

Idaho Farm Bureau Quarterly

Fall 2020 • Volume 20 Issue 4

IDAHO: Beer grows here



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Pledge to vote in November



In Farm Bureau, we often talk about how active and engaged our members are in policy advocacy.

We're usually referring to Farm Bureau members' engagement on specific legislation or issues—their calls, emails and in-person visits (pre-pandemic, anyway) to ensure that those who are elected to serve us are aware of what's important to agriculture.

Just as important is engagement to make sure the right people get into office in the first place.

Farmers and ranchers tend to vote at a high

rate. They know that who's in office can have a huge impact on their ability to farm.

From regulations and taxes to access to labor and foreign markets, policies supported by those whom we elect to Congress, the White House and other offices directly affect our farms and families—and our ability to feed our nation.

I don't have to tell you that the next election, coming up Nov. 3, is a big one. Not only will voters choose the president of the United

See **DUVALL**, page 6

The President's Desk

By Bryan Searle

President Idaho Farm Bureau Federation

Agriculture vital to Idaho's economy



It would be difficult to overstate the critical role that agriculture plays in Idaho's economy.

Just how important farming and ranching is to the state can be summed up in one number: 4,562.

Put a dollar sign before that number – \$4,562 – and you have the state's per capita farm income total.

That number was arrived at by taking the total amount of farm cash receipts Idaho farmers and ranchers produced last year — \$8.2 billion —

and dividing it by the number of people in the state in 2019 – 1.78 million.

See page 8 for a story on Idaho ranking No. 1 in the West in per capita farm income.

To put it another way, Idaho's 24,000-plus farms and ranches produced \$4,562 worth of farm cash receipts for every person in Idaho last year. Farm cash receipts are the gross revenue farmers and ranchers receive for selling their commodity.

To find out how astounding that \$4,562

See **SEARLE**, page 7

Inside Farm Bureau

By Zak Miller

CEO Idaho Farm Bureau Federation

Harvest crews and legislative leaders



It sure is amazing what an engaged individual can accomplish.

A farmer or rancher alone can grow thousands of acres of crops or nurture hundreds or even thousands of cattle during the summer. Long days, technology, a lot of grit and wisdom are also needed, but one farmer or rancher can do a lot.

But regardless of our efforts, some things are awfully hard to do alone, especially at harvest. Putting up hay, combining grain, chopping silage, digging potatoes and beets, rounding up

cows, etc., these projects are best done with a harvest crew.

I remember a story of a farmer digging potatoes with his wife as the truck driver. All was going well until he became a bit too aggressive with his wife/driver. He pushed her too far and she parked the truck in the middle of the field and walked home, leaving the farmer literally out standing in his field but not overly effective at his task.

The harvest crew brings a unique dynamic

See **MILLER**, page 6

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COVER: A barley field is harvested near Soda Springs Sept. 4. See page 4 for story about Idaho being the beer state.
(Photo by Sean Ellis)



No barley no beer

Barley is harvested in a field near Soda Springs Sept. 4.

Photo by Sean Ellis

Idaho leads the nation in the production of malt barley

By Sean Ellis

Idaho Farm Bureau Federation

POCATELLO – Many people know that Idaho is the Gem State, everybody knows Idaho is the potato state but few people know that Idaho is also the beer state.

“Beer grows here,” says Sheila Francis, executive director of Idaho Brewers United, which represents craft brewers in Idaho.

Idaho leads the nation in the production

of malt barley, which is a critical part of the beer-brewing process. About 70 percent of the barley produced here is malt barley and the rest is used for human food or animal feed.

Idaho farmers produced 55 million bushels of barley off of 520,000 acres last year, which was 32 percent of the nation’s total barley crop.

That was enough to produce 12 million barrels of beer or 4.1 billion 12-ounce bottles of beer.





Photo by Sean Ellis

Barley is harvested in a field near Soda Springs Sept. 4.

Not only is Idaho No. 1 in barley production but the state also ranks No. 2 in the United States in the production of hops, another key ingredient in beer.

Most of the malt barley produced in Idaho is purchased by major beer companies such as Anheuser-Busch and Molson Coors.

Idaho's position as the major player in total barley production is the reason so many of the nation's biggest beer brewers have a presence here.

In addition to Anheuser-Busch's two malting facilities in Idaho Falls, Great Western Malting has a production facility in Pocatello, Mountain Malt, a craft maltster, has a facility in Idaho Falls and Idaho growers also ship to MolsonCoors in Golden, Colo.

Anheuser-Busch gets about half of its North American barley supply from Idaho, which means the malt in three of the bottles in every six-pack of Budweiser was produced in Idaho.

"Basically, beer does grow here," says Laura Wilder, executive director of the Idaho Barley Commission, which represents the state's barley growers. "Great beer is made from great barley malt, which starts in Idaho."

Anheuser-Busch works with about 400 Idaho farmers who provide malt barley that is turned into roughly 300,000 metric tons of finished malt at the AB plants in Idaho Falls and then

shipped to the company's 12 domestic breweries across the nation.

"Idaho is very important to the company from a production standpoint," says Doug Peck, AB's Idaho ag manager. "Idaho is integral to the company's supply of barley."

Peck, as well as Idaho farmers, say several factors make southern and particularly eastern Idaho a great place to grow malt barley. Not only is the climate ideal for barley production – hot days, cool nights – but so are the soils and the low humidity keeps disease pressure down.

"The weather here – hot days and cool nights – makes for perfect conditions for malt barley production," says Teton barley grower Dwight Little.

Most of the barley grown in the region is grown under irrigation and the dryland areas where it is produced usually receive an ample amount of rainfall.

"It's a combination of dedicated growers, good climactic conditions, good soil and plenty of water," says Soda Springs barley farmer Scott Brown.

The major beer companies recognize that, Little says, "and that's why all the big brewers have a presence here in East Idaho..."

It takes great barley to brew great beer and that quality barley is found in Idaho, Peck says.

See **BARLEY**, page 26



DUVALL

Continued from page 2

States, a third of U.S. Senate seats are up for election this November, and of course all 435 U.S. House seats are up.

Plus, across the country, hundreds of state and local offices are on the ballot.

Farm Bureau is working to ensure that farmers and ranchers make an impact at the polls in two ways: encouraging them to vote and helping them to be informed voters.

We recently launched our iFarmiVote toolkit with information farmers need before voting. They can register to vote and find ballot information by using the toolkit.

They can look up who their candidates are. They can even find out if their voting location, hours and requirements have changed because of the pandemic.

While on the toolkit website, farmers can pledge to vote in the 2020 elections. By taking the pledge, they show the importance of the farm vote and the power of the farmers' voice.

We're asking Farm Bureau members to take that pledge and then share it on social media so their friends and followers can

do the same.

Also, we recently published President Donald Trump's and former Vice President Joe Biden's responses to 12 questions on our presidential questionnaire. We're proud that, for 40 years if not longer, presidential candidates have responded with their positions on issues that affect America's farmers and food security.

We publish their answers as we receive them, unedited, so farmers and ranchers can get an unfiltered look at the candidates' platforms and make the best choice based on the issues that matter to them.

As I said in our announcement of the questionnaire answers, the views of Farm Bureau members are as diverse as the crops they grow and the animals they raise.

But they have a lot in common, too: patriotism, a sense of duty, a strong work ethic and engagement in civic matters and policy advocacy.

It's these values that will drive them to do the work and inform themselves on where the candidates stand—and drive them, once again, to vote at a high rate this November. ■

MILLER

Continued from page 2

to a farm. Farmers who, for most of the year, live quite solitary lives suddenly become, among other things, human resource specialists, conflict resolution counselors, schedule maestros, systems engineers, youth counselors, dispatchers, marketing coordinators, and oh, by the way, still farmers.

Harvest does change things on the farm.

Usually, only about, oh say 15 minutes into harvest, one can see in a harvest crew those who amaze with their understanding and efficiency, who understand their role, and work to help the harvest go smoothly and efficiently. These people make any harvest a joyful, fantastic experience.

Then there is the other group. These are the ones that continue to prove that insurance and rigorous evaluation of our children's dating habits are critical.

These are the ones that will cause farmers to utter multiple times during harvest phrases like, "You were trying to do what?" "You thought your machine could do that?" and my favorite, "One more time, explain your thoughts process to me."

A good harvest crew member is like family; you are always happy to see them and enjoy working with them because they are a part of what allows a farmer to succeed. It is a mutually beneficial relationship. The crew members earn income. The farmers reap the fruits of the harvest. Hopefully, this relationship will continue to grow and improve over many fruitful harvests.

The other side is the less-than-desirable crew member. It is

usually a one-year relationship with these types in which you hope your paths don't often cross in the future because of the trauma they have already inflicted.

Our elected officials are much like a harvest crew. All want the job and believe they are more than qualified to do it better than anyone else.

Some are seasoned leaders in the prime of their careers; some need to retire; some are over their skis and will never succeed; and some are young and inexperienced but will be among the very best with some time.

Like when considering a potential harvest crew member, a farmer needs to consider if someone running for elected office is the right person for the job and do the necessary research to feel confident they have the right person for the right job.

Choosing our representatives shouldn't be any different than choosing a harvest crew member. These are vital jobs that, if we choose wisely, will help our families thrive and grow.

We owe it to ourselves to take the time to be sure that our "harvest crews" representing us locally in Boise and in Washington, D.C., are those crew members who are working to help us.

Farm Bureau is always there to assist you in choosing your legislative crew. Many hours are devoted to understanding the candidates and identifying those best suited to help serve our needs and protect our unique way of life in Idaho.

Please visit <https://www.idahofb.org/ifarmivote> to study the candidates and make sure you are registered to vote. ■

'I encourage you to become informed about the various candidates running for local and state office and, when you vote in the general election in November, consider voting for those who will best support the state's agricultural industry.'

SEARLE

Continued from page 2

number really is, take a look at California, which led the nation in total farm cash receipts in 2019 with \$50 billion. No other state in the nation even came close to California in that category and Iowa ranked second at \$28 billion.

But California's per capita farm income total last year worked out to \$1,268.

That means Idaho's agricultural sector produces almost four times as much as California's ag sector in terms of farm cash receipts per capita.

Think about what that means for a moment. While California is king of farming in the United States, and the world really, the state can't shake a stick at Idaho when it comes to how much its farmers and ranchers produce per resident.

Idaho is truly a heavyweight in the ag world in this category and ranks an unchallenged No. 1 among the 11 Western states in per capita farm cash receipts.

But what does that all mean? It means that agriculture is far more important to the average Idahoan than it is to residents in other Western states.

Kudos to University of Idaho Agricultural Economist Ben Eborn for crunching the data that show per capita farm income totals in each of the 11 Western states.

It's a very simple yet profound way to show elected officials and others how important agriculture is to Idaho citizens.

Another University of Idaho study shows that agriculture accounted for 13 percent of Idaho's total gross state product in 2017, one in eight jobs and \$26 billion in sales, which was 18 percent of the state's total economic output in 2017.

According to that study, agriculture was by far the most important part of Idaho's economy.

That's why it is important to elect people who will support agriculture in Idaho. Idaho Farm Bureau Federation has launched two campaigns – "I Farm, I Vote" and, "I Eat, I Vote" — to help ensure this happens.

Visit IFarmIVoteIdaho.com for more information about those campaigns.

Also, in the pages of this magazine you will find information about candidates for the Idaho Legislature who have been endorsed by Agra-PAC, the political action committee of the Idaho Farm Bureau Federation.

These candidates have been recognized for demonstrating a


high level of support for Idaho agriculture.

Election day provides every citizen the opportunity and responsibility to have their voice heard. I hear a lot of complaints about a law that was enacted or something that needs to be addressed.

Well, election time is each person's opportunity to vote – and encourage others to do the same – and have their say in what laws are enacted.

I encourage you to become informed about the various candidates running for local and state office and, when you vote in the general election in November, consider voting for those who will best support the state's agricultural industry.

Then once the election is completed, stay involved and hold our elected officials accountable for their positions on the various issues that will continue to affect all of us. ■

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Idaho undisputed No. 1 in West in per capita farm income

By Sean Ellis

Idaho Farm Bureau Federation

POCATELLO – Idaho is small when it comes to population but very big when it comes to agriculture.

Idaho ranked No. 1 among the 11 Western states in 2019 in farm income on a per capita basis.

USDA data released Sept. 2 shows that Idaho farmers and ranchers produced \$4,562 per person in 2019 in farm cash receipts, which is the revenue that farmers and ranchers receive for selling their commodity.

No other Western state was even close when it came to farm cash receipts per capita — total farm income divided by the state’s population.

“That is a remarkable statistic,” said University of Idaho Agricultural Economist Garth Taylor. “Relative to our population, agriculture has a big presence in the state.”

Data released by USDA’s Economic

Research Service Sept. 2 provided the first state-level farm income estimates for 2019. The data shows that when it comes to per capita farm cash receipts, Idaho is the big dog in the West.

Idaho producers brought in \$8.2 billion in farm cash receipts last year, which ranked the state third in that category in the West. Divide that number by the state’s total population of 1.78 million people and it comes out to \$4,562 per person.

California farmers and ranchers brought in \$50 billion in farm cash receipts in 2019, by far the most in the nation. But California’s per capita farm income total worked out to \$1,268.

Washington ranked No. 2 in the West in farm cash receipts last year with \$9.3 billion but that state’s per capita farm income total was \$1,226.

The only state in the West remotely close to Idaho’s per capita number was Montana, which came in at \$3,498.

Wyoming was third in the per capita rankings at \$2,636 and was followed by

New Mexico (\$1,516), Colorado (\$1,299), California and Washington.

Oregon was next at \$1,201, followed by Arizona (\$693), Utah (\$567) and Nevada (\$230).

UI Agricultural Economist Ben Eborn compiles the per capita farm income rankings each year as a quick way to show people how important agriculture is to the average Idahoan.

“It’s a fun way to illustrate how important agriculture is to our state. Idaho is way more dependent on agriculture than any other Western state,” he said. “I hope it encourages people to think about agriculture and how important it is to the state a little more.”

A University of Idaho study found that agriculture directly and indirectly accounts for 13 percent of Idaho’s total gross state product, and \$26 billion in annual sales and one in eight jobs in the state.

“Idaho is a relatively small state in population but we’re big in agriculture,” Taylor said. ■



**Your financial future is one of the
many things on your mind.
It's the only thing on ours.**

If 2020 has taught us anything, it's the importance of being prepared for the unexpected. Could your financial future handle another year like this one? Our agents and advisors are committed to helping you gain the peace of mind that comes from knowing you're not alone in preparing for your future.

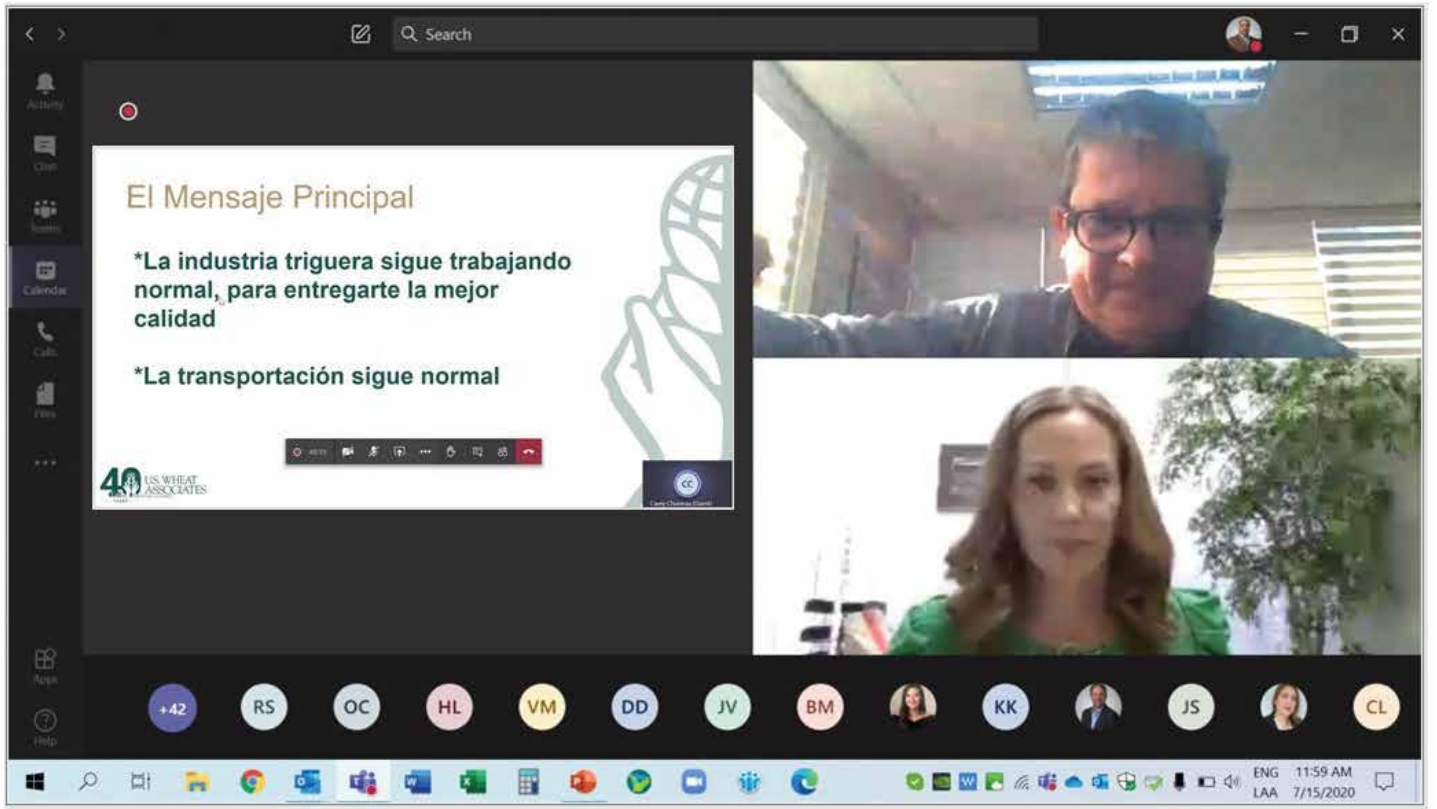
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Idaho Wheat Commission photo

Idaho Wheat Commission Executive Director Casey Chumrau participates in a webinar with potential customers in Colombia earlier this year. The state's wheat and barley industries have not been able to host trade visits this year because of COVID-19 restrictions so they have held virtual trade tours instead.

Idaho grain industries holding virtual trade tours due to COVID

By Sean Ellis

Idaho Farm Bureau Federation

POCATELLO – The Idaho Barley Commission and Idaho Wheat Commission normally host about 10 trade delegations between them each year.

Idaho farmers grow about 1 million acres of wheat and about 520,000 acres of barley each year and the trade visits give potential customers a chance to meet Idaho growers in person, view the state's extensive barley and wheat industry infrastructure up close and ask questions.

But because of travel restrictions related to COVID-19, those trade teams from other nations have not visited Idaho in 2020.

“Obviously, with the COVID situation, the ... trade team visits we had scheduled for this year are not going to happen,” said IWC Executive Director Casey Chumrau.

Because of that, the commissions have had to shift their market

development efforts and get creative to keep current and prospective customers informed about the state's grain crops.

That includes interacting with customers and potential customers through virtual trade tours and by sending them pre-taped videos that include interviews with farmers about their crop conditions and updates on the state's overall 2020 wheat and barley crops.

“We have been doing a lot of virtual crop updates and virtual trade visits to keep in touch with customers,” said Chumrau. “We don't want to just leave an entire year of market development by the wayside, so we're trying to figure out ways to connect with customers.”

She said the main message to Idaho's wheat customers is: “Everything is running as normal. Production continues as in any other year. Our logistics are still running ... so any concern about wheat and the quantity and quality of wheat they are going to need, we can kind of lay that to rest.”

The Idaho Barley Commission is working with U.S. Grains Council to host virtual tours and has also supplied videos about the state's extensive barley industry to potential customers.

"With the pandemic, no one's traveling but we are trying to meet people where they are, virtually," said IBC Administrator Laura Wilder. "We are limited in what we can do but there is still interest in Idaho barley, so we're trying to do what we can to provide people with information and let them know we're here for them."

The virtual trade tours are valuable but there is no true replacement for in-person visits, Wilder and Chumrau said.

"It's a huge benefit to have a trade team come visit in person," Wilder said. "It's very important for them to develop relationships with who they purchase from and they like to meet the farmers, they like to see where the barley is grown and they like to see where the barley is processed. Once they make that one-on-one connection and get to know their supplier, they are way more likely to initiate and keep a long-term purchasing decision with Idaho barley."

A virtual trade tour "does not replace an in-person visit," Chumrau said. "Some of those face-to face interactions are invaluable and they really are where the connections are made and where overseas customers can see the entire agricultural chain and the whole wheat industry infrastructure we have in Idaho and where they can gain valuable knowledge and a lot of trust in what

we're doing here."

But while there is no substitute for actual in-person visits, the virtual trade tours have resulted in more people being involved and getting to ask questions directly to representatives of the state's grain industry.

"When people travel here for a trade visit, there obviously is a restriction in how many people can attend because of finances and usually only the top people from a country will travel," Chumrau said. "But when it's virtual, a lot more people can participate. So, we're seeing different and interesting questions from people who haven't been here before and may not get the opportunity to travel here. That is one advantage of the virtual tours."

The COVID restrictions have forced the barley commission to become more resourceful and creative, Wilder said.

"And that's shown us a lot of possibilities we can explore and expand upon, including webinars which more people can participate in because there aren't the travel costs," she said. "And we can get good information out during these events, especially using photos and videos."

While there has been a halt on grain trade teams this year, both the barley and wheat commissions are preparing for a lot of trade delegations next year.

"I think we'll have a big onslaught of trade teams next year and we're looking forward to that," Wilder said. ■



The purpose of the **I Farm, I Vote** campaign is to engage farmers, ranchers and rural citizens in becoming informed voters to ensure their voices are heard at the statehouse.

The purpose of the **I Eat, I Vote** campaign is to engage urban citizens who know their family's food depends upon Idaho's farmers and ranchers so they will vote for candidates that support agriculture in Idaho.

Idaho is blessed with a wide variety of agriculture products, and we have local farmers and ranchers to thank for that. Agriculture is Idaho's largest economic sector and the lifeblood of rural communities, employing 1 in 8 Idahoans while supplying food and fiber for the nation and the world. Elected officials impact all aspects of rural life and business, from taxes and environmental regulation to property rights and transportation. These campaigns aim to provide useful information so all Idahoans can make informed decisions and support elected leaders who promote Idaho farmers, ranchers and rural communities.

For more information on these campaigns, please visit ifarmivoteidaho.com



Photo by Sean Ellis

An onion field is harvested in a field in southwest Idaho last year. USDA's Economic Research Service estimates that total net farm income in the United States will increase by 23 percent in 2020.

U.S. net farm income forecast to rise 23 percent

By Sean Ellis

Idaho Farm Bureau Federation

POCATELLO – Total net farm income in the United States is forecast to increase by 23 percent in 2020 despite a small decrease in total farm cash receipts.

The main reasons for the projected increase in net farm income – NFI is a broad measure of farm profits – are a significant increase in government payments to farmers as well as a small decrease in farm production expenses.

The projection was released Sept. 2 during a webinar hosted by USDA's

Economic Research Service, which releases farm income forecasts three times a year.

Idaho farm economists say that projection may not hold in Idaho because Idaho farmers and ranchers are far less reliant on government payments than the average U.S. producer.

“It was surprising to me that it’s going to be up that much. That number is just unreal. I don’t think too many people expected it to be up that much, especially after the impact that coronavirus had on our economy.”

— Ben Eborn, UI Agricultural Economist

ERS is projecting that direct government payments to U.S. farmers will increase by 66 percent this year, to \$37 billion. Almost all of that increase is related to assistance USDA provided to farmers and ranchers because of the impacts COVID-19 had on their businesses.

Total U.S. farm production expenses are forecast to decrease by 1 percent to \$344 billion in 2020.

“The highest contributor to increased net farm income is direct government payments,” said webinar host Carrie Litkowski, a USDA-ERS senior economist.

Together, the lower expenses and increase in government payments are forecast to push total U.S. net farm income to \$103 billion in 2020, up \$19 billion over the 2019 total and the highest level since 2013.

University of Idaho agricultural economists said the projected 23 percent increase in net farm income was probably much higher than most people were anticipating.

“It was surprising to me that it’s going to be up that much. That number is just unreal,” said UI Agricultural Economist Ben Eborn. “I don’t think too many people expected it to be up that much, especially after the impact that coronavirus had on our economy.”

But, he added, the coronavirus farm relief payments that USDA provided to producers are expected to play a major role in pushing total U.S. net farm income to its highest level since 2013.

It appears by the ERS net farm income forecast that the coronavirus farm relief payments did indeed help a lot of producers, Eborn said.

“I think those payments helped a lot of farmers,” he said. “There were a lot of farmers that really did get hurt and stuck with a lot of product they couldn’t sell because processing plants were closed.”

At first glance, the projected net farm income release is stunning, said UI Agricultural Economist Garth Taylor. But when you look at the numbers behind the projected increase, he added, “there are going to be a lot of government payments in that.”

But Taylor also said it’s uncertain how Idaho farmers and ranchers will fare when it comes to net farm income this year because Idaho producers typically get much fewer government payments than the average producer across the country.

According to January estimates by Eborn and Taylor, government payments to Idaho producers contributed 7 percent to Idaho’s total net farm income in 2019. That compares to 24 percent for the entire United States.

In total, Idaho farmers and ranchers received less than 1 percent of all U.S. government payments to producers last year.

Because of that, “How that projected increase in net farm income plays out in Idaho is unknown,” Taylor said.

Taylor said a real bright spot of the

USDA-ERS report released Sept. 2 was that total farm production costs are expected to be down 1 percent this year compared with 2019.

If that projection is realized, total U.S. farm expenses will have declined for six straight years. That follows five straight years of cost increases from 2010-2014.

“This is a story that is oftentimes overlooked,” Taylor said about the declining overall farm production expenses. Those reduced costs “have really helped farmers out a lot.”

Interest and fuel expenses and expenses for livestock and poultry purchases are expected to decline in 2020 but fertilizer, feed and labor expenses are expected to rise.

ERS estimates that total farm cash receipts – this is the income that producers receive for selling their commodity – in the U.S. will decline by 3 percent to \$358 billion this year.

Total crop cash receipts are forecast to increase by 1 percent compared with 2019 levels while total animal and animal product cash receipts are expected to decline by 8 percent.

Across the United States, farmers’ and ranchers’ balance sheets are in good shape and farm equity is expected to remain relatively stable in 2020, Litkowski said.

Total farm equity in the U.S. is forecast at \$2.7 trillion in 2020 while total farm debt is forecast at \$400 billion.

“Historically, the balance sheet remains steady,” Litkowski said. ■

Idaho Farm Bureau announces support for legislative candidates

The Idaho Farm Bureau Federation has a political action committee named Agra-PAC. The purpose of Agra-PAC is to assist state legislative candidates who are philosophically aligned with Farm Bureau policies and positions to win their election.

Based upon recommendations from county Farm Bureaus, the following legislative candidates have demonstrated a high level of support for Idaho agriculture and have been endorsed by Agra-PAC for the general election.

Many of these candidates have also been awarded the Idaho Farm Bureau Friend of Agriculture Award, the highest honor legislators can receive from Farm Bureau. Every two years the Friend of Agriculture Award recognizes legislators who have consistently supported or opposed bills in harmony with Farm Bureau member positions.

District 1 (Boundary, Bonner counties)



Senate Seat

Jim Woodward, Sagle



House Seat A

Heather Scott, Blanchard
IFBF Friend of Agriculture Award
Recipient 2020, 2018, 2016



House Seat B

Sage Dixon, Ponderay
IFBF Friend of Agriculture Award
Recipient 2020, 2018, 2016

District 2 (Kootenai County)



Senate Seat

Steve Vick,
Dalton Gardens
IFBF Friend of Agriculture Award
Recipient 2018, 2016, 2014



House Seat A

Vito Barbieri,
Dalton Gardens
IFBF Friend of Agriculture Award
Recipient 2020, 2018, 2016

District 3 (Kootenai County)



House Seat A

Ron Mendive,
Coeur d'Alene
IFBF Friend of Agriculture Award
Recipient 2020, 2018, 2016



House Seat B

Tony Wisniewski, Post Falls

District 4 (Kootenai County)



Senate Seat

Mary Souza,
Coeur d'Alene
IFBF Friend of Agriculture
Award Recipient 2018



House Seat A

Jim Addis, Coeur d'Alene



House Seat B

Paul Amador,
Coeur d'Alene
IFBF Friend of Agriculture Award
Recipient 2018

District 5 (Benewah & Latah counties)



Senate Seat

Dan Foreman, Viola



House Seat A

Brandon Mitchell, Moscow



House Seat B

Caroline Nilsson
Troy, Genesee
IFBF Friend of Agriculture Award
Recipient 2018, 2016

District 6 (Lewis & Nez Perce counties)



Senate Seat

Daniel Johnson, Lewiston



House Seat A

Aaron Von Ehlinger,
Lewiston



House Seat B

Mike Kingsley, Lewiston
IFBF Friend of Agriculture Award
Recipient 2020



House Seat B

Dorothy Moon, Stanley
IFBF Friend of Agriculture Award
Recipient 2020, 2018



House Seat A

Scott Syme, Caldwell
IFBF Friend of Agriculture Award
Recipient 2018



House Seat A

Brent Crane, Nampa
IFBF Friend of Agriculture Award
Recipient 2020, 2018, 2014

**District 7
(Bonner, Clearwater, Idaho,
Shoshone counties)**



Senate Seat

Carl Crabtree,
Grangeville
IFBF Friend of Agriculture Award
Recipient 2018



House Seat B

Judy Boyle, Midvale
IFBF Friend of Agriculture Award
Recipient 2020, 2018, 2016, 2014



House Seat B

Tammy Nichols, Middleton



House Seat B

Ben Adams, Nampa

**District 10
(Canyon County)**



House Seat A

Priscilla Giddings,
White Bird



Senate Seat

Jim Rice, Caldwell
IFBF Friend of Agriculture Award
Recipient 2018



Senate Seat

Todd Lakey, Nampa



Senate Seat

Scott Grow, Eagle



House Seat B

Charlie Shepherd, Pollock



House Seat A

Julie Yamamoto, Caldwell



House Seat A

Bruce Skaug, Nampa



House Seat A

Mike Moyle, Star
IFBF Friend of Agriculture Award
Recipient 2020, 2018, 2016, 2012

**District 8
(Boise, Custer, Gem, Lemhi,
Valley counties)**



Senate Seat

Steven Thayn, Emmett
IFBF Friend of Agriculture Award
Recipient 2018, 2016, 2014, 2012



House Seat B

Greg Chaney, Caldwell
IFBF Friend of Agriculture Award
Recipient 2020, 2018, 2016



House Seat B

Rick Youngblood, Nampa
IFBF Friend of Agriculture Award
Recipient 2020, 2018, 2016



House Seat B

Gayann DeMordaunt,
Eagle
IFBF Friend of Agriculture Award
Recipient 2020

**District 11
(Canyon County)**



House Seat A

Terry Gestrin, Donnelly
IFBF Friend of Agriculture Award
Recipient 2020, 2018, 2016



Senate Seat

Patti Anne Lodge, Huston
IFBF Friend of Agriculture Award
Recipient 2012

**District 13
(Canyon County)**



Senate Seat

Jeff Agenbroad, Nampa
IFBF Friend of Agriculture Award
Recipient 2018



Senate Seat

Fred Martin, Boise



House Seat A

Patrick McDonald, Boise

**District 18
(Ada County)**



Senate Seat

Janie Ward-Engelking,
Boise

**District 20
(Ada County)**



Senate Seat

Chuck Winder, Boise
IFBF Friend of Agriculture Award
Recipient 2014



House Seat A

Joe Palmer, Meridian
IFBF Friend of Agriculture Award
Recipient 2020, 2018, 2016



House Seat B

James Holtzclaw, Meridian
IFBF Friend of Agriculture Award
Recipient 2020, 2018, 2016

**District 21
(Ada County)**



Senate Seat

Regina Bayer, Meridian



House Seat A

Steven Harris, Meridian
IFBF Friend of Agriculture Award
Recipient 2020, 2016

**District 22
(Ada county)**



Senate Seat

Lori Den Hartog, Meridian
IFBF Friend of Agriculture Award
Recipient 2018, 2016



House Seat A

John Vander Woude,
Nampa
IFBF Friend of Agriculture Award
Recipient 2020, 2018, 2016, 2014



House Seat B

Jason Monks, Nampa
IFBF Friend of Agriculture Award
Recipient 2020, 2018, 2016, 2014

**District 23
(Owyhee, Elmore,
Twin Falls counties)**



Senate Seat

Christy Zito, Hammett
IFBF Friend of Agriculture Award
Recipient 2020, 2018



House Seat B

Megan Blanksma, Hammett
IFBF Friend of Agriculture Award
Recipient 2020, 2018

**District 24
(Twin Falls County)**



Senate Seat

Lee Heider, Twin Falls
IFBF Friend of Agriculture Award
Recipient 2012



House Seat A

Lance Clow, Twin Falls



House Seat B

Linda Wright Hartgen

**District 25
(Jerome & Twin Falls counties)**



Senate Seat

Jim Patrick, Twin Falls



House Seat A

Laurie Lickley, Jerome



House Seat B

Clark Kauffman, Filer

**District 27
(Cassia & Minidoka counties)**



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Kelly Anthon
IFBF Friend of Agriculture Award
Recipient 2020



House Seat A

Scott Bedke, Oakley
IFBF Friend of Agriculture Award
Recipient 2020, 2018,
2016, 2014, 2012



House Seat B

Fred Wood, Burley

**District 28
(Bannock & Power counties)**



Senate Seat

Jim Guthrie, McCammon
IFBF Friend of Agriculture Award
Recipient 2018, 2014, 2012



House Seat A

Randy Armstrong, Inkom



House Seat B

Kevin Andrus,
Lava Hot Springs
IFBF Friend of Agriculture
Award Recipient 2020

**District 29
(Bannock County)**



Senate Seat
Mark Nye, Pocatello



House Seat A
Dustin Manwaring,
Pocatello

**District 30
(Bonneville County)**



Senate Seat
Kevin Cook, Idaho Falls



House Seat A
Gary Marshall, Idaho Falls



House Seat B
Wendy Horman,
Idaho Falls
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Recipient 2018, 2016

**District 31
(Bingham County)**



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Steve Bair, Blackfoot
IFBF Friend of Agriculture Award
Recipient 2018, 2014, 2012



House Seat A
David Cannon, Blackfoot



House Seat B
Julianne Young, Blackfoot
IFBF Friend of Agriculture Award
Recipient 2020

**District 32
(Bear Lake, Bonneville,
Caribou, Franklin, Oneida,
Teton counties)**



Senate Seat
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IFBF Friend of Agriculture Award
Recipient 2020, 2018



House Seat A
Marc Gibbs, Grace
IFBF Friend of Agriculture Award
Recipient 2012



House Seat B
Chad Christensen, Ammon
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Recipient 2020

**District 33
(Bonneville County)**



Senate Seat
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House Seat A
Barbara Ehardt,
Idaho Falls
IFBF Friend of Agriculture Award
Recipient 2020, 2018



House Seat B
Marco Erikson, Idaho Falls

**District 34
(Bonneville & Madison
counties)**



Senate Seat
Doug Ricks, Rexburg



House Seat A
Jon Weber, Rexburg



House Seat B
Ronald Nate, Rexburg

**District 35
(Butte, Clark, Fremont,
Jefferson counties)**



Senate Seat
Van Burtenshaw, Terretton



House Seat A
Karey Hanks,
Saint Anthony



House Seat B
Rod Furniss, Rigby

**Farm Bureau
encourages you
to support these
candidates as
you vote.**



Sweet tart

Haskap berries gain popularity as flavorful, nutrient-dense, hardy crop

By Dianna Troyer

For Idaho Farm Bureau Federation

A decade ago, owners of Legacy Farms NW near Sandpoint took a risk and planted nearly two acres of a relatively new berry in the United States: haskaps.

The deeply purple berry resembles a flattened oval blueberry.

Co-owners Karen Forsythe and Judie Conlan agree their tasty gamble has paid off. They sell their trademarked dormant plants as far as Michigan, and Forsythe's customers at Di Luna's, her restaurant in Sandpoint, crave their crop.

"We use haskaps in baked goods, smoothies and mimosas," Forsythe said of the nutritious, flavorful berry that tastes like a blend of a huckleberry and blueberry. "They've been a big hit. We named our mimosas the Sweet Tart, and they sell as well as huckleberry. I have to say after going huckleberry picking this year, haskaps are much easier to pick, and I think they taste better."

The timing to grow haskap berries was perfect for Forsythe in 2009. She was searching for an organic, low-maintenance perennial crop for Legacy Farms.

At the same time, Dan Barney, a University of Idaho horticulture professor, needed a home for

Photo courtesy of University of Idaho
Haskaps are rich in antioxidants and grow on a hardy bush, similar to a blueberry.

haskap varieties he had raised. As superintendent of the university's Sandpoint Research and Extension Center, he hoped the cultivars he had grown would continue to be developed after the university decided to close the center in 2009.

"I'd taken a class with Dr. Barney and kept in touch with him about his projects," said Forsythe, who soon learned about haskaps.

A member of the honeysuckle family, haskaps are native to Europe. Also known as a blue honeysuckle or honeyberry, they are rich in antioxidants and grow on a hardy bush, similar to a blueberry.

The name is derived from the Japanese word *haskapu*, which translates to "little gifts on the ends of the branches." The Ainu people of Northern Japan referred to them as "berry of long life and good vision."

Forsythe and Conlan plowed up 1.5 acres of a hay field, put down weed barrier, erected a deer fence, and planted 10 to 12 plants of 43 different varieties. Then they watched, tasted, and waited.

"Three years later, we selected five varieties that we thought tasted best and would work for home and commercial use," Forsythe said. "The university trademarked the name BonnerBlue, and we have an exclusive contract with them to propagate and sell these varieties. Unlike some varieties on the market today, these were bred not only to thrive in our climate, but also taste good."

She has shipped dormant plants as far as Michigan.

"They're gaining popularity in Idaho," she said. "They're a cold-loving plant that is easy to grow and is not as fussy about soil as a blueberry."

Haskaps' arrival in Idaho

The success story at Legacy Farms NW traces its roots to Essie Fallahi, the director of the University of Idaho's Research and Extension Center in Parma and an award-winning expert in pomology, the study of fruit.

He brought the first haskaps to Idaho more than two decades ago, through a cooperative agreement with a colleague, Oregon State University researcher Maxine Thompson.

"Her plants came from the coastal range of Japan, and she was willing to share some with our research center," Fallahi said.

He is impressed with haskaps' longevity, disease-resistance, and hardiness.

"Those original plants are still growing here," he said of about 14 varieties. "The flowers are truly amazing. Sometimes in mid-March when they're blooming, it snows. That type of cold would kill a peach, but the haskaps still have a crop."

Tolerant of various acidity levels, haskap bushes can be grown in soils ranging in pH from 5 to 8.5. A flexible plant, they grow in full sun to partial shade and develop strong roots with a deep watering every five to seven days.

Fallahi said the highly nutritious haskaps have an unforgettable flavor.

"To me, the flavor is a combination of a huckleberry and a blueberry," he said. "When the juice is extracted to make a syrup



Photo courtesy of University of Idaho

Haskaps grow easily, tolerating wide-ranging temperatures and soil types.

for pancakes, it is unbelievably aromatic – absolutely delicious. They're popular in syrups and jams or raw. They have an extremely high level of antioxidants."

To maintain them, he suggests pruning them like a blueberry.

"They do well when the older shoots are removed to open up the bush to sunlight," he said. "It's a similar strategy to growing blueberries – you increase productivity by removing the thick old wood."

He is encouraged about haskaps' future.

"Consumer interest in them is picking up really fast," he said.

Tips about raising haskaps and the suggested varieties for ideal pollination may be found at www.legacyhaskaps.com. ■

Idaho Farm Bureau

For detailed information go to: www.idahofbstore.com

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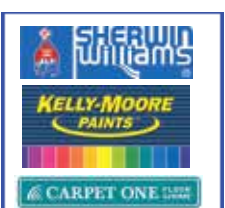
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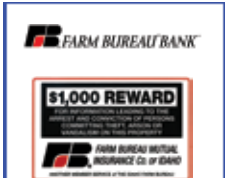
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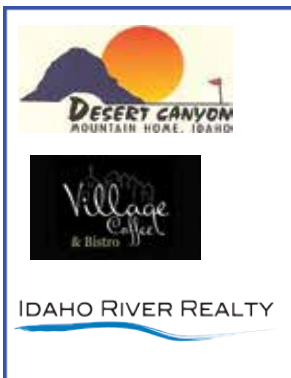
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SOUTHCENTRAL IDAHO



NORTH IDAHO





Photo by Jake Putnam

The Old Farmer's Almanac predicts above-normal snowfall throughout Idaho, Montana and Wyoming during the upcoming winter.

Old Farmer's Almanac predicts wet winter

By John O'Connell

Intermountain Farm and Ranch

Dwight Little jokes that farmers fall into two camps when it comes to their faith in the “Old Farmer’s Almanac’s” long-term weather prognostications: There are those who believe and those who don’t.

“Then maybe there’s the blend, too, who want to believe when it’s in their favor and discount it when it’s not,” the Newdale farmer added, upon

further reflection.

By Little’s logic, the almanac should have plenty of believers throughout Idaho farming country in its recently released full 2020-2021 winter weather forecast, which calls for above-normal snowfall throughout Idaho, Montana and Wyoming.

Many farmers in the region, particularly those in southern Idaho, rely on ample snowpack to fill the reservoirs that provide the water they need to irrigate their crops during the dry summer months.

Above-normal precipitation is also expected in



Dwight Little

“This winter will be filled with so many ups and downs on the thermometer, it may remind you of a ‘polar’ coaster. Our extended forecast is calling for another freezing, frigid and frosty winter for two-thirds of the country.”

— Peter Geiger Philom, Farmer’s Almanac editor

the northern portions of Utah and Colorado, the eastern sections of Washington and Oregon and the western Dakotas.

The almanac’s longstanding prediction formula is a secret but is said to rely on factors including a mathematical and astronomical formula, sunspot activity, the tides and planetary alignment.

Analyses have pegged the almanac’s accuracy at about 52% — more accurate, at least, than Punxsutawney Phil, the famed groundhog said to predict six more weeks of winter or an early spring, depending on whether or not he sees his shadow on Feb. 2.

Little puts much greater stock in the long-term forecasts made by meteorologists, which he’s found have become far more accurate and sophisticated in recent years.

“You’re kind of working science against folklore and guesses,” Little said.

Nonetheless, Little said, the almanac’s predictions come up in discussions among farmers at coffee shops, and he won’t discount the ability of people who are in tune with the environment to analyze signs in nature, such as thickness of animal coats and timing of when aspen leaves change.

The almanac made some bold predictions nationwide for the coming winter, including the possibility of a blizzard striking the Mid-Atlantic and Northeast states during the second week of February. Below-normal temperatures are pre-

dicted from the Great Lakes westward through the Northern and Central Plains and Rockies.

“This winter will be filled with so many ups and downs on the thermometer, it may remind you of a ‘polar’ coaster,” the almanac’s editor, Peter Geiger Philom, said in a press release. “Our extended forecast is calling for another freezing, frigid and frosty winter for two-thirds of the country.”

The almanac anticipates the Southwest will be mild and dry this winter.

The National Weather Service in Pocatello has a slightly less optimistic winter forecast for farmers hoping for an ample snowpack.

The agency’s three-month rolling forecast for December, January and February predicts a normal winter in Southeast Idaho, and a 33% chance of above-normal precipitation in Northern Idaho and the northern tip of Eastern Idaho.

National Weather Service meteorologist Travis Wyatt said projecting three or more months out is far from a perfect science, but forecasters generally come close by analyzing patterns.

The major pattern they follow is El Niño and La Niña — which references temperature fluctuations between the ocean and atmosphere in east-central Equatorial Pacific.

Wyatt said the development of La Niña is predicted to gradually increase Southeast Idaho’s chances of moisture from late winter through early spring,

with the January, February and March forecast for the region also improving to a 33% chance of above-normal precipitation.

Meteorologist Kurt Buffalo, who is the National Weather Service’s science and operations officer, said his agency’s Climate Prediction Center will release its official winter forecast in mid-October.

There’s a 60% chance of a La Niña developing, which tends to correlate with higher moisture and cooler temperatures in Southeast Idaho, Buffalo said.

“If we start to see a stronger likelihood that La Niña is developing, the chances of stronger precipitation and cooler temperatures would be nudged upwards,” Buffalo said.

Farmers such as Little keep constant tabs on both long-term and short-term weather forecasts. Given the tight margins on which they operate, a change in the weather can dramatically affect their bottom lines.

Little noted that farmers learned less than 48 hours in advance last fall that a damaging frost was headed their way, and most of them worked day and night to save the bulk of their potato crops.

“I certainly track (the weather) both day and night,” Little said. “It’s like watching the crop markets. You’re very in tuned with what’s happening throughout the day and the week and the month. It’s no different than marketing a crop — you’re anticipating changes that are coming down the pike.” ■

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g. Copies not Distributed (See instructions to Publishers #4 (page #3))		20	20
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Notice of Annual Meeting of Farm Bureau Mutual Insurance Co. of Idaho

To all policyholders: The 2021 annual meeting for policyholders of Farm Bureau Mutual Insurance Co. of Idaho will be held on Friday, Feb. 5, 2021, at 10 a.m. at the company's home office at 275 Tierra Vista Drive in Pocatello, Idaho. You are invited to attend.

Tom Lyons
Secretary

Notice of Stockholders Meetings

The following annual stockholders meetings will take place Friday, Feb. 5, 2021, at the Idaho Farm Bureau home office, 275 Tierra Vista Drive in Pocatello, Idaho.

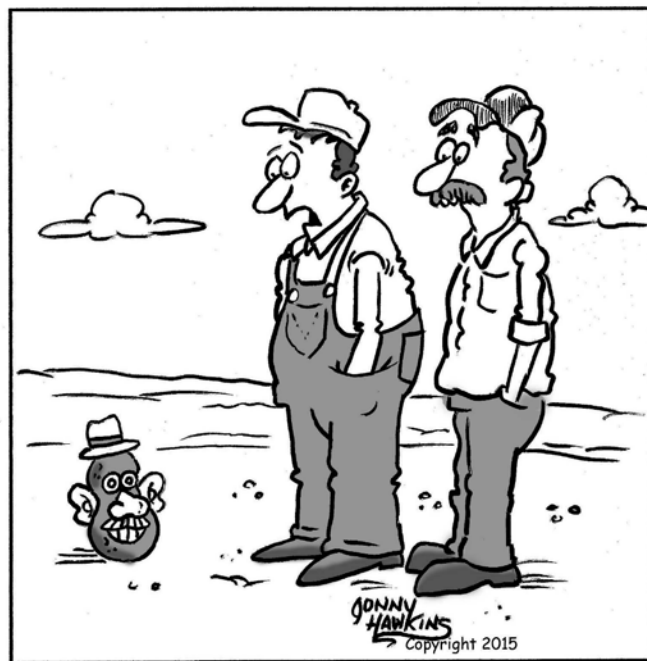
The board of directors for each company will be elected at these meetings.

10:45 a.m. - Farm Bureau Marketing Association of Idaho
11 a.m. - FB Development Corporation of Idaho

Zak Miller
Executive Vice President, CEO

Country Chuckles

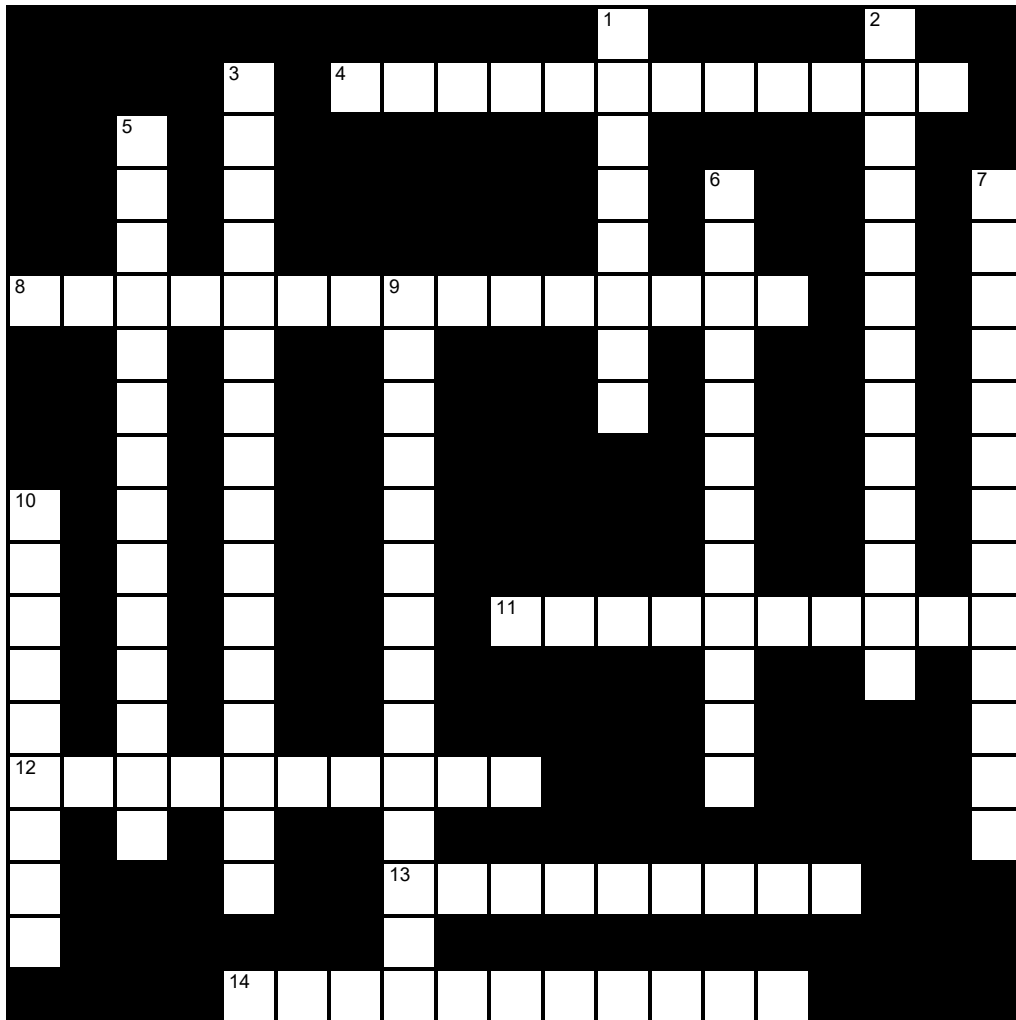
By Jonny Hawkins



"Our potato crop is really weird this year."

Crossword

Famous Idaho People



Across

4. Two-time Olympic medalist skier. Born in Triumph
8. Played baseball for the Minnesota Twins and was elected into the Baseball Hall of Fame; born in Payette
11. American film and television actress. Born in Wallace
12. Musician, raised in Caldwell
13. A Lemhi Shoshone woman. Her image now appears on the U.S. one-dollar coin
14. US Senator (1957-1981) remembered

for his voting record as a strong progressive and environmental legislator and was the floor sponsor of the national Wilderness Act

Down

1. Anchor and managing editor of CNN's Moneyline
2. Presbyterian missionary to the Nez Perce Indians of Idaho. A village was named after him
3. Inventor of television. He first came up with the idea when he was only 14 years old
5. An American humor writer, who

- primarily writes about the outdoors
6. Founder of a chain of grocery stores and a notable philanthropist
7. Best known for his work designing and working on the massive sculptures of Mount Rushmore
9. Former secretary of Agriculture, prophet of the LDS church, Born in Whitney
10. Agricultural supplier specializing in potato products. By World War II, they had become the largest shipper of fresh potatoes in the nation

BARLEY

Continued from page 5

“Some of the best barley produced in the world comes out of Idaho,” he says. “It’s a combination of a lot of things that makes Idaho a great place to grow barley and a great place for Anheuser-Busch to be taking advantage of that good, high-quality barley that we purchase from Idaho.”

All those factors result in Idaho being known for producing a high-quality and consistent crop every year, says Rupert barley grower Mike Wilkins.

“There’s a reason these major (beer companies) are here,” he says. “It’s not by mistake that they came out here to us.”

Not only do the major producers of so-called legacy beers such as Budweiser and Coors have a significant presence in Idaho, but the state also has a thriving craft beer industry.

Idaho now has 75 craft breweries “and the industry has been growing a lot,” Francis says.

In addition, Idaho is a solid No. 2 in total hops production, behind Washington.

“Without Idaho, it would be tough to have a thriving beer industry in this country,” Wilder says.

As the bumper sticker says, “No Barley, No Beer.”

That term was coined by Brown and since trademarked by the National Barley Growers Association.

But the correlation between barley and beer is lost on many people in Idaho, a fact that the barley commission is trying to change by educating people about the important role barley and Idaho play in beer production.

Wilder says the average Idahoan has no idea that Idaho is the major player in beer production in the United States.

“When I have normal day-to-day conversations with people,” she says, “they go, ‘You work for the barley commission? What is that?’ Then the slogan I go to is, ‘No barley, no beer,’ and then they get it.”

“With the limited dollars we have, we’re trying to raise awareness about the Idaho barley industry and its value to the state,” Wilder adds. “Most people are very surprised when they hear that Idaho is the No. 1 barley growing state and not only that but that we grow a third of the nation’s barley crop.”

She says the message the commission is trying to reach Idahoans with is this: “Great beer is made from great barley malt, which starts in Idaho.” ■



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Farm Bureau Insurance is a positive force in Idaho

This is my first greeting to customers as executive vice president and chief executive officer of Farm Bureau Mutual Insurance Company of Idaho.

Although I'm new to Idaho, I'm not new to Farm Bureau Insurance and the Farm Bureau family. I worked for 25 years at Wisconsin's Farm Bureau insurance company, Rural Mutual. At Rural, I was part of the leadership team that transformed the company and helped it achieve a superior financial position with competitive products and excellent services.

It has been my pleasure since the end of last year to lead the finest employees and agents in Idaho. Together, our family of employees and agents work to understand the needs of people in Idaho, and then meet those needs with customizable coverage and personalized service.

This purpose-driven approach to insurance has helped us become the number one writer of farm and ranch insurance in the state, one of the largest writers of all lines including homeowners and auto, and the largest domestic property and casualty insurer in Idaho.

Our growth in the insurance industry has been outstanding. In 1947, when our company was founded, our assets were \$259,000. In 2019, they were over \$500 million.

But this doesn't mean we haven't had our difficulties. The last few years we have consistently struggled to reach an underwriting gain, which is a profit from our core insurance operations. As a result, this has put a strain on our financial position.

However, I can assure you that we have a sound business strategy to address these issues and stay financially strong, and we will be there for you when you need us most.

We can proudly say that since 1947, we've been there for thousands of Idaho families, businesses, farmers and

ranchers, and communities who have suffered devastating losses. In fact, over the last decade alone, we have paid out over \$1.1 billion in claims.

A recent example is an Idaho business owner who was able to cope with the total loss of his hop processing plant to a fire. Prior to the fire, he had worked with a local Farm Bureau Insurance agent to create a customized policy that included loss of income, an optional coverage that didn't begin until six months after the fire when the hop harvest began.

Without this coverage, this customer would have suffered through a million dollar loss. As it stands, we are actively working with this customer to rebuild his operation.

This example shows how a local agent who paid attention to an individual customer's needs helped the company to better keep our promise to protect that customer from what turned out to be a multi-million dollar claim.

When multiplied across the state, cases like this make Farm Bureau Mutual Insurance Company a positive force in Idaho. If you have not had a chance to review your policy coverages, please do not hesitate to contact your agent. Farm Bureau agents are the best at taking care of all of your insurance needs.

It is my responsibility to make sure Farm Bureau Insurance continues to deliver on our promises. From our current strong financial base, the Farm Bureau family of employees and agents intend to build the best insurance company possible for the future.

We will continue to protect our customers from life's uncertainties and help build a better Idaho. I am proud to work with our employees and agents toward these goals, and to serve you and each of our over 80,000 Farm Bureau Insurance customers. ■



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Photo by Robert Barkley

Prompt reforestation minimizes the effect harvesting can have on watersheds.

After the harvest ... now what?

By Randy Brooks
University of Idaho

In the July 2018 issue of Idaho Farm Bureau Federation's Gem State Producer I wrote about selecting the right harvesting system for your forest property (see page 18 at https://www.idahofb.org/uploads/NR_July_2018_Producer.pdf) based on what type of ground/topography you are logging on.

After the trees are cut and hauled away there are still activities that need to take place before the job is completed. These activities may include tree planting in harvest and riparian areas, slash

management, seeding forest roads and skid trails, and the biggest issue in many cases, controlling unwanted vegetation such as noxious weeds.

There's not enough room to talk about all these topics in this issue, so I'll be focusing on tree planting after harvest and a few rules and guidelines that pertain to what we need to do.

Prompt reforestation minimizes the effect that harvesting can have on watersheds. The Idaho Forest Practices Act rules state: The purpose of these rules is to provide for residual stocking and reforestation that will maintain a continuous growing and harvesting of forest tree species by describing the conditions under which reforestation will be





Photo by Robert Barkley

Competing vegetation should be managed to enhance seedling survival while conserving enough surface vegetation to maintain soil stability.

required, specifying the minimum number of acceptable trees per acre, the maximum period of time allowed after harvesting for establishment of forest tree species, and for sites not requiring reforestation, to maintain soil productivity and minimize erosion.

Recently harvested areas must have a certain number of acceptable tree species trees left on site or must regenerate trees in order to meet the residual stocking requirements of the IFPA. Residual stocking are the trees remaining after a silvicultural treatment, such as a commercial harvest.

IFPA rules concerning residual stocking include:

- On any operation, trees left for future harvest shall be of acceptable species and adequately protected from harvest damage to enhance their survival and growth.
- Acceptable tree species are any of the tree species normally marketable in the

region, which are suitable to meet stocking requirements and must be of sufficient health and vigor to assure growth and harvest.

- Acceptable residual trees should have a minimum live crown ratio of 30 percent, minimum basal (trunk or bole) scarring, and should not have dead or broken tops.
- When stands have a high percentage of unacceptable trees, consider stand replacement rather than intermediate cuttings.

If immediately following harvest, the stand consists of retained trees of mixed size classes that are reasonably well distributed over the harvested area, and none of the size classes individually equal or exceed the minimum trees per acre shown above, stocking will also be deemed adequate if the weighted total of all of the size classes of the retained trees exceeds a value of 170 for a stand in the north region of the state and 125 in the south region.

The weighted total is calculated by multiplying the number of retained trees per acre in each size class by weighting factors and adding all of these size class totals.

Harvested stands which are not adequately stocked, as defined above, will be subject to supplemental reforestation requirements.

If your harvested area does not meet the IFPA residual stocking requirements you will need to establish new trees.

Reforestation is the establishment of an adequately stocked stand of trees of species acceptable to the department to replace the ones removed by a harvesting or a catastrophic event on commercial forest land.

Reforestation is not required for:

- Non-commercial forest land.
- Land converted to another use. This may include land converted to roads used

in a forest practice.

- A forest practice which will result in 10 acres or less below minimum stocking levels.

- Some sites will be unpractical to reforest and are generally ponderosa pine and drier Douglas-fir habitat types. These sites shall not be harvested below minimum stocking, unless the site is converted to some other land use.

- On lands exempted under “Sites Unpractical to Reforest” rules, where reforestation is not being planned, some form of grass or planted cover shall be established within one year in order to maintain soil productivity and minimize erosion.

Reestablishment of forest cover can be accomplished naturally from the seeds of nearby trees (called natural regeneration) or by direct seeding or planting (called artificial regeneration).

In Idaho, moisture is almost always the most limiting factor to new tree seedlings’ survival and growth.

IFPA rules regarding reforestation include:

- Seeding and/or planting may be required if after three growing seasons from the date of harvest, stocking levels do not meet the IFPA standards.

- Required seeding and/or planting shall be completed before the end of the fifth growing season following the time of harvest, except that the director shall grant an extension of time if suitable seeds or seedlings are not available or if weather or other conditions interfere.

- The party responsible for reforestation is the person, partnership, corporation, or association of whatever nature that directed the area be harvested below minimum stocking.

- Reforestation practices must insure seedlings become established. This can be accomplished by adequate site preparation, utilizing acceptable seed or seedlings, following accepted planting or sowing practices, or by other suitable means.

To ensure that the maximum amount of moisture is available to new seedlings, competing vegetation should be managed to enhance tree seedling survival while conserving enough surface vegetation to help build and stabilize soils.

Site preparation on forestlands is the



Photo by Robert Barkley

Newly harvested areas must have a certain number of acceptable tree species growing on the site within 3-5 years. Areas like this may be naturally or artificially regenerated.

practice of altering site conditions (mainly the soil surface) to favor the establishment, survival, and growth of a desired tree species and can be critical to the survival of tree seedlings.

Site preparation can be accomplished through mechanical means, prescribed fire, herbicides, or a combination of these practices, but that is a topic for another day.

The selection of planting stock and methods is also important to the successful establishment of new trees. For more information on these topics see the following University of Idaho publication: CIS No. 923, “Choosing Nursery Stock for Landscaping, Conservation, and Reforestation.”

The University of Idaho Pitkin Forest Nursery has select seedling for sale each year, but they sell out quick, so if you’re interested, check here: https://marketplace.uidaho.edu/C20272_ustores/web/store_main.jsp?STOREID=57

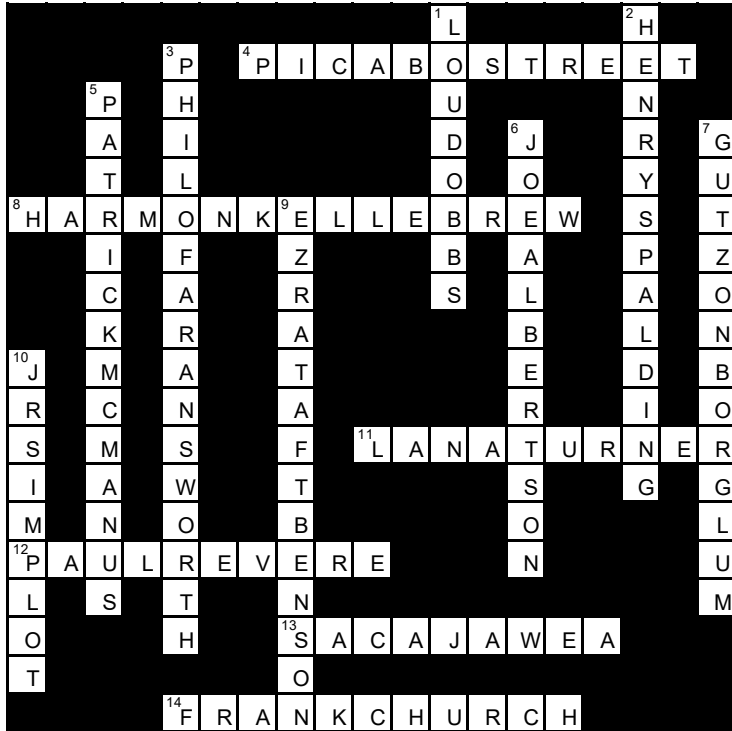
For more information on the Idaho Forest Practices Act, go to

<https://www.idl.idaho.gov/wp-content/uploads/sites/116/2020/06/forest-practices-rules-guidance-1.pdf>

(Randy Brooks is a University of Idaho Extension forestry specialist. He can be reached at rbrooks@uidaho.edu) ■

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Sheep ranchers: Please do not ‘rescue’ livestock guard dogs

News release

FAIRFIELD – There have been a number of incidents lately where people have picked up expensive livestock guardian dogs – often large white Great Pyrenees dogs – thinking they are lost or have been abandoned, when in fact, they should be left alone to protect sheep herds.

Sheep ranchers and U.S. Forest Service officials say this is an emerging problem that’s increasing across Southern Idaho, according to a news release by the Idaho Rangeland Resources Commission.

Guard dogs are there to protect livestock from predators like coyotes, mountain lions, black bears and wolves. Taking a guard dog out of the woods or the range is a no-no, similar to taking what might look like an orphaned fawn from its mother.

“I realize that everybody has their own best intentions, but you shouldn’t be taking a guard dog out of its environment, bringing it home, causing undue stress, and exposing it to unnecessary domestication,” says Cory Peavey, a Blaine County sheep rancher who has had his dogs hauled away to an animal shelter by mistake.

“Out of respect for the dog and the rancher, it’s better to leave them where they are,” Peavey says. “Even if they might look lost, they know the way.”

John Noh with Noh Sheep Company in Kimberly has had his guard dogs picked up by people who thought the dog was lost, and they ended up at a shelter in the Wood River Valley, forcing Noh to spend hours of down time to go fetch the dog and return it to his sheep flocks.

“These are working dogs that ranchers rely on to non-lethally protect their sheep from predators,” Noh says. “For people to take these animals out of the woods that ranchers have spent hundreds and



Photo by Steve Stuebner

Sheep rancher Cory Peavey is shown here with two of his Great Pyrenees guard dogs in the Little Wood River Valley.

hundreds of dollars feeding and training is wrong.”

Renee Kehler, a range conservationist for the Sawtooth National Forest, said there have been a number of guard dogs picked up by people thinking they were lost or needed attention.

“It’s been happening a lot lately,” Kehler says. “Please treat them like livestock and leave them alone.”

If people have questions, they should call their local Forest Service office to report any issues and let the range specialists contact the ranchers to check to see if there are any issues or concerns, she said.

Often livestock guard dogs have a collar with a name and phone number on them. If someone has questions, they also



Photo by Steve Stuebner

A Great Pyrenees puppy, a guard-dog-in-training, watches over a ewe with a new born lamb in the Little Wood River Valley.

could call those numbers to see if the dog is lost.

“For me, I’d appreciate a phone call over taking my dog,” Peavey says. ■



A combine harvests a wheat field in southeast Idaho recently.

Photo by Bill Schaefer

WHEAT OUTLOOK GOLDEN

By **Bill Schaefer**

For Idaho Farm Bureau Federation

Idaho's fields of golden wheat have been harvested and reports of above-average yields for 2020 could be good news for the state's ag economy.

Idaho farmers planted an estimated 1.26 million acres of wheat this year. According to the USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service, Idaho growers planted 720,000 acres of winter wheat, 530,000 acres of spring wheat and 10,000 acres of durum wheat.

"We're seeing near-record yields in northern Idaho and average to above-average yields in the rest of the state," said Casey Chumrau, executive director of the Idaho Wheat Commission. "We've heard of very little disease pressure or pests, so really, overall, it's been a very good year."

While Chumrau finds this year's wheat yields encouraging, the same could not be said for wheat prices. Citing the current prices for soft wheat as an example, she said that total production is up throughout the region and that has resulted in lower prices.

Juliet Marshall, a University of Idaho cereal agronomist and plant pathologist, said the state's 2020 wheat season was much better than she anticipated.

"I really was expecting some diseases to come in, especially stripe rust, but luckily it didn't come in and it didn't have any impact on the harvest yield," Marshall said.

She said this year's wheat crop benefited from a long, relatively cool growing season, which allowed for excellent grain fill, followed by hot temperatures that allowed the grain to dry down.

Conditions were so arid that it resulted in very little sprout damage, Marshall said.

"Good test weight ... not a lot of diseases, so overall really good conditions for the harvest," Marshall said. "In some areas, really high yields went with good management. So, we're looking at a good year."

On the final weekend of August, Aberdeen farmers Ritchey Toevs and his son, Will, were completing their wheat harvest.

"We had some frost damage in the earliest winter wheat but spring wheat seemed to be above average," Ritchey Toevs said.

"It's been a great harvest season," he said. "It looks like a nice crop to have stored away."

Will Toevs called this year's wheat harvest a "better than average crop." ■



Photos by Bill Schaefer

A tandem operation of synchronicity, the combine harvester dumps a load of wheat into the auger grain cart while continuing its harvest.

TOP: Golden wheat heads rustle in the arid Idaho wind in a field between Sterling and Springfield.

LEFT: The grain cart's auger fills a grain truck with a golden harvest.



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