farm and ranch families receive has dropped.

"Through the mid-1970s, farmers received about one-third of consumer retail food expenditures for food eaten at home and away from home, on average. Since then, that figure has decreased steadily and is now about 17 percent, according to the Agriculture Department's revised Food Dollar Series," Nigh said.

Using the "food at home and away from home" percentage acrossthe-board, the farmer's share of this \$56.06 marketbasket would be \$9.53.





July 4th Cookout for 10 Costs Slightly More

Items	Amount	2014 Price	2015 Price	2016 Price	% chan ge
Ground Round	2 pounds	\$ 8.91	\$ 9.10	\$ 8.80	- 3.3%
Pork Spare Ribs	4 pounds	\$13.91	\$13.44	\$13.36	- 0.6%
Hot Dogs	1 pound	\$ 2.23	\$ 2.19	\$ 2.09	- 4.6%
Deli Potato Salad	3 pounds	\$ 8.80	\$ 8.58	\$ 8.76	2.1%
Baked Beans	28 ounces	\$ 1.96	\$ 1.83	\$ 1.90	3.8%
Corn Chips	15 ounces	\$ 3.37	\$ 3.26	\$ 3.17	- 2.8%
Lemonade	0.5 gallon	\$ 2.00	\$ 2.05	\$ 2.04	- 0.5%
Chocolate Milk	0.5 gallon	\$ 2.82	\$ 2.65	\$ 2.50	- 5.7%
Watermelon	4 pounds	\$ 4.53	\$ 4.21	\$ 4.49	6.7%
Hot Dog Buns	1 packag e	\$ 1.63	\$ 1.57	\$ 1.61	2.5%
Hamburger Buns	1 packag e	\$ 1.68	\$ 1.50	\$ 1.59	6.0%
Ketchup	20 ounces	\$ 1.36	\$ 1.46	\$ 1.44	- 1.4%
Mustard	16 ounces	\$ 1.25	\$ 1.14	\$ 1.24	8.8%
American Cheese	1 pound	\$ 3.12	\$ 2.86	\$ 3.07	7.3%
Total		\$ 57.57	\$ 55.84	\$ 56.06	0.4%
Per Person	10	\$ 5.76	\$ 5.58	\$ 5.61	0.4%

AMERICAN FARM BUREAU FEDERATION NEWS

Thune Receives Farm Bureau 'Golden Plow'

WASHINGTON, D.C., - American Farm Bureau Federation President Zippy Duvall and Vice President Scott VanderWal recently presented Sen. John Thune (R-South Dakota) with AFBF's Golden Plow award The Golden Plow is the highest recognition the organization grants members of Congress.

"It was a great honor to present Senator Thune with American Farm Bureau's Golden Plow Award," Duvall said. "We can't thank him enough for all he does for the farmers and ranchers of America"

The South Dakota Farm Bu-

reau endorsed Thune for the award because of his dedicated work as a member of Congress on issues important to Farm Bureau members

As chairman of the Senate Committee on Science, Commerce and Transportation, Thune has played a major role on a range of transportation issues. During the 2014 winter and spring shipping season delays in the Northern Plains, he was very engaged with the Surface Transportation Board to investigate progress reporting and expanded accountability of rail companies. He also stewarded passage of S. 808, the

Surface Transportation Board Reauthorization Act of 2015 through the Senate.

Further, his strong stand on railroad service issues included urging an extension of the deadline for implementation of Positive Train Control, which avoided a shutdown of freight rail traffic and averted economic disaster

In addition, Thune has served on the House or Senate Ag Committees every year since he was elected to Congress in 1997, helping to write three farm bills. He is a strong supporter of measures to expand

agricultural trade opportunities and has long been recognized as the lead senator for estate tax repeal

AFBF's Golden Plow award recognizes members of Congress for distinguished agricultural leadership and support of Farm Bureau policies. Recipients are chosen based on having a philosophy or record that demonstrates a commitment to the private enterprise system, sound agricultural policies supported by Farm Bureau, fiscal conservatism, and reduced federal regulation of businesses and individuals.



FOCUS ON AGRICULTURE

Continued from page 20

We store our manure in a lagoon in the winter. It's not ideal to spread in the winter, and this way we can save it for the fall and spring when it's the best time to work it into the soil.

We send the soil and manure samples to a lab, and taking into account the weather and yield potential, we have a good idea of how best to fertilize the soil. We program it all into GPS, and we are able to then specify exactly where we need the right amount of fertilizer in each part of every field.

By making use of our testing, we are able to get more crops out of the same amount of land. We also rotate crops, rotate our pastures, and make sure that every harvest is the best, most responsible use of the land possible. It's been feeding cattle for decades, and we want it to continue to do so for years to come.

Feed efficiency

By managing the cows' nutrition, we have been able to generate more milk from the same amount of animals.

On a weekly basis, we test the cows' feed, because its components change based on where it is in the pile, which field it came from, and the rate of fermentation. We then check their manure, and we compare these readings to the milk components that are tested every day. Based on these factors, and with help from our nutritionist, we decide on the cows' ration – meaning what amounts and different kinds of feed they are getting.

The feed ration also changes based on age and where they are in their pregnancy. Due to paying close attention to these factors, we've been able to increase the amount and quality of milk from the same amount of cows on our farm

Future plans

We are always researching ways that we can improve the way we farm. We're not just doing it for us and for our children, but for all the generations to follow. It's exciting to see the improvements that have been made just in our lifetime - and we're looking forward to seeing what happens next. This farm will be here longer than any of us, and we're happy to have our turn taking care of it the best we can

Carla Wardin, a member of the second class of USFRA's Faces of Farming & Ranching, is a dairy farmer from Michigan. She and her husband, Kris, are the owners of Evergreen Dairy in St. Johns, Michigan, where Carla is the sixth generation to be farming on her family's farm. This column was originally published atwww.fooddialogues.com.



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Farm Equipment

Old time manure spreader \$500 obo. Two seated outhouse Make offer. Moreland, ID 208-242-7716

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

1990 8400 Hesston 16' swather, \$11,800 obo. New Plymouth, Id 208-739-2145.

1980 Barrett bull wagon 48ft w/ deck boards, 96" wide. Good Condition \$10,000.00. Emmett, Idaho 208-365-8191

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

2 — Thunderbird wheel moves - \$3500 a piece or \$6000 for both. Butte county, ID 208-243-0786.

Hay

Certified noxious weed free alfalfa hay 90# 2 string bales, excellent hay. We will load your traier. \$155.00 ton. New Plymouth Id 208-278-5450

Hay - \$80 to \$100/ton. Big bales. New Plymouth, Id 208-739-2145.

Household

Craftsman 1/2" drill press. Variable speed, floor model. \$100.00 good condition. 15 ft log chain. \$20.00 obo. Heyburn, Id. 208-678-1601.

55" HD TV & Pioneer Receiver - Older cabinet model. Very nice. Sold As-Is condition. \$275.00. Shelley area, Call 208-528-5337.

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Miscellaneous

Cemetery plots in Fielding cemetery in Idaho Falls. 6 plots reduced to \$350 each. Call 208-681-3454.

Real Estate/Acreage

6 acres horse pasture with a cabin built for 2. Located on a quiet road in Moreland, Id. Leave message. 208-242-7716.

Beautiful building lots or camping spot you can own with views of mountains and trees on west side of historic gold town Sumpter, Oregon. We are told the pond on this property has never been dredged. Call: 208-482-6828

Hagerman Valley Turn-Key Horse Ranch - Level 4.7+- acres, views to Hagerman Fossil Beds. One mile to boat docks on Snake River. Fishing, waterfowl hunting nearby. Two bedroom, two bath older doublewide. Four car garage, studio. Large pines, orchard. \$160,000. (208) 539 2261.

19 acres, fenced and flood irrigated. Planted into hay. 28x66 mobile home, not on a foundation, outbuilding. \$160,000. Owner will not finance. Shelley, Id. 208-244-2022.

5 acres horse property in Bouse, AZ (Located between Quartzsite and Parker, AZ) Furnished turnkey 2 bed, 2 bath mobile home with awning, decks. \$100,000. Call 208-436-1941 or 670-4908.

Beautiful 3 bed, 3 bath 2200 sq.ft. cedar home on 5 wooded acres. Built in 1998. Open floor plan with many custom features. 24x36 garage/shop is insulated and heated. Also has 24x24 R/V shed and R/V hookups. Gibbonsville, Id. 208-865-2296.

19.5 acres currently in flood irrigated hay-pasture ground. 28x66 manufactured home, not on a foundation. Plus a few outbuildings. \$160,000. Owner will not finance. Firth area. 208-244-2022.

Lot for Sale - 3/4 Acre Country Lot. City water, Gas, Utilities available. \$30,000. Shelley area. Call 528-5337.

Vehicles & Trailers

1978 MGB. Nice little convertible. 80K miles. Always garaged. Looks good, runs good. \$7,300/offer. Sandpoint, Id 208-255-8944.

2008 Harley Davidson Ultra 96Cl, Blue, 6 speed, 2 windshield, travel bags, cover. Less than 13,000 miles. Great bike. \$12,500 OBO. Eagle, Id 208-713-5638.

2003 white Harley Davidson Road King classic. 36,000 miles. 88Cl motor. 5 speed with security saddle bags, detachable windshield, luggage rack and backrest. Very good condition and freshly serviced \$7,200. Contact lim 208-244-2022.

WW Stock/horse trailer. 20 ft. Gooseneck, good condition. \$3,500. Meridian, Id. 208-888-6650.

Wanted

Austin Healey 3000, 1956 to 1968 - 100/6 Parts or entire car in any condition. I'm willing to pick up your parts or car and pay you cash. Rodney @ Rcbuilders.us 208-895-8875

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BY AUGUST 20 FOR NEXT ISSUE

DEADLINE

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

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

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

Want Vintage snowmobiles - 60's, 70's, early 80's performance models. Free airs, liquids, and some fans. Ski doo, Polaris, Rupp, Cat, Yamaha, Mercury, Scorpion, Skiroule and others. Don't have enough room to salve them all but I can save some. Kimberly, ID. Call Craig - 208-423-

Wanted to buy: Old wind-up phonographs with outside horns, cylinder records, and parts. Edison, Victors, Columbis, etc. Call 208-662-5437.

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

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