

Gem State Producer



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IFB® *IDAHO FARM BUREAU*

Utah Legislators Pitch
Public Lands Take Over

Senate Kills GMO
Labeling Bill

Idaho Loses Key
Mexico Trade Official

Sowing Seeds for a Future Harvest



By Zippy Duvall
AFBF President

Farmers are blessed to get a front row seat each spring to fresh beginnings and new life. Each year we plant our crops and care for the animals and land we've been entrusted with, not just for ourselves but for those who will come after. Here in Washington, we take planting season just as seriously as we work to ensure farmers

Beyond the Fencerows



and ranchers have the tools they need to plant, care for and bring those crops to harvest.

Our team is constantly scanning the policy field to move our issues forward. The political climate can change as quickly as the weather, but whether that brings challenge or opportunity, it's all the more important for us to get ahead on the key issues affecting agriculture. And that's just what we're doing this spring.

AFBF already has taken the lead in tackling budget talks that could threaten important farm bill programs. Some would like nothing more than to cut programs that have been carefully streamlined to fit today's marketplace. We're partnering with a variety of organizations and members of Congress from both sides of the aisle to guarantee the 2014 farm bill accomplishes its goals

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Understanding Farm Bureau - The Way Forward



By Bryan Searle
President Idaho Farm Bureau Federation

The Idaho Farm Bureau Federation is the largest general farm organization in Idaho. We represent over 14,000 farmers and ranchers who produce

a wide range of crops and livestock. We're also a successful property and casualty insurance company. But many people don't understand this connection.

In 1939 a group of farmers and ranchers formed an advocacy organization to represent their interests on the state level. Some years later, when those farmers and ranchers couldn't get the crop and livestock insurance they needed, they sought a solution. The solution that fit their entrepreneurial spirit was to form their own insurance company. Since then it's

become a successful property and casualty company that also includes a brokerage, a finance company and several others. All of these companies became benefits to Farm Bureau members, but the cornerstone of the company, as it remains today, is a non-profit, agriculture advocacy organization governed by a 19-member board of directors made up of farmers and ranchers from geographical districts of the state.

Those board members are elected

See SEARLE, page 8

No Water Shortage



By Rick Keller
CEO Idaho Farm Bureau Federation

"Water is life. It's vital. It supports the immense diversity of life on Earth. It's a source of food, health and energy. Fresh water makes civilization possible." So announces the headlines of a water conserva-

tion website.

Living in southern Idaho and in a desert, we fully understand the importance of water. We've watched with awe as the life-giving irrigation systems winds throughout our valleys and ponder those early pioneer engineers with horses, scrapes and handpick labor developing the water distribution systems, many of which are still in use today.

We've witnessed the historic agreement emerge between the surface and groundwater irrigators as they seek to reach a long-term solution

to water calls as a result of over appropriation and prioritization, resulting in a 11 percent reduction in water usage.

Water is a serious matter, but I must break from the weightiness of the subject and import a little levity. Years ago, my father provided me a news clipping that has no byline or accreditation to verify its authenticity, but I feel it is appropriate to relate the article. The headline reads: "No Water Shortage."

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Cover: Idaho's public lands are cherished by residents far and wide. However, an effort to change the ownership and management of those lands is stirring controversy. Utah is currently leading the effort to gain dominion over the land within its borders. Many Idaho politicians are carefully weighing the pros and cons but thus far remain on the fence regarding state ownership of public lands. Photo by Steve Ritter



Public lands in Idaho are managed for multiple uses. However, political pressure is causing changes in those uses, trending away from traditional toward recreational. Some Idaho residents believe a change in ownership is due the state and puts it on equal footing with eastern states. Others fear lost access will be the result of state management of federal lands.

Photo by Steve Ritter

Utah Spells Out Plan to Acquire Federal Land

By John Thompson

Two Utah lawmakers and their attorney met with Idaho legislators February 29, outlining a \$14 million legal strategy to acquire federal lands in the Beehive State.

Limiting access to those lands, should the state take over management, is not part of the proposal. Nor is selling the land to private parties, said Rep. Keven Stratton, a Republican from Orem, Utah and co-chair of the state's Commission for the Stewardship of Public Lands.

"Let me be clear, we are not talking about the sale of public lands to the private sector," Stratton said. "We are a public lands state and will remain a public lands state. We are talking about preservation of what we value."

Rep. Dell Raybould, chairman of the Idaho House Resources and Conservation Committee, did not allow public comment during the joint House / Senate hearing. However, he did gavel down a raucous crowd of hunters, fishermen, conservationists and others, and directed many of them to sit in an overflow area due to the widespread interest in the topic of western states acquiring federal land.

Many people who support status quo management of federal lands fear a land rush will occur if states take over control of public lands. They believe states will lose money managing public land from fire and other unforeseen costs. At that point they will be forced to sell the land and public access will be lost.

Utah believes it could do a better job of managing public lands and generating revenue from those lands, according to Stratton and his counterpart, Sen. David Hinkins from Orangeville.

Hinkins said Kane County, Utah, part of his district, is 90 percent federal land. The other ten percent of private land in the

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PUBLIC LANDS

Continued from page 3



Cattle in Owyhee County are rounded up in the wake of the Soda Fire last summer. The cost of firefighting and fire rehabilitation would likely be passed along to state government if land ownership were to change hands. *Photo by Steve Ritter*

county generates about \$8 million per year in property taxes, while the federal land generates \$1 million per year.

Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILT), or money the federal government pays rural counties to help offset lost property taxes, has not kept up with inflation, Hinkins said. "If it was an equitable tax equation we wouldn't be here arguing about this," he said. "But we feel we aren't being treated equally. Since 1949 we've seen 90 percent of our grazing allotments cut. People are moving to the Wasatch Front because they can't make a living."

Hinkins added that various federal land management decisions are a deterrent to economic growth in Utah. He said private land is being condemned for a transmission line to wheel power across Utah to California. Utah won't have access to the power but its citizens will lose their private property because the federal government makes the process of crossing federal land

too cumbersome.

"We can't put in a fiber optics pipeline to service some of our rural counties because it's next to impossible to cross federal land," Hinkins said.

Idaho is 61.7 percent federally-managed land. The state collected \$28.6 million in PILT funds in 2015. All 44 of Idaho's counties received a PILT payment in 2015. Counties receiving in excess of \$1 million in 2015 include Blaine at \$1.8 million, Bonneville at \$1.2 million, Cassia at \$2.1 million, Elmore at \$2.2 million, Idaho at \$1.6 million, Owyhee at \$1.2 million and Twin Falls at \$1.6 million. Federal ownership by county in Idaho ranks as follows:

- 1 – Idaho County, 4.5 million acres
- 2 – Owyhee County, 3.6 million acres
- 3 – Custer County, 2.9 million acres
- 4 – Valley County, 2.0 million acres
- 5 – Elmore County, 1.37 million acres

6 – Blaine County, 1.32 million acres

Percentage of federal land per county is not tabulated in the government summaries. However, several Idaho counties are known to contain in excess of 70 percent federally-owned land. The lack of tax base in these counties hampers local governments' ability to provide basic services including fire and police protection and adequate schools. These problems are also assumed to contribute to rural depopulation. Private landowners in rural Idaho are also struggling with loss of access to land due to power transmission projects. Namely, the Gateway West Transmission Project, which is planned to cross southern Idaho from Downey to Melba. The 250 foot-wide, 990 mile-long project is slated to cross 700 miles of private land.

Stratton said Utah has appropriated \$2 million and spent about half of that so far in determining the feasibility of a lawsuit to challenge the federal government for con-



A mix of public, state and federal lands in central Idaho near Whitebird Hill. Photo by Steve Ritter

trol of the land in question. The attorney hired by the State of Utah, George Wentz, estimates the court case could cost \$14 million.

Utah intends to press forward with the feasibility study and at some point in the near future, the Utah Commission for the Stewardship of Public Lands will send a recommendation to the state's executive branch, according to Stratton.

Here in Idaho, state government has shown less appetite for spending money on pursuing a state takeover of public land. A legislative interim committee studied the issue and in January 2015 submitted a report that contains the following statement:

“Legal analysis suggests that litigation of state claims to ownership of federal lands would be a time-consuming and expensive endeavor without a great deal of certainty as to the outcome. While the State could make good faith legal arguments for the transfer of federal lands, the federal government and intervenors similarly could assert good faith legal defenses. While not eliminating litigation as a future alternative, the Committee found litigation is not the preferred path to resolve federal land management issues. The Committee determined that if litigation were a panacea, it

would have succeeded decades ago.”

In addition, Idaho Gov. Butch Otter told Idaho Farm Bureau members in February during a legislative conference that he has no plans to appropriate money toward this cause. Gov. Otter added that the cost to suppress fire on public lands would overwhelm the state budget, should those lands become state property.

However, Utah lawmakers Hinkins and Stratton see big revenue in their state's future, if they can acquire the land within their borders and shed the heavy federal bureaucratic burden.

Although thin on specifics, Stratton said there is untold wealth beneath the ground in “this region,” alluding that Idaho is part of area in question.

“We share a wonderful treasure of resources below the ground in this region,” he said. “In fact, if we have the proper numbers, and this comes from our federal counterparts, there is over \$150 trillion in value out there. If we as the states of Utah and Idaho could capture one percent of that value and put that in the bank without touching anything above ground, you could collect interest on that \$1.5 trillion annually at one percent and bring in \$15 billion a year.”

He added that the money could be used to secure the future in upgrades to infrastructure and schools.

Attorney George Wentz concluded the presentation with several legal arguments. Fundamentally, he said all states were granted sovereignty by the U.S. Constitution. However, Idaho and other western states don't have the same level of sovereignty as eastern states because the eastern states have dominion over their land and the western states don't.

“The majority of land in the West is owned by the federal government and the majority of the land in the East is private,” Wentz said. “The nation started on the East Coast and development moved west. When it comes to dominion over the land, the western states are treated entirely differently.”

Correction

A landowner is allowed to guide hunters on his or her own private land. A sentence we published in last month's Gem State Producer Magazine stated otherwise. We regret the error.

Senate Blocks Nationwide GMO Labeling Bill

By John Thompson

Legislation backed by Farm Bureau and other agriculture groups to create a nationwide, voluntary standard for labeling foods made with genetically-modified ingredients was shot down in the U.S. Senate in mid-March.

The vote to invoke cloture, which would end debate and force a final vote failed 49-48, 12 votes shy of the 60 needed to clear a key procedural hurdle. Negotiations on the legislation are expected to continue at some point later this year. The Senate's Easter Break runs from March 19 to April 3.

The U.S. House of Representatives passed similar legislation last summer. Had the Senate action been successful it would have blocked legislation passed in Vermont requiring mandatory labeling of foods that contain genetically modified ingredients, slated to take effect on July 1.

In response, two large food processing companies have announced plans to begin labeling products with biotech ingredients in accordance with the Vermont law. Two other states have passed similar bills but would not take effect until several other states followed suit.

"It is inexcusable that today's (March 16) Senate vote on a voluntary federal GMO labeling bill that preempts a damaging patchwork of state measures fell short," said American Farm Bureau President Zippy Duvall. "While we appreciate Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell scheduling

this floor vote today, we will continue our fight for this vital piece of legislation, along with Senate Ag Committee Chairman Pat Roberts and others, to secure a law that supports consumers, America's farmers and ranchers and our nation's system of affordable, productive agriculture."

Senate Bill 2609 fell short on a mostly party-line vote. Republicans believe the bill would prevent food cost increases associated with the need for labeling and enable food processing companies the ability to develop one label, or a one-size-fits-all label for all states, rather than attempting to satisfy different labeling requirements imposed by different

states.

Democrats and a well-organized "Just Label It" campaign, sponsored by the Environmental Working Group, believe consumers have a right to know whether their food comes from genetically modified plants.

"Nine out of 10 Americans want the right to know whether their food contains GMO's – just like consumers in 64 other nations," said Scott Faber, a spokesman for the Just Label It coalition. "Like General Mills, we hope Congress will craft a national, mandatory GMO labeling solution and welcome the opportunity to work with industry to find a solution that works for consumers and

works for the food industry."

General Mills and Campbell Soup Co., are the two U.S. companies that have so far announced plans to comply with the Vermont labeling standard. Both General Mills and the Grocery Manufacturers Association oppose the Vermont law. They say it's unfair for one small state to set labeling standards for consumers across the country.

"We can't label our products for only one state without significantly driving up costs for our consumers and we simply will not do that. The result; consumers all over the U.S. will soon begin seeing words legislated by the state of Ver-



Campbell Soup designed this label to comply with a Vermont law requiring mandatory labeling of food that contains genetically modified ingredients. Campbell, General Mills and other food processing companies plan to continue lobbying for a nationwide labeling law to avoid different requirements in every state and added costs for consumers.

mont on the labels of many of their favorite General Mills products,” wrote Jeff Harmening, of General Mills in a blog post. Harmening is the executive vice president and chief operating officer for the company.

The Vermont law requires labels on food products derived from GMO crops. However, and this is where GMO labeling laws become vague, if livestock consume GMO crops, the meat, milk, cheese and other products derived from those animals doesn't require a GMO label. The law requires GMO crops to carry a label even though none of the genetically altered material is present in the food. For instance, there are no genetic markers in processed sugar, so sugar that came from GMO sugar beets and sugar derived from conventionally-produced sugar beets is chemically the same. Yet the GMO sugar now requires a label in Vermont – not because it's different but because it comes from seed that is resistant to glyphosate, a herbicide used to kill weeds.

American Farm Bureau leader Duvall expressed frustration:

“To say we are angry with those senators who abandoned farmers and ranchers and turned their backs on rural America on this vote is an understatement,” he said. “Their votes opposing this measure ignored science, threw our nation's food system into disarray and undermined the public's understanding of the many benefits of biotechnology in feeding a growing and hungry population. We remain hopeful they will have a chance at redemption by correcting this situation that will otherwise lead to increased food costs for consumers and stifle agricultural innovation, which remains a strength of our nation. We must not let anyone forget that rural America and our farmers and ranchers do matter.”

KELLER

Continued from page 2

“On the 23rd of August, 1779, the USS Constitution, ‘Old Ironsides’ carrying its regular cargo, set sail from Boston with 475 officers and men, 48,600 gallons of fresh water, 7,400 cannon shot, 11,600 pounds of black powder and 79,000 gallons of rum. Her mission was to destroy and harass English shipping.

“Making Jamaica on the 6th of October, she took on 826 pounds of flour and 68,300 gallons of rum. Then she headed

for the Azores. Arriving there on the 12th of November, she provisioned with 500 pounds of beef and 64,300 gallons of Portuguese wine.

“On the 18th of November she set sail for England. In the ensuing days, she defeated 5 British men-of-war ships, captured and scuttled 12 English merchantmen ships, while salvaging only the rum.

“On the 27th of January, her power and shot were exhausted. Unarmed, she made a night

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raid up the firth of Tay. Her landing party captured a whiskey distillery and transferred 40,000 gallons aboard. Then she headed home.

“The USS Constitution arrived at Boston on the 20th of February, 1780, with no cannon, no shot, no food, no rum, no whiskey, and 48,600 gallons of stagnant water.”

The crew of Old Ironsides knew how to conserve water!

With the levity aside, water is

vital. Conservation is not the answer to water shortages, but a tool. Technology will play a vital role in stretching water usage as will genetically-modified crops engineered for reduced water usage. Increased storage facilities and capacities will aid much in taking from times of plenty to times of need. To have no water shortage, a myriad of tools will be needed.

DUVALL

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of supporting conservation, providing nutrition assistance and helping farmers manage through challenging economic times. Taken as a whole, it is about keeping healthful, affordable food on America's dinner tables.

We also want farmers to have the security of knowing the seeds they're planting this season, including those enhanced through biotechnology, will be available in the future. For more than two decades now, we've seen increased production, reduced pesticide use and restored soil with

the help of improved seeds. But misleading biotech labeling initiatives at the state level continue to threaten these vital tools. It's time for Congress to put a stop to this confusion and protect the freedom of all Americans to choose safe and affordable food.

Of course, not all spring "planting" at AFBF is in the policy field. Some of the most important work we do is in connecting farmers and ranchers from across the country and helping them develop as leaders in their businesses and communities. This spring, we're expanding our new Patriot Project, which pairs mili-

tary veterans just getting started in agriculture with experienced farmers who provide guidance and insight along the way. We can think of no better way to thank our heroes than by helping them succeed as they return home and take up farming and ranching. It's our hope that the program will build meaningful relationships that last a lifetime.

As American farmers and ranchers, we approach every spring with hope and faith that the seeds we sow will fall on good ground and yield a fruitful crop. Like our members across the country, we at Farm Bureau are planting lots

of seeds this spring. We sow the desires of our farmers and ranchers every day. Sowing seeds about agriculture and our beliefs requires determination and faithfulness. Let us pray that the seeds we sow fall on ears that hear—and are moved to act! (From the Parable of the Sower, Matthew 13:9—"Who hath ears to hear, let him hear.")

We will nurture those seeds and pray for good growing conditions, so that we can harvest successful outcomes by the hundred-fold for all farmers and ranchers.

SEARLE

Continued from page 2

officials whom serve at the pleasure of their constituents in each of five districts who populate 37 county Farm Bureaus. Some county Farm Bureaus are combined counties due to their relatively small, rural populations. These people all cooperate in a policy development process that culminates every year when the Idaho Farm Bureau's House of Delegates meets during the organization's annual meeting. This is another aspect that makes Farm Bureau unique. Policy is not set on the fly, it comes from the grassroots, the members of those 37 county Farm Bureaus, who work the land and have firsthand knowledge of the many challenges agriculture presents.

Staying on course can be a big challenge for an organization with this many voices, and differences of opinion are common. However, we know that political strength comes from numbers and our mission statement helps us stay the course.

"The Idaho Farm Bureau is a voluntary grassroots organization dedicated to strengthening agriculture and protecting the rights, values and property of our member families and their neighbors."

Last month this column was dedicated to what defines Farm Bureau and now we have discussed our evolution since inception, some 75 years ago. Now we must focus on the future. Earlier this year I challenged Idaho Farm Bureau county leaders to help establish a vision for the future. With staff help we have established six areas of work that we as an organization need to evaluate. They include commodity activities, member services, public relations and communications, meetings, policy development and implementation and strengthening county Farm Bureaus.

Earlier this year I asked county Farm Bureau board members to send me their suggestions on how to map the future and make our programs more effective. We are currently putting com-

mittees together to evaluate each program area. Now I would like to broaden the scope and invite all Farm Bureau members to take part in the process. If you

have suggestions please contact me at bsearle@idahofb.org. Thank you for your continuing support.

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	Yield	.150	.250	.350	.450	.750	1.05	1.36
\$ 2,500 - \$ 4,999	Rate	.200	.300	.400	.500	.800	1.10	1.40
	Yield	.200	.300	.400	.500	.800	1.10	1.41
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Idaho Farm Bureau mourns loss of Mexico Trade Director

By Jake Putnam

Idaho lost its Agriculture Ambassador last month in Guadalajara, Mexico.

Armando Orellana, 64, director of the Idaho-Mexico Trade Office passed away of a heart attack March 4th. He served five governors and worked tirelessly with the Idaho Department of Commerce breaking down export barriers for Idaho farmers, high-tech companies and small businesses. He helped increase exports, elevating Mexico to Idaho's second largest export market.

Rick Keller, CEO of the Idaho Farm Bureau had many dealings with Orellana, and says he'll be missed.

"Armando was a great friend of Idaho farmers and ranchers. Just about every bushel of grain sold in Mexico from Idaho had his thumb print on it. Every potato sale we had just about every crop seed sale, potato processing equipment, and a lot of different things. He was involved in it all and he represented Idaho well," said Keller.

Dennis Brower, Commodities Director for the Idaho Farm Bureau spent countless hours working trade deals with Orellana and says Idaho's Trade Ambassador was blessed with uncompromising standards for quality, honesty and professionalism.

"He had a way of bringing people together and giving them information that helped them come to an agreement. He was very bright at what he did, not to mention insider knowledge of the industry especially wheat and anything to do with trade, he had experience and expertise that greatly benefited Idaho," said Brower.

Last year Mexico passed Canada to become the top foreign market for Idaho Ag

exports and \$191 million worth of commodities and farm products were sold there in 2015. Mexican trade deals are intensely personal and based on trust, according to Keller. He said Armando broke trade barriers with hard work, trust and confidence.

"Because of Armando, most of our contracts were based on a handshake and that could only happen with both parties having unflinching trust in Armando," said Keller.

It was a monumental export snag that brought Armando and Idaho together in 1994. That's when Director of the Idaho Department of Agriculture Greg Nelson hired Orellana.

"At the time we visited Mexico City trying to market the Idaho apple across the border. To put it mildly, the going was tough at the time. There were incidences of Idaho potatoes seized and burned," recalled Nelson. "It was difficult for us to deal with the Mexican government without having a local presence so we hired Armando and we got the apples across with immediate results. Then we got wheat and even potatoes in, thanks to him. Armando was the right person at the right time and he made it simple to do business in Mexico."

Idaho State Department of Agriculture Director Celia Gould told the Capital Press that Idaho Agriculture lost a trusted friend. "He touched many lives over the years and the tragic loss of Armando is felt throughout Idaho."

Orellana was accomplished, earning an industrial engineering degree from the National Autonomous University, and a Master's in Business Administration from the Instituto Tecnológico y de Estudios Superiores de Monterrey.



Armando Orellana, Director of the Idaho-Mexico Trade Office, passed away in early March.

Eighteen years ago Orellana brought a strong business background to the Idaho-Mexico Trade Office, working for international firms like Mitel de México, DuPont, Morganite del Caribe and Sperry before joining the Idaho-Mexico Trade Office in 1994. Mr. Orellana was an active member of the American Chamber of Commerce.

"Armando was a friend immediately, to me and the Farm Bureau. He had a great sense of humor and great sense of family. He always asked how the family always asking about our members and he was so proud of his family. We talked about our Farm Bureau family on business trips," said Dennis Brower. "We'll miss him and now there are big shoes to fill. He was a big part of our organization and big part of our success."



Lola Fitzpatrick presents a new Ag in the Classroom program during Idaho Farm Bureau's recent Women's Leadership Committee conference.

Photo by Steve Ritter

'My American Farm' Comes to Idaho Classrooms

By Jake Putnam

Farmer Lola Fitzpatrick of Jerome loves teaching kids about Agriculture.

Each spring she opens her farm up to Jerome County students for farm tours. It's all part of her goal of teaching kids where their food comes from.

"I work closely with the Jerome County Farm Bureau every year," she said. "We have hundreds of kids come out and learn about sheep, goats, chickens, row crops and they even get to fish. Last year I found a way to take it step further."

Researching lesson plans she stumbled on the American Farm Bureau's 'My American Farm' program. The program is a computer game in the form of downloadable software, but also as an iPhone app that's available from the iTunes app store. She had the program so she set out to find classroom computers.

"I'm proud to initiate this pilot program from American Farm Bureau," said Fitzpatrick. "We're now going statewide and we found a program that allows us to put the lesson soft-

ware on computers. It's an easy Ag-source program that's fun to play in class or on a phone and the kids have fun doing it."

The American Farm Bureau Foundation for Agriculture launched the 'My American Farm' Outreach Program last fall and Fitzpatrick was one of the first applicants selected to start the program.

In March, she taught a seminar at the Women's IFBF Leadership Conference demonstrating how the program works. In her breakout session on donated laptops, Fitzpatrick showed fellow Leadership members the games and videos and even Idaho Farm Bureau President Bryan Searle and wife Mary played the new software.

The 'My American Farm' game features a number of lessons on everything from equipment used in agriculture and all the different foods available to consumers. Fitzpatrick also demonstrated how she'll deliver the program to schools by partnering up with a statewide program called Computers for Kids.

Fitzpatrick showed how high school students in the program can go to the website

online at <http://myamericanfarm.org/> and download messages, apps software that shows that agriculture is everywhere, there are many careers in agriculture. In addition, it shows how farmers feed the world, care for animals and are excellent stewards of the land.

"The computers are refurbished and we got them through Computers for Kids," she said. "They're a non-profit organization that helps puts computers in the hands of students that are not familiar with computers. Idaho companies donate their old laptops to Computers for Kids. I think it's a great program because they get computers to kids that are eager to learn about agriculture."

The software includes at least one 'My American Farm' interactive game, one lesson plan and a video from the app or website. Classrooms also are encouraged to bring in farmers and ranchers to talk about how agriculture affects their everyday lives.

"These Kids need to know about Idaho Agriculture, how important it is the state economy and that without farms to produce food, we won't have food," said Fitzpatrick.

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Focus on Agriculture

Terrorism a Real Threat to U.S. Agriculture

By Stewart Truelsen

There are some things you should not read at bedtime. One of them is The Worldwide Threat Assessment by the U.S. Intelligence Community, an annual report of threats to the United States. In testimony before Congress, Director of National Intelligence James Clapper said, “In my 50 plus

years in the intelligence business I cannot recall a more diverse array of crises and challenges than we face today.”

Clapper warned that homegrown extremists are probably the most significant terrorist threat to the homeland this year. In other words, the U.S. faces attacks similar to last December’s

in San Bernardino, California, that left 14 dead and 22 wounded.

The entire report is even more disturbing. In short, the United States and its assets around the world are facing a multiplicity of threats from terrorist organizations and states like North Korea. These enemies are busy devising new weapons and strategies.

Hopefully, they will never get to use them, but make no mistake about it, no part of our country or sectors of the economy are off-limits to terrorists. This includes rural America and U.S. agriculture.

Former Georgia Sen. Saxby Chambliss received the Distinguished Service to Agriculture award from the American Farm Bureau Federation this year. In addition to his accomplishments in food and agriculture, he played an important role in homeland security and intelligence gathering. He does not assume terrorists will overlook U.S. food and agriculture.

“We have to make sure that America always has a safe supply of food as well as a safe supply of water. Those are somewhat easy targets for the terrorist community to look at,” he says. “There is no question that food security is a very vital part of national security and a vital part of what we look

at from a counter-terrorism standpoint in the intelligence community every day.”

After 9/11, agro-terrorism became more of a concern. A white paper written in 2002 by University of Minnesota economics professor C. Ford Runge outlined threats to livestock and crops from biological weapons. Among top concerns were the introduction of foot-and-mouth disease in feedlots and the spread of deadly pathogens, like anthrax, on fruit and vegetables. Another threat was the contamination of corn and soybean oil to disrupt all downstream users and manufacturers of processed foods.

Runge concluded in 2002 that it would be hard for terrorists to do serious damage to the American food system because of its diffuse nature. It’s so big and spread out. However, it would still be possible for terrorists to cause widespread consumer panic, loss of

trade and economic harm.

The current threat analysis raises greater concern for weapons of mass destruction, like ones that could be used against agricultural production and water supplies. The report says, “Research in genome editing conducted by countries with different regulatory or ethical standards than those of Western countries probably increases the risk of the creation of potentially harmful biological agents or products.”

That is why Farm Bureau continues to support protecting our nation’s food, fiber and water supply and critical industrial agricultural materials, in addition to encouraging farmers and public agencies to recognize the importance of adopting biosecurity measures.

Stewart Truelsen, a food and agriculture freelance writer, is a regular contributor to the Focus on Agriculture series.



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Federal officials expect normal streamflows this spring. Snowpack in most of Idaho's mountains is near or above average.

Steady Snowpack: Good news for Idaho Farmers

By Jake Putnam

On Cuddy Mountain near Council, snowmobiler Rocky Bailey couldn't believe what he saw. Four feet of fresh wet snow, on top of nearly ten feet that fell earlier in the season. He hasn't seen this kind of snowpack in years.

And the hits keep coming, according to the National Resource Conservation Service in Boise. Storm after storm pelted Idaho from October to February. Then a dry stretch set in and it looked as though winter was over. But March rolled in with a vengeance and the weekend of the 12th delivered an astonishing 40 inches of snow to parts of the central Idaho high

country.

"It was looking like the melt-off was coming early, but the storms hit in March and we had a pattern change. It was a classic low-pressure trough and we got continuous precipitation," said Dan Tappa of the NRCS. "It's really helped the snowpack. We weren't that bad off, but that melt off came earlier than wanted. So we got fresh got snowpack not only in the central mountains but the rest of the state and we're sitting good right now."

Despite the February hiatus, total snowpack didn't change above 6,000 feet. During the February thaw the snowpack became more compact, and in some plac-

es densities ranged from 36 to 38 percent moisture, compared with a normal content of 30 to 34 percent for the start of March. Snow starts to melt when the density reaches 40 to 45 percent. Tappa says the valley snow that melted last month saturated dry soil and that means more late season runoff into reservoirs than parched earth.

"All we needed was a few good storms to get us out of the red in terms of water supplies, and we got that," Tappa said. "Based on Idaho's March's Surface Water Supply Index, We're seeing that irrigation water should be adequate across most of

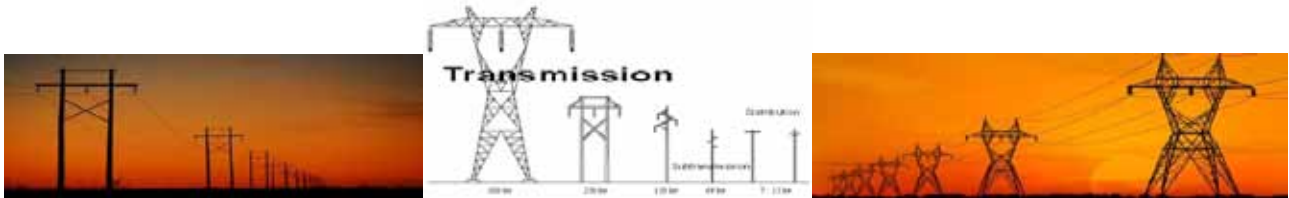
See SNOWPACK, page 16



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SNOWPACK

Continued from page 14

the state, but still marginal on the Big Wood, Big Lost and Little Lost basins. But even there, this last series of storms helped us greatly.”

With normal snowpack across the state, irrigation looks good for farmers, rafters-kayakers and power boaters. But despite all the snow, 2016 is a just a good year compared to the last three dry winters.

During February basins north of Salmon River got above-average snowfall, ranging from 110 to 120 percent of normal, with the Lochsa basin getting 144 percent of average snowfall.

In southern and eastern Idaho,

many basins received about half of their usual snowfall, including the Owyhee, Big Wood, Portneuf and Henry’s Fork. The Little Wood and Camus Creek basin received about 39 percent of normal moisture, and a couple of Upper Snake River tributary basins, the Greys and Hoback, were normal.

Despite the dry month, basins south of the Snake River still held about 110 to 130 percent of normal snowpack. The Salmon, Payette and Boise basins ended the month at 105 percent of normal snowpack. The lowest snowpacks were found in the Spokane and Little Wood basins where they

stand at about 85 percent of normal moisture.

The Bureau of Reclamation says there’s still room in the reservoir system to capture runoff and don’t anticipate flooding as long as temperatures remain normal. But the agency says the odds of the Upper Snake reservoirs completely filling are still just 50-50.

“These storm tracks haven’t been as kind to the Upper Snake but snowpack is near normal, The Payette’s above normal, parts of Central drainages are above normal and we’re fine storage-wise,” said Tappa.

By the first of March, Magic Reservoir near Fairfield was filled to just 19 percent of capacity, far less than the February average of 38 percent of capacity. Little Wood Reservoir had 47 percent of capacity, closer to its February average of 58 percent, and Mackay Reservoir had 70 percent of capacity, above its February average of 66 percent.

“I think we can say this year is normal, we have a normal snowpack, normal precipitation from October 1st and we’ll have normal streamflows,” said Tappa.

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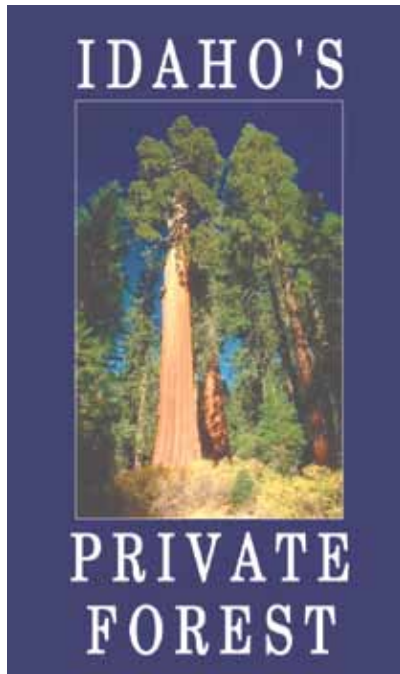
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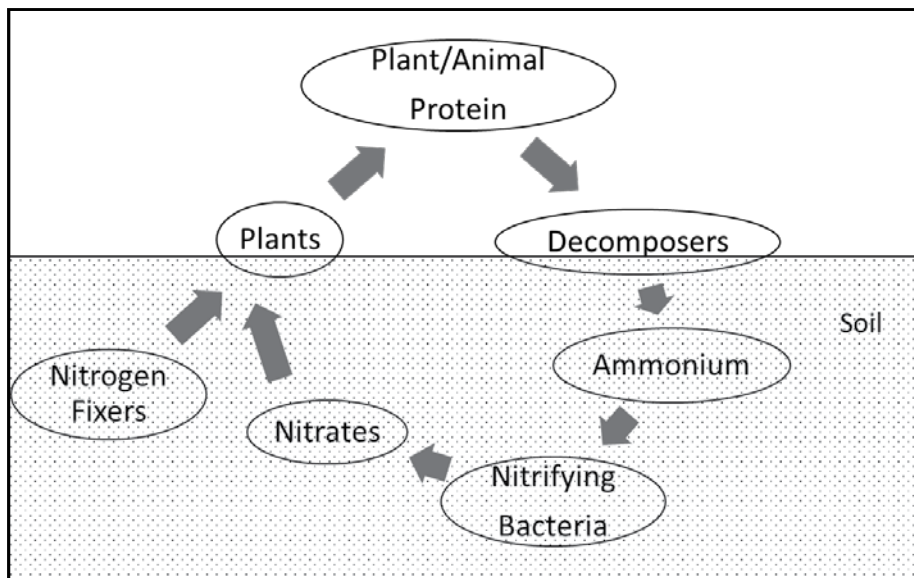
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Fire and Weeds

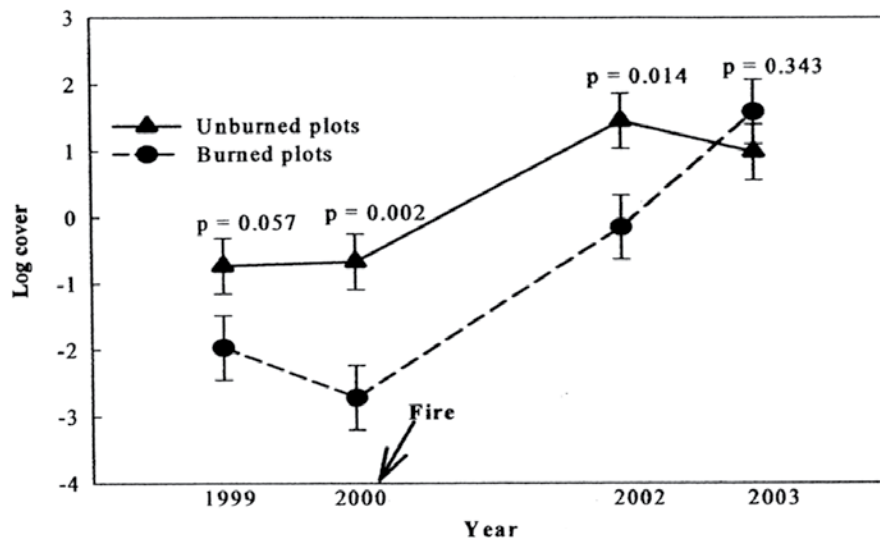


Nitrogen makes up about 70% of our atmosphere. Some of the atmospheric nitrogen makes its way to the soil. Through the activities of bacteria and other nitrogen fixing organisms that nitrogen is changed to forms of nitrogen that plants can use. Other sources of nitrogen are plants and animals that return a portion of the nitrogen they contain to the soil through decomposers.

By Timothy Prather

People in Idaho during the summer of 2015 were affected by fire. Whether it was poor air quality because of smoke or loss of property and injury. During college I had the opportunity to participate in prescribed fires and I never had the experience of working on a range or forest wildfire. I do have experience with plant ecology and fire as a source of disturbance. I hope you find the relationship of disturbance and weeds interesting but no hopes that this article will be as engaging as people's direct experience with fire.

I mentioned fire as a disturbance. There are many types of disturbance with fire being one of the dramatic sources. Fire releases resources and opens physical space for establishment of plants. One nutrient that becomes available after fire is nitrogen. Nitrogen makes up the majority of our atmosphere and through several processes that nitrogen becomes part of the soil bound resources that can be available to plants. Part of the nitrogen cycle is shown in the nitrogen diagram with activity of microbes increasing after fire and cycling nitrogen to forms that the plants can use. Plants



After a grassland fire, annual grasses like cheatgrass returned to former levels in a study conducted by Sandra Robins and Steve Bunting.

need nitrogen for amino acid production, for proteins, for membranes and the list can become quite long. The nitrifying bacteria and other nitrogen fixers move into overdrive after a fire and nitrogen becomes an important part of the resource pool available to plants.

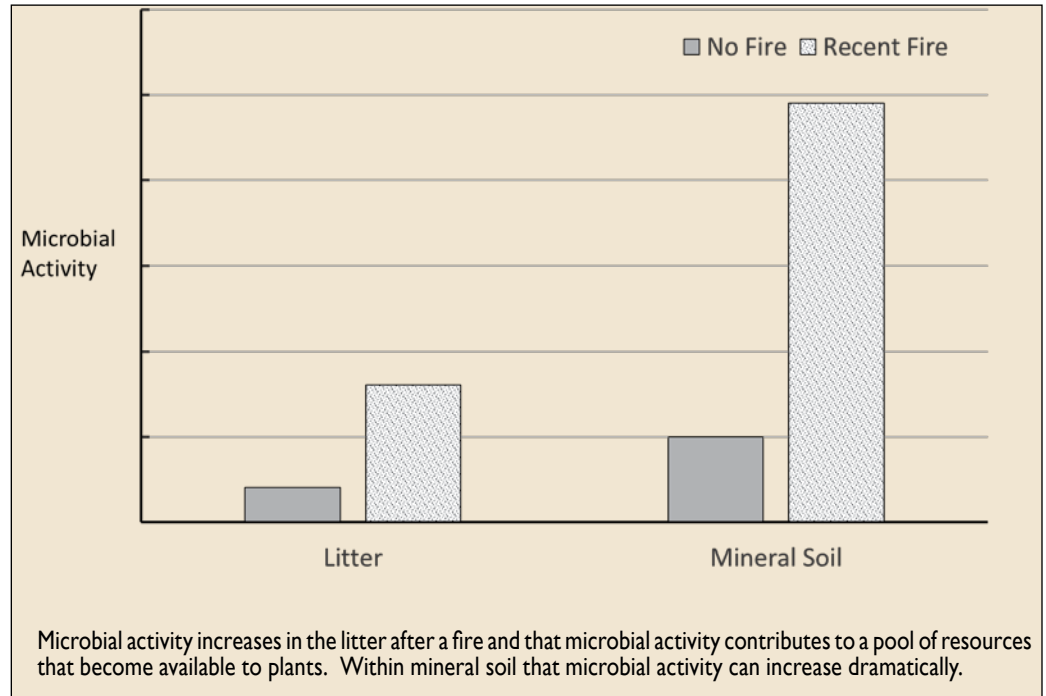
Other resources that may become available include light and in many cases, water.

Plants that establish and take advantage of the resource pool may be native, returning to the site and the plants

could be weeds that were already present or move to the area through our activities or other natural processes of plant movement. Physical space and a pool of resources make for a recipe for rejuvenation but also the potential for plant invasion. A plant community that may have resisted invasion by a weedy plant species could become susceptible to invasion after a disturbance like fire. In many cases, the weeds will lessen as shrubs and trees grow but in some instances weeds can delay or stop the normal return to a healthy forest community.

One question that often arises relates to fire killing weeds. Another question relates to what to expect after fire. The answer to these questions changes with the severity of the fire. Grassland fires are lower temperature fires and the duration of the fire generally is short. With grassland fires we really don't see large reductions in herbaceous weeds after fire. Shrubs and trees that don't sprout from their root crowns can be reduced for years after fire. One year reductions in herbaceous weed density can happen and then density starts to increase and return to former levels. In general, what you have before a grassland fire is what you get after a grassland fire.

The severity of fire in forested situations may be low, moderate or high. High severity generally occurs on wetter sites with higher fuel loads and would be unusual, for example, in an open Ponderosa Pine stand. The forest floor of a low severity fire would appear mostly brown from a distance with some black but you could still make out the shape of shrubs that were burned as well as still see litter on the ground. A moderate severity fire also would have consumed most of the litter but you could still see the shape of shrubs. A high severity fire would have consumed litter, shrubs and the soil may have a grey to almost



white patches in some areas. If you have access to the internet, I suggest you download a free copy of a USDA Forest Service bulletin that describes fire severity and you can find that document at www.fs.fed.us/rm/pubs/rmrs_gtr243.pdf. The publication adds excellent pictures to descriptions of low, moderate and high severity fire.

So I only partially answered the questions about killing weeds with fire and what to expect after fire. A low severity fire will not change the weed density of weeds that were present before the fire. A moderate severity fire may actually reduce some weeds like a spotted knapweed that reproduces by seed and survives with a fairly shallow taproot. However, a moderate severity fire would not have much of an effect on leafy spurge or rush skeletonweed, two weedy species that have deeper root systems that would not have been killed by a moderate severity fire. A high severity fire may initially kill a species like rush skeletonweed but deeply rooted species like leafy spurge would survive. Some of the root structures of leafy spurge could be killed but would likely be replenished from roots deeper in the soil. In a study by Fornwalt, Kaufmann

and Stohlgren in 2010, the weedy species present on the site returned in areas burned at low severity. At moderate and high severity, the number of weedy species were reduced even four years after the fire. Unfortunately, weedy species that were near the burned area or were introduced during the firefighting or the rebuilding effort move to the burned areas. Even low severity fires saw some increase in weedy species after fire. The moderate and high severity had recorded up to six new weedy species.

So weeds can be killed by moderate and high intensity fires. Unfortunately, if weed seeds make their way to areas burned at moderate to high severity, they can establish and result in longer term problems for land owners. Looking at the graph of new weeds entering after more severe fires tells us that we especially need to watch for weedy species starting at year two after the fire and continue to look for new problems out to four or five years after the fire.

We know from research and experience that removing weed problems when they first start is the lowest cost and

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Technology is Creating Endless Opportunities for Agriculture in Idaho

Editor's Note: Jayce Watkins is the winner of the 2016 Idaho Farm Bureau Women's Leadership Committee Speech Contest. Watkins is a senior at Weiser High School. Following is his speech.

By Jayce Watkins

We are in the age of technology, and perhaps even on the brink of a technological breakthrough in agriculture. Technology is creating unlimited possibilities for the future of Idaho agriculture. Why? Because of precision farming. Precision farming is planting, growing, irrigating, and harvesting crops in the most efficient way possible. This is becoming more and more possible because of three technological advances in apps and software, drones, and GPS (Global Positioning System).

Apps and software are the foundation of precision farming. Farmers, ranchers, and ag industry members can download all sorts of agriculture apps on their smartphone or tablet. Apps are available to help with plant and soil health, fertilizing and chemical application, sales, record keeping and more.

For example:

- Yara CheckIT is a photographic app that will help farmers in identifying nutrient deficiencies in plants and will recommend actions to be taken.
- Weed Spotter by Bayer Cropsience helps identify weeds that may be in crop fields.
- TractorPal lets farmers keep farm equipment maintenance records all in one spot and even sends reminders when equipment needs serviced again.

New apps are being released all the time to continue to make agriculture

practices more precise and therefore, more profitable.

Software is also rapidly developing to provide powerful tools for precision farming. Farm Logs is a company that has subscription software that lets farmers track the crops grown. The software will keep track of the fields and recommend when and what actions need to be taken next. The same software can also analyze data from a drone survey and report the soil composition and where problem spots are, and what can be done to fix problem areas. This is just the beginning. Think of the endless possibilities for the future of Idaho agriculture as new software continues to develop.

A second technological tool of the future used in Idaho precision farming is drones. Drone is a high tech remote controlled unmanned aircraft. Think of your air hogs helicopter on steroids. Drones can fly over fields and collect data on soil composition, crop health and growth and irrigation usage. Drones can also more efficiently and accurately dust crops. Drones have been in Japan since as early as 1987. Drones also can survey new ground and the possible soil quality without having to go out and physically test the ground.

One of the instruments on these drones is the thermal imaging camera. FLIR is one of these camera manufacturers who recently launched a camera that will show farmers the differences between healthy and distressed crops, and how irrigation water is being used. This will help farmers in choos-



Jayce Watkins

ing to add water, apply fertilizer, or decide if it's time to harvest.

According to a December 2015 article in the Capital Press, the FAA has not figured out how to regulate drones. Currently, farmers are required to get an FAA exemption or get a commercial pilot's license. This is why we see farmers hesitating to buy drones. As these issues are resolved, the drone industry will become more feasible for farmers. In the meantime there are companies like Empire Unmanned of Hayden, Idaho that will come and do drone flyovers for a price.

The 3rd technological tool that is opening opportunities for agriculture in Idaho's future is GPS. GPS is what really makes precision farming possible. GPS stands for Global Positioning System. This is a system that pinpoints the exact location of receivers by using satellite transmission. These

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SPEECH CONTEST

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receivers are placed in farm equipment, mostly tractors but also testing devices. Software that uses GPS allows farmers to plant, grow, and harvest crops in the most efficient way possible. The tractors can drive themselves; they don't stray from the pre-loaded track. The planter towed behind knows the nutritional content in every square foot of this field. It will even give you an approximate number of seeds that were planted in each row. All because of GPS.

Let me share one local farm operation with you. Corn Farms located here in the Treasure Valley, has integrated some precision farming techniques into their operation. Corn Farms has recently purchased a high tech planter that will virtually eliminate seed skipping. In their operation, they esti-

mate they lose 1 acre of crop production to seed skipping. This new planter cost them \$8,000 to modify and with their crop revenue at \$15,000 an acre, they pay back the planter in just one year with increased crop production. By using this technology, it will increase their production profit every year.

GPS units can be used in tractors without the upgrades. A farmer can plug in a simple GPS unit into an old tractor and plant with incredible accuracy. GPS even allows farmers to work in nearly impossible visibility conditions like dust, rain, and at night. The GPS works not only on flat irrigated land but on rolling hills as well. With topographical maps integrated into the GPS, a farmer can see if he is coming up on a drop off or

steep incline.

Precision farming is shown to be more profitable by reducing costs and growing crops more accurately. A study done on high precision farms using GPS from 2007-2010, created \$19.9 billion in gains. That's equivalent to an 11.8% increase in total crop production. GPS is creating unlimited possibilities for Idaho agriculture.

As you can see there are unlimited technological possibilities for agriculture in Idaho with the ever changing technologies in today's apps, software, GPS, and drones. We are truly on the edge of precision agriculture. With these innovations, farmers can more easily produce crops with less expense. The way we farm now, is changing for the better. Thank you.

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Clark Johnston

On-Farm Storage Provides Marketing Options

By Clark Johnston

It is true that every year is different and this marketing year is no exception. This has been a year where prices have been hammered but we are now in the middle of a very thin cash market. I have received phone calls and talked with producers who say they have never seen a time when there were so few markets to sell into.

The flour mills have contracted wheat as far out as new crop and are not interested in contracting any more wheat at any price. Producers that still need to move wheat before summer are left looking at bids for delivery in June and July time frames. Needless to say we now have producers that are scrambling to find markets that will let them deliver before new crop.

There are markets available to them but, if they didn't like the prices in November they really aren't going to be excited about the current bids. The other challenge is that we are seeing a fair amount of wheat that is not milling quality because of test weight issues.

I feel that it is important to review a few basic principles when it comes to marketing.

- Breakeven levels – this should be at the top of your priority list.
- Study the local markets – Basis, Basis, Basis, Seasonal trends are as important as levels.
- Sell when someone wants to buy – as we have seen this year, as soon as the buyers have contracted their needs they are gone from the market without any notice.

Let's take a look at the markets as we move into new crop. We know that we have large supplies of wheat that are going to be carried over from this crop year into the next. At this time we still don't know exactly what the new crop will produce but, when we look at Chicago futures we see that there is a good carry from July into December futures.

The size of the carry is giving you an opportunity to store wheat for contracting into the fall months. We have visited about separating the futures and basis when marketing your wheat and this is giving you that opportunity. The current carry from July futures to December is 24 cents per bushel with the December futures trading in the area of \$5.

Take the \$5 futures and add an average basis for October, November time frame to give you an indication of your wheat price during those months. Compare this to your breakeven figure and you have the beginning of your marketing plan for the upcoming year.

If this level works in your budget then you are off and running. Of course it does mean that you may need to lock in the futures part of your pricing equation by selling futures. Don't be nervous about selling futures, it is how merchandising will be done in the years ahead. Go to your lender with your merchandising plan indicating that you will only be selling enough futures to protect not only your interests but theirs as well. This will probably be about 25 percent of your anticipated production.

Recently I had a producer tell me that in his opinion you couldn't make any money

by storing your grain on the farm. To this I would say that there are years when this could be true but, the opposite is also true and it is true more times than not.

For most of you it is important to keep all of marketing options open into the fall or early winter months. The basis for soft white wheat in southeast Idaho does strengthen between July and December. In years like this it will be important for you to give yourself every opportunity to maximize your selling price.

Watch all of your local markets. There will be opportunities for you to be profitable this year but you will need to look at markets that you maybe haven't considered in the past. You can only do this if your grain is farm stored. Yes, there is an offset of some additional work to load trucks when it may not be convenient as well as the possibility of additional costs but it could be worth it this year.

Remember, no one can be the best bid every day. Keep your marketing options open. It could payoff not only this year but in the years ahead.

Clark Johnston is a grain marketing specialist who is on contract with the Idaho Farm Bureau. He is the owner of JC Management Company in Northern Utah. He can be reached at clark@jcmanagement.net

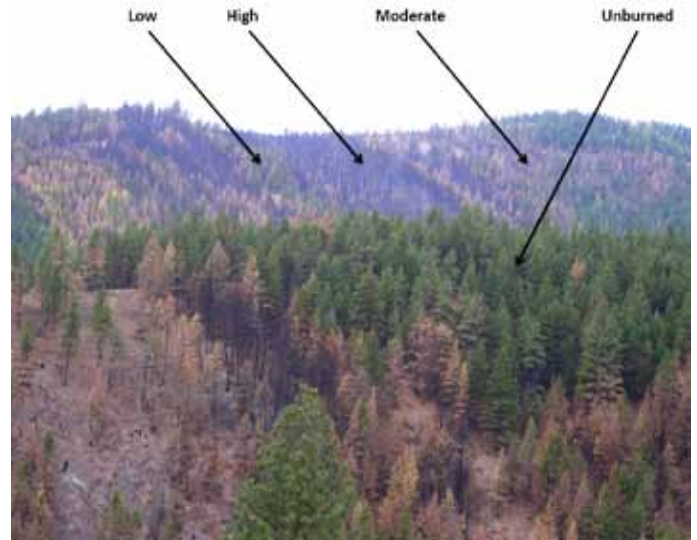
UI FORESTRY

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most effective way to prevent long-term problems. So while land owners are dealing with other effects from fire, it is important to watch for species that were not on the property before. If you find suspicious patches of plants after fire that you don't recognize, get them identified. The Erickson Weed Diagnostic Lab at the University of Idaho will identify weeds for people living in Idaho. For information on submitting pictures or sending in plants, go to www.cals.uidaho.edu/weeds2. We are rebuilding the web site but it still works for getting information on submitting samples and pictures for identification.

Knowing that we are at risk, particularly in areas with moderate to high severity, allows us to respond and prevent a compounding of problems after fire by dealing with weedy species while the problem is still small. Many of the weeds that have been mapped can be viewed with mapping software by going to INSIDE Idaho at the University of Idaho www.insideidaho.org/index.html

Timothy S. Prather is a professor in the Department of Plant, Soil and Entomological Sciences College of Agricultural and Life Sciences, at the University of Idaho. He can be reached at tprather@uidaho.edu.



Fire severity ranged from not burned to low severity where there are some trees with damaged needles but mostly still green to a moderate severity with most of the canopy tan to brown. High severity is where all needles and some branches are consumed leaving just the trunk of the tree.



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County Happenings



Clark Johnston spoke at a marketing seminar held in Ferdinand in late March sponsored by Clearwater/Lewis and Idaho County Farm Bureaus. Also on the program were Kay Teisl from RMA speaking on LPP and crop insurance and Greg Brandhorst from Rabobank who spoke on cattle markets. There were 32 in attendance. *Photo by Bob Smathers*



The University of Idaho Collegiate Farm Bureau toured Ground Force Manufacturing in Post Falls in late March. Ground Force Worldwide provides the mining industry with equipment for both surface and underground mining applications. Ground Force has over 40 product lines including the world's largest fuel and lube trucks, water trucks, cable reel trucks and fuel and lube skids. They have two fuel and lube skids in their shop that are almost complete that were custom built for an oil sands project in Canada. *Photo by Bob Smathers*

Spring Survey: Eggs Up, Salad and Orange Juice Down

Lower retail prices for several foods, including salad, orange juice, shredded cheddar, ground chuck, sirloin tip roast, vegetable oil, white bread, ground chuck, deli ham and orange juice, resulted in a slight decrease in the American Farm Bureau Federation's Spring Picnic Marketbasket Survey.

The informal survey shows the total cost of 16 food items that can be used to prepare one or more meals was \$53.28, down \$.59 or about 1 percent compared to a survey conducted a year ago. Of the 16 items surveyed, ten decreased and six increased in average price.

"Egg prices are up sharply from first quarter of 2015, a year ago but are down even more sharply from the third quarter of 2015. This shows the effect of the HPAI (High Pathogenic Avian Influenza) event last year," said John Anderson, AFBF's deputy chief economist. "Prices soared in the latter half of last year, but are working their way back down as increasing production has started to catch up with demand, which has moderated prices somewhat," he said.

Prices on the beef items in the marketbasket – ground chuck and sirloin tip roast – are lower compared with the first quarter of 2015, explained Anderson. Retail beef prices peaked in early 2015 at record high levels.

"Since then, a combination of increasing beef production, weaker exports, and lower competing meat prices have led to modest price declines," he said.

Dairy product prices also remain relatively low. At \$4.29 for a one-pound bag, shredded cheddar cheese price is at the lowest price in this survey since the third quarter of 2012. The whole milk price rose almost 3 percent from the third quarter of last year, but that

third quarter price was the lowest price in the survey since 2010, noted Anderson. The whole milk price remains well below the 2015 first-quarter price.

"Apple prices are up quite a bit year-over-year. This is a reversal of retail prices that were historically low in 2015," said An-

derson. Last year, the apple market faced a really tough export environment with labor disruptions at west coast ports as well as an increasingly strong dollar.

"Current retail apple prices are still below some pretty recent years, for example 2011 and 2012," he said.

AMERICAN FARM BUREAU FEDERATION®
MARCH 2016

Spring PICNIC

MARKETBASKET SURVEY

TOTAL \$53.28

Down \$.60 or 1% compared to a year ago
Down < 2% compared to six months ago

16 ITEMS

Bagged salad	Sliced deli ham	Milk
Orange juice	Bacon	Shredded cheese
Apples	Ground chuck	Bread
Potatoes	Sirloin tip roast	Flour
Chicken breasts	Eggs	Toasted oat cereal
		Vegetable oil

SOURCE/GRAPHIC: AMERICAN FARM BUREAU FEDERATION® NEWSROOM.FB.ORG

Items showing retail price decreases from a year ago included:

- bagged salad, down 11 percent to \$2.20 per pound
- orange juice, down 8 percent to \$3.21 per half-gallon
- shredded cheddar cheese, down 7 percent to \$4.29 per pound
- whole milk, down 6 percent to \$3.23 per gallon
- ground chuck, down 5 percent to \$4.36 per pound
- vegetable oil, down 5 percent to \$2.55 for a 32-ounce bottle
- white bread, down 3 percent to \$1.69 per 20-ounce loaf
- flour, down 1 percent to \$2.49 for a 5-pound bag
- sirloin tip roast, down 1 percent to \$5.65 per pound
- potatoes, down 1 percent to \$2.71 for a 5-pound bag

These items showed modest retail price increase compared to a year ago:

- apples, up 12 percent to \$1.64 per pound
 - eggs, up 9 percent to \$2.23 per dozen
 - bacon, up 8 percent to \$4.78 per pound
 - toasted oat cereal, up 6 percent to \$3.31 for a 9-ounce box
 - chicken breast, up 3 percent to \$3.37 per pound
 - deli ham, up 1 percent to \$5.57 per pound
- Price checks of alternative milk and egg choices not included in the overall marketbasket survey average revealed the following: 1/2 gallon regular milk, \$2.13; 1/2 gallon organic milk, \$4.32; and one dozen “cage-free” eggs, \$3.67.

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

families receive has dropped.

“Through the mid-1970s, farmers received about one-third of consumer retail food expenditures for food eaten at home and away from home, on average. Since then, that figure has decreased steadily and is now about 16 percent, according to the Agriculture Department’s revised Food Dollar Series,” Anderson said.

Using the “food at home and away from home” percentage across-the-board, the farmer’s share of this \$53.28 marketbasket would be \$8.52.

AFBF, the nation’s largest general farm organization, began conducting informal quarterly marketbasket surveys of retail food price trends in 1989. The series includes a spring picnic survey, summer cookout survey, fall harvest survey and Thanksgiving survey.

According to USDA, Americans spend just under 10 percent of their disposable annual income on food, the lowest average of any country in the world. A total of 87 shoppers in 28 states participated in the latest survey, conducted in March.

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Farm Bureau Asks Court to Stop Federal Overreach on Sage Grouse

WASHINGTON, D.C., -The American Farm Bureau Federation and Idaho Farm Bureau Federation have asked a federal court to stop federal land use management plans aimed at excluding grazing from millions of acres of federal lands to provide habitat for the greater sage grouse. The Public Lands Council, National Cattlemen's Beef Association and Idaho Cattle Association joined with the Farm Bureau in filing their friend of the court brief in U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia on March 8. The brief lends support to a lawsuit brought by Idaho Governor Butch Otter challenging revised federal land management plans issued in November 2015, by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and Forest Service for federal lands

in Idaho. Other states have brought similar lawsuits challenging the revised plans as applied to federal lands within their borders.

According to the Farm Bureau, BLM and the Forest Service violated key laws directing how the federal government must manage federal lands and the process by which land management plans are promulgated. The revised plans largely ignore the congressional mandate that federal lands be managed for multiple uses. Instead, the plans manage millions of acres in Idaho for a single use, and a single species - the greater sage grouse.

"Sage grouse numbers are up 63 percent over the last two years largely due to lo-

cal conservation efforts, yet the BLM and the Forest Service are refusing to promote multiple uses of these lands as the law requires," AFBF General Counsel Ellen Steen said. "Ranchers depend on access to federal lands and the revised land use plans will have a devastating impact on these rural communities."

The Fish & Wildlife Service decided that listing the sage grouse under the Endangered Species Act was not warranted, claiming that the revised plans would provide sufficient protection to avoid a listing. While the decision not to list the sage grouse was appropriate, the highly restrictive plans are in many respects more onerous than Endangered Species Act protections.

Scholarships Encourage Agriculture Literacy

WASHINGTON, D.C., - The American Farm Bureau Foundation for Agriculture has recognized 11 educators - teachers and classroom volunteers - for their exceptional efforts to encourage agricultural literacy. The educators will each receive \$1,500 scholarships to attend the National Agriculture in the Classroom Conference in Litchfield Park, Arizona, June 20-24. The Foundation, through the White-Reinhardt Fund for Education, sponsors the scholarships in cooperation with the American Farm Bureau Women's Leadership Committee.

This year's recipients are: Karen Anderson, Rock Island County Farm Bureau Foundation; Andalusia, Illinois; Kathy Bohac, East Butler Public School, Valparaiso, Nebraska; Lisa Byers, Arcade Elementary School, Arcade, New York; Stephanie Enaire, Gray-New Gloucester Middle School - MSAD 15, Gray, Maine;

Theresa Farris, Service Valley Charter Academy USD 504, Oswego, Kansas; Marlene Fudge, Rush County Schools, Rushville, Indiana; Julie Hathcote, Chenal Elementary School, Roland, Arkansas; Annette Joyner, Mountain View Middle School, Alamogordo, New Mexico; Marissa Morris, Service Valley Charter Academy, Columbus, Kansas; Patti Romshek, East Butler Public School, David City, Nebraska; and Debra Steen, Michie Elementary School, Michie, Tennessee.

Educators nationwide attend the conference to learn to incorporate real-life agricultural applications into science, social studies, language arts, math and nutrition lessons. Scholarship recipients were judged on past use of innovative programs to educate students about agriculture as well as future plans to implement information gained at the AITC conference in their own lesson plans and share the infor-

mation with other teacher and volunteer educators.

The AITC conference brings together a diverse group of organizations and speakers to address how to improve agricultural education and literacy, showcase successful programs and offer educational materials. The Agriculture Department coordinates the AITC program with the goal of helping students gain a greater awareness of the role of agriculture in the economy and society.

The American Farm Bureau Federation and state Farm Bureaus also support and participate in the program's efforts. The White-Reinhardt Fund for Education honors two former American Farm Bureau Women's Leadership Committee chairwomen, Berta White and Linda Reinhardt, who were leaders in early national efforts to educate about agriculture and improve

Farm Bureau Pleased by Checkoff Decision for Cuba

WASHINGTON, D.C., -- The Agriculture Department's announcement that commodity checkoff funds can be used to help market U.S. farm products in Cuba lets America's farmers invest directly in the growth in trade between the two nations, according to American Farm Bureau Federation President Zippy Duvall.

"American-grown foods hold a clear competitive advantage in the Cuban marketplace, and the use of farmer- and rancher-generated funds to promote and market U.S. farm goods fits the

checkoff mission perfectly," Duvall said.

AFBF and other farm groups have been working closely with USDA in hopes of lifting the prohibition against using agricultural checkoff funds in Cuba.

"This announcement by USDA represents a major boost in growing the Cuban market that sits just 90 miles off our coast," Duvall said. "I want to personally thank USDA and Agriculture Secretary Vilsack for the support shown America's farmers and ranchers in this

matter."

Checkoff funds are raised through a direct assessment on farmers, ranchers and agricultural businesses and are not taken from U.S. treasury funds. As such, Duvall said it is appropriate that the many farmers and ranchers who pay into the assessment and pay for the oversight of the program by USDA be allowed to see those funds invested in the development of the Cuban market.

My American Farm Outreach Grants Launched

WASHINGTON, D.C., - The American Farm Bureau Foundation for Agriculture has launched this year's My American Farm Outreach Grant Program. Middle- and high-school students who are interested in using My American Farm resources to reach out to elementary school students about why agriculture is important in everyone's life are encouraged to participate.

The resources found online at <http://myamericanfarm.org/> will provide middle- and high-school students with appropriate tools to share

the messages that agriculture is everywhere, there are many careers in agriculture, and farmers feed the world, care for animals and are stewards of the land. The outreach events should utilize at least one My American Farm interactive game, one lesson plan and one video from the set of available resources. Classrooms also are encouraged to bring in a community/industry representative to share about how agriculture affects their everyday lives.

Upon completion of outreach events, 10 selected classrooms will receive \$1,500 to use

for further agricultural literacy efforts. Applications are available online at <http://www.agfoundation.org/projects/2016-my-american-farm-outreach>.

The My American Farm educational resource is a special project of the American Farm Bureau Foundation for Agriculture. The site and resources are made possible through the generous support of title sponsor, DuPont Pioneer. To take advantage of the free My American Farm resources, games and activities, visit <http://myamericanfarm.org/>.

Farm Bureau Opposes Ag-Related Cuts

WASHINGTON, D.C., - The House and Senate Agriculture committees made difficult choices to contribute to bipartisan deficit reduction goals when they crafted the farm bill just two years ago, and any calls for additional cuts to the programs they administer should be rejected, according to the American Farm Bureau Federation.

In a letter today, AFBF and 254 other groups called on congressional Budget and Appropriations leaders to oppose additional cuts that would further reduce spending for programs such as conservation, nutrition assistance and the nation's farm safety net.

According to the letter, any cuts would be in addition to the \$16 billion contribution already

made toward 10-year deficit reduction goals by reform of and cuts to the bipartisan farm bill passed by Congress just two years ago.

"These difficult cuts resulted from hard choices made to reform and reduce the farm safety net, conservation programs and nutrition assistance programs," the letter stated. "Some of the reforms made in the new farm bill are still being implemented."

In addition to asking Budget and Appropriations leaders to oppose any additional cuts for the Agriculture Committees in the FY 2017 appropriations process, the groups also asked to oppose any proposals to re-open any title of the farm bill during the consideration of the 2017 Budget Resolution. The groups also requested

that neither the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry nor the House Committee on Agriculture be subject to reconciliation instructions.

"The Congressional Budget Office projects that mandatory farm bill spending will decline over the next five years, while mandatory federal spending outside the Agriculture committees' jurisdiction will rise over the same time period," the letter stated. "These committees have already done the hard work to make the difficult choices necessary to deliver bipartisan cuts, which the farm and food community have accepted in securing agriculture's contribution to the goal of federal deficit reduction."

The letter is posted at: <http://bit.ly/1M8usOr>.

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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, 89 active chartered Idaho FFA chapters, and over 4,300 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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2016 Spring White-Reinhardt Mini-Grants Awarded

WASHINGTON, D.C., - The American Farm Bureau Foundation for Agriculture has awarded 11 \$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.

"Through the mini-grant program, we strive to help young rural and urban students gain a better understanding of how agriculture plays a vital role in their 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

Butler County Farm Bureau Association, Kansas
The 2nd Annual Butler County Ag Day will have increased school participation from diverse populations. Students will learn about agriculture and receive the

"Corn in the Story of Agriculture" book and accompanying educator guide.

Cherokee County Farm Bureau, Georgia
Introduction of hydroponics in the classroom at Cherokee Charter Academy. Parents, Farm Bureau volunteers and master gardeners will aid students with crop cultivation. At the end of the growing season, vegetables will be donated to a food pantry.

Colorado Farm Bureau, Colorado
Introduction of the "Farm in a Box" kit to urban schools in Denver.

Cook County Farm Bureau, Illinois
Accurate Ag Books for teachers who participate in the Cook County Farm Bureau's spring garden workshop. Teachers will receive books that connect agriculture to school gardening.

Cuyahoga County Farm Bureau, Ohio
Hosting farm tours for school-age children to learn about livestock care and growing grain crops. Accurate Ag Books and Ag Mags will be provided to students.

Franklin County Farm Bureau, Illinois
Creation of a container garden project for students in grades 2-6 through the Franklin County Agriculture in the Classroom program. Participating classrooms will receive "Earth Boxes" and supplies, along with Accurate Ag Books.

Greensville County Farm Bureau, Virginia
Creation of the "Renewable Energy Challenge," a student-driven unit with an interdisciplinary approach. Students will create models demonstrating how energy can be harnessed from the wind, sun and water for use in agriculture.

Greenwood County Farm Bureau Association, Kansas
This year's Greenwood County Ag day will have increased school participation. Students will learn about agriculture and receive the "Beef Cattle in the Story of Agriculture" book and accompanying

educator guide.

Houston County Farm Bureau, Georgia
Extension of a month-long poultry project at Morningside Elementary. With the use of a chicken coop, students will learn about embryology, caring for chickens, and egg and chicken production.

Lawrence County Farm Bureau, Tennessee
Students will learn about food resources in their community and healthy eating through a cooking club. The goal is for children to share with their families how to prepare easy, healthy meals while learning about careers in horticulture and agriculture.

Mercer County Farm Bureau, Illinois
Creation of a "Day on the Farm" traveling unit will provide a hands-on approach to activities such as gathering eggs, milking cows and planting a garden.

Farm Groups Develop Tool to Aid in Big Data Contracts

NEW ORLEANS, - A coalition of major farm organizations, commodity groups and agriculture technology providers (ATPs) debuted a tool designed to help farmers understand how their data will be used when they adopt precision agriculture technologies.

New technologies and products are constantly entering the marketplace and generating millions of bits of data about farmers' fields, crops and equipment. A recent survey found that an overwhelming number of farmers do not know what happens to their data when they use these new technologies.

The Ag Data Transparency Evaluator was created to help producers understand where their data is going and who has access and control over it. The evaluator requires participating ATPs to answer 10 key questions about their technology products' use and control of farmer data. A third-party administrator then reviews the

answers and determines whether the products meet the standards of transparency set by the Privacy and Security Principles for Farm Data (Data Principles). Products that meet the standards will receive the “Ag Data Transparent” seal to be displayed on promotional materials and product pages. Additionally, farmers can go to the Transparency Evaluator website to see and compare all the products and services that have undergone the evaluation.

The creation of the Ag Data Transparency Evaluator stems back to November 2014 when a coalition of ag groups and ATPs announced a Data Principles document, an agreement that identified key areas of concern for producers.

Some of the 10 questions addressed by the Evaluator include: What categories of data do the product or service collect from the

farmer?; Will the ATP obtain the farmer’s consent before providing other companies with access to the data?; and Will the ATP notify the farmer if a breach of data security occurs that causes disclosure of the farmer’s data to an outside party?

The coalition involved in the development of the Ag Data Transparency Evaluator includes both farmer-led industry organizations and ATPs, including AGCO, Ag Connections, Agrible, American Farm Bureau Federation, American Soybean Association, Beck’s Hybrids, Conservis, CNH Industrial, Crop IMS, Dow AgroSciences, DuPont Pioneer, Farm Dog, Farmobile, Granular, Grower Information Services Cooperative, GROWMARK, Independent Data Management, John Deere, National Association of Wheat Growers, National Corn Growers Association, Na-

tional Farmers Union, National Sorghum Producers, and The Climate Corporation.

The Ag Data Transparency Evaluator is non-profit corporation governed by a board of directors from the participating organizations. The corporate bylaws require that all actions be approved by the farmer-led organizations, making the evaluator truly a farmer-driven initiative not controlled by the ATPs whose products are reviewed.

To learn more about the Ag Data Transparency Evaluator and to see the full list of 10 questions visit www.fb.org/agdata-transparent. For more information, contact Ag Data Transparency Evaluator Administrator Todd Janzen at janzen@aglaw.us or board Chairperson Mary Kay Thatcher at mkt@fb.org.



Hop Stocks Up 10 Percent

The inventory of hops held by growers, dealers, and brewers on March 1, 2016, totaled 131 million pounds, 10 percent more than March 1, 2015. Stocks held by brewers, at 43.0 million pounds, were unchanged from last year. Stocks held by growers and dealers on March 1 totaled 88.0 million pounds, up 16 percent from a year ago.

Honey down 5 percent from 2014

Idaho’s 2015 honey production, at 2.85 million pounds, was 16 percent lower than 2014. There were 89,000 honey producing colonies, 11,000 less than the previous year.

The yield per colony averaged 32.0 pounds compared with 34.0 pounds per colony in 2014. Idaho’s value of honey production, at \$5.47 million, was 21 percent lower than 2014.

United States honey production in 2015 from producers with five or more colonies totaled 157 million pounds, down 12 percent from 2014. United States honey production in 2015 from producers with less than five colonies totaled 720 thousand pounds from 23 thousand colonies.

Secure Rural Schools Funding Announced

Agriculture Department officials recently announced the

agency would provide \$272 million in support of local schools and roads in 41 states and Puerto Rico. The funding is authorized through the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act. The actual amount of each state’s payment is determined by a number of factors written into the law, including how many counties had elected to share in that payment.

Since 1908, 25 percent of USDA’s Forest Service revenues, such as those from timber sales, mineral resources and grazing fees, have been returned to states in which national forest lands are located. Rural communities and schools rely on these revenues to provide education services, road maintenance

and conservation projects. In the late 1980s, national resource policies diminished revenue-generating activity in the forests, and by 1998, revenues for these communities had declined by more than 70 percent. The decline affected more than 780 counties nationwide and more than 9 million school children.

The act was signed into law in 2000 to provide assistance to rural counties affected by the decline in revenue from timber harvests on federal lands. The funds are used for schools, roads and maintaining current infrastructure, in addition to creating employment opportunities and improving the health of watersheds and ecosystems.

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FARM BUREAU COMMODITY REPORT

GRAIN PRICES	2/22/2016	3/2/2016	Trend
PORTLAND:			
White Wheat	N/A	N/A	N/A
11% Winter	5.33-5.49	5.41-5.47	+ .08 to - .02
14% Spring	6.02-6.12	6.04-6.14	+ .02
Oats	270.00	270.00	Steady
OGDEN:			
White Wheat	4.64	4.21	- .43
11% Winter	4.43	4.16	- .27
14% Spring	5.08	5.14	+ .06
Barley	7.25	7.08	- .17
BLACKFOOT/ IDAHO FALLS:			
White Wheat	4.45	4.20	- .25
11.5% Winter	4.05	4.45	+ .40
14% Spring	4.80	4.85	+ .05
Hard White	4.30	4.60	+ .30
BURLEY:			
White Wheat	4.33	3.80	- .53
11% Winter	3.69	3.90	+ .21
14% Spring	4.58	4.85	+ .27
Barley	6.00	6.00	Steady
NAMPA:			
White Wheat (cwt)	7.63	7.06	- .57
(Bushel)	4.58	4.24	- .34
LEWISTON:			
White Wheat	4.90	4.75	- .15
H. Red Winter	5.23	5.16	- .07
Dark N. Spring	5.72	5.77	+ .05
Barley	126.50	126.50	Steady
LIVESTOCK PRICES			
	2/22/2016	3/18/2016	Trend
FEEDER STEERS			
Under 500 lbs	170-232	170-230	- 2
500-700 lbs	151-216	150-215	- 1
700-900 lbs	134-168	135-161	+ 1 to - 7
Over 900 lbs	120-141	110-137	- 10 to - 4
FEEDER HEIFERS			
Under 500 lbs	150-225	160-216	+ 10 to - 9
500-700 lbs	137-179	140-185	+ 3 to + 6
700-900 lbs	120-159	120-151	steady to - 8
Over 900 lbs	123-136	100-129	- 23 to - 7
HOLSTEIN STEERS			
Under 700 lbs	91-120	99-149	+ 8 to + 29
Over 700 lbs	101-120	99-129	- 2 to + 9
COWS			
Utility/Commercial	58-79	58-87	Steady to + 8
Canner & Cutter	58-75	58-76	Steady to - 1
Stock Cows	875-1700	1400-1800	+ 525 to + 100
BULLS			
Slaughter	65-104	75-108	+ 10 to + 4
BEAN PRICES:			
Pinto	22.00	23.00-24.00	+ 1.00 to + 2.00
Pink	28.00	28.00	Steady
Small Red	33.00-35.00	33.00-35.00	Steady
Garbanzo	32.00-35.00	32.00-34.00	Steady to - 1.00

COMPILED BY THE IDAHO FARM BUREAU COMMODITY DIVISION

IDAHO HAY REPORT

USDA Market News, Moses Lake, WA
March 18, 2016

Tons: 1000 Last Week: 5500 Last Year: 3900

Compared to last Friday: All grades of Alfalfa steady in a light test. Trade very slow with light demand. Supplies remain heavy. Retail/feed store/horse not tested this week. All prices are dollars per ton and FOB the farm or ranch unless otherwise stated.

	Tons	Price	Wtd Avg	Comments
Alfalfa				
Mid Square				
Premium/Supreme	1000	130.00-130.00	130.00	Tarped

POTATOES & ONIONS

March 22, 2016

Potatoes

UPPER VALLEY, TWIN FALLS-BURLEY DISTRICT, IDAHO--- Shipments 650-664-682 (includes exports of 5-3-4)---Movement expected to remain about the same. Trading bales slow, others moderate. Prices Burbanks cartons 60-100s and Norkotah cartons 40-50s higher, bales and Norkotah cartons 80-100s lower, others generally unchanged. Russet Burbank U.S. One baled 10-5 pound film bags non size A mostly 4.50-5.00; 50-pound carton 40-50s mostly 9.00, 60s 9.00-10.00, 70s mostly 9.50-10.00, 80-100s mostly 9.50. Norkotah Russet U.S. One baled 10-5 pound film bags non size A mostly 4.50-5.00; 50-pound carton 40s-100s mostly 9.50.

Potatoes for Processing

IDAHO--- Movement expected to remain about the same. No prices reported.

Onions

IDAHO AND MALHEUR COUNTY OREGON--- Shipments 299-296-284---Movement expected to remain about the same. Trading moderate. Prices Yellow medium higher, others generally unchanged. Yellow Spanish Hybrid U.S. One 50-pound sacks super colossal mostly 10.00, colossal mostly 9.00, jumbo mostly 7.50-8.00, medium mostly 7.50-8.00; Red Globe Type U.S. One 25-pound sacks jumbo mostly 14.00-16.00, medium mostly 11.00-13.00.

5 YEAR GRAIN COMPARISON

Grain Prices.....3/20/2012.....3/25/2013.....3/24/2014.....3/20/2015.....3/22/2016

Portland:					
White Wheat.....	7.00	8.47	7.76	6.47	No Bid
11% Winter.....	7.39-7.41	8.89-8.95	9.15-9.25	6.65-6.68	5.41-5.47
14% Spring.....	9.42	9.50	9.53	8.99	6.04-6.14
Corn.....	276.50	308-308.75	No Bid.....	4.87	4.40-4.45

Ogden:					
White Wheat.....	6.30	8.30	6.40	6.20	4.21
11% Winter.....	6.25	8.15	7.34	5.81	4.16
14 % Spring.....	7.94	8.29	7.83	6.60	5.14
Barley.....	10.55	12.10	9.10	5.55	7.08

Pocatello/Blackfoot:					
White Wheat.....	6.15	7.85	6.50	6.00	4.20
11% Winter.....	6.07	7.73	8.14	5.79	4.45
14% Spring.....	7.86	7.92	8.33	6.89	4.85
Barley.....	9.38	11.67	No Bid.....	No Bid	No Bid

Burley:

White Wheat.....	6.10	8.00	6.34	5.90	3.80
11% Winter.....	6.08	7.37	7.41	5.04	3.90
14% Spring.....	7.82	7.80	7.31	6.34	4.85
Barley.....	9.50	12.25	7.50	5.00	6.00

Nampa:

White Wheat (cwt).....	9.87	13.00	11.16	9.00	.06
(bushel).....	5.92	7.80	6.70	5.40	4.24

Lewiston:

White Wheat.....	6.70	8.17	7.45	6.58	4.75
Barley.....	196.50	221.50	161.50	160.50	126.50

Bean Prices:

Pintos.....	35.00-37.00	33.00-35.00	34.00-36.00	24.00-25.00	23.00-24.00
Pinks.....	39.00-40.00	40.00	39.00-40.00	No Bid	28.00
Small Reds.....	40.00	40.00	40.00	40.00	33.00-35.00

MILK PRODUCTION

March 18, 2016

February Milk Production up 4.6 Percent

Milk production in the 23 major States during February totaled 15.8 billion pounds, up 4.6 percent from February 2015. However, adjusting production for the additional day due to leap year causes February milk production to be up 1.0 percent on a per day basis. January revised production, at 16.6 billion pounds, was up 0.2 percent from January 2015. The January revision represented a decrease of 13 million pounds or 0.1 percent from last month's preliminary production estimate.

Production per cow in the 23 major States averaged 1,833 pounds for February,

79 pounds above February 2015. This is the highest production per cow for the month of February since the 23 State series began in 2003. When production is adjusted for the additional day due to leap year, February production per cow is 16 pounds above February 2015 on a per day basis.

The number of milk cows on farms in the 23 major States was 8.63 million head, 8,000 head more than February 2015, and 2,000 head more than January 2016.

5 YEAR LIVESTOCK COMPARISON

	3/20/2012	3/25/2013	3/24/2014	3/20/2015	3/18/2016
Under 500 lbs.....	170-220	134-182	190-251	230-346	170-230
500-700 lbs.....	137-193	118-165	168-239	209-304	150-215
700-900 lbs.....	121-154	109-132	140-181	177-220	135-161
Over 900 lbs.....	116-141	110-116	130-150	143-187	110-137
Feeder Heifers					
Under 500 lbs.....	142-200	126-154	170-227	228-316	160-216
500-700 lbs.....	135-179	112-141	154-206	190-268	140-185
700-900 lbs.....	115-149	106-126	130-171	165-215	120-151
Over 900 lbs.....	103-120	90-114	110-147	140-182	100-129
Holstein Steers					
Under 700 lbs.....	75-128	73-104	111-146	140-205	99-149
Over 700 lbs.....	75-114	74-96	110-130	120-180	99-129
Cows					
Utility/Commercial.....	65-82	62-80	70-104	84-114	58-87
Canner & Cutter.....	58-73	55-70	60-96	78-107	58-76
Stock Cows.....	950-1550	775-1500	1150-1750	1375-2300	1400-1800
Bulls – Slaughter.....	70-98	70-100	70-126	106-142	75-108

CATTLE ON FEED

March 18, 2016

United States Cattle on Feed Up 1 Percent
Cattle and calves on feed for the slaughter market in the United States for feedlots with capacity of 1,000 or more head totaled 10.8 million head on March 1, 2016. The inventory was 1 percent above

March 1, 2015.

Placements in feedlots during February totaled 1.71 million head, 10 percent above 2015. Net placements were 1.65 million head. During February, placements of cattle and calves weighing less than 600 pounds were 335,000 head, 600-699 pounds were 300,000 head, 700-799 pounds were 445,000 head, and 800 pounds and greater were 630,000 head.

Marketings of fed cattle during February totaled 1.59 million head, 5 percent above 2015.

Other disappearance totaled 58,000 head during February, 3 percent below 2015.

CATTLE OUTLOOK

March 18, 2016

USDA's March Cattle on Feed report says there were 0.8% more cattle on feed on March 1 than a year ago. February placements were up 10.3% and February marketings were up 4.9%. There was one extra day this February because of leap year. The average of the pre-release trade estimates were for February placements to be up 9.0%, February marketings to be up 4.6%, and March 1 on feed to be up 0.4%.

The average retail price of choice beef during February was \$5.986 per pound. That was 1.1 cents higher than a month earlier, but 28.4 cents lower than a year earlier. February retail choice beef prices were the highest since November. The average grocery store price of all fresh beef was \$5.792 per pound in February.

The 5 area average live price for slaughter steers was \$135/cwt in February. That was up 50 cents from January, but down \$24.90 from February 2015. February fed cattle prices were the highest since September.

Beef cutout values were higher this week. This morning the choice boxed beef cutout value was \$232.29/cwt, up \$8.17 from the previous Friday, but down \$12.09 from a year ago. The select carcass cutout was \$223.31/cwt, up \$8.06 from last week, but down \$21.25 from a year ago.

Fed cattle prices were higher this week in light volume. Through Thursday, the 5-area average price for slaughter steers sold on a live weight basis was \$140.52/cwt, up \$4.52 from last week's average, but down \$20.98 from a year ago. The 5-area average dressed steer price averaged \$224.37/cwt, up \$6.28 from the week before, but down \$30.91 from a year ago.

This week's cattle slaughter totaled 545,000 head, up 1.7% from last week and up 4.8% from a year ago. The average steer dressed weight for the week ending on March 5 was 888 pounds, up 1 pound from the week before and up 12 pounds from a year ago. This was the 90th consecutive week with steer weights above the year-ago level.

Prices at the Oklahoma City Stockyards this week were mostly \$3 to \$6 higher on feeder steers and even stronger on calves compared to last week. Prices for medium and large frame #1 steers by weight group were: 400-450# \$231-\$249.50, 450-500# \$213-\$223, 500-550# \$194-\$211.50, 550-600# \$185-\$201, 600-650# \$179.50-\$191, 650-700# \$169.50-\$184, 700-750# \$153.50-\$174.50, 750-800# \$147-\$162.50, 800-900# \$143.50-\$159 and 900-1000# \$140-\$151.75/cwt.

The April live cattle futures contract settled at \$139.82/cwt today, up 2 cents for the week. June fed cattle settled at \$129.10/cwt, up 55 cents from the previous week. The August contract ended the week at \$123.32/cwt, up 12 cents from the previous Friday. March feeder cattle ended the week at \$163.22/cwt, up 82 cents from a week earlier. April futures lost 52 cents this week to close at \$162.20/cwt. May feeder cattle settled at \$160.70/cwt and August closed out the week at \$159.55/cwt.

University of Missouri

CLASSIFIEDS

Animals

2 llamas for \$50 each, Homedale, Id 208-337-5870.

Quality 2 yr old Angus bulls. Semen and trich tested. Delivery possible. B&B Livestock, www.b-blivestock.com \$3,500, New Meadows (208)347-2345

Farm Equipment

2 Working Tractors: 1948 Massey-Ferguson N8 w/bucket - \$3650; Massey 1949 \$2000; OBO; 1950's wooden red manure spreader, works great (Brand unknown) \$800 OBO; Pony cart w/silver trim harness \$750 OBO Homedale, ID. Call 208-337-5870.

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

J.D. 4430 tractor with duals and front weights. 10,150 hours, good condition. \$15,000 OBO. Hazelton, Id. 208-731-4181.

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

JD 1700 MaxEmerg Plus Bean and Corn Planter. 22" or 30" rows, fertilizer boxes, markers, hillers, guide shanks, Schlagel closing wheels, and JD 250 seed monitor. Shedded, excellent condition. \$13,000. Twin Falls, ID 208-731-3246.

Household

Pioneer 55" HD TV - Older cabinet model. Very nice. Sold As-Is Condition. \$200. Pioneer Receiver - Used. As-Is condition. \$75. Shelley. Call 528-5337.

Water source geothermal heat pump. Hydroheat 4 or 5 ton water source heat pump for sale. Works great. \$1500 or Trades considered. Homedale 208-965-0968

Real Estate/Acreage

Park model for sale in Yuma Az. Located in a gated 55+ co-op park. 1 br, 1 bath, LP range and heat. AC, Cable TV. Completely furnished. Washer/dryer, 2 metal awnings. Lots of park amenities. For more information call 208-343-5243.

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

2 for 1. 2014 Manufactured home. 3 bed, 2 bath, lg bud room. Plus doublewide 3 br, 2 bath w/woodstove. Large yards. Storage sheds, 2 van storage, approx. 2 acres. Springfield, ID 208-680-1928.

Vehicles & Trailers

2013 Chevy Silverado Extended Cab. Like new. Only 4600 miles!! 4 wheel drive. Weiser. Call 208-550-1570.

1999 Sooner Legend 4 horse slant load all aluminum goose neck horse trailer; saddle rack transfers between rear tack compartment and front tack/dressing quarters. Low miles, good condition. \$14,500. Caldwell, Idaho. Call (208) 454-2606 or (208) 867-2754.

2014 Featherlite 4 horse. Fully enclosed, used very little. \$24,000 obo. Pocatello, Id 208-404-6846.

Wanted

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

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