



# Gem State Producer

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## Maintaining Our Edge in the World Market

## The Ag Agenda



By *Bob Stallman*  
*AFBF President*

It was Benjamin Franklin who said that no nation was ever ruined by trade. I would go one step further and say that no nation was ever economically viable without it.

Trade has always been a cornerstone of our country. The U.S. is considered a major epicenter of the

global marketplace and, because of this, trade is a big economic driver for our domestic workforce. Farm exports are significant to America's status as a world trade leader, as well as local jobs, but many opportunities are being left on the table because of a lack of funding for waterways infrastructure upgrades and costly regulations.

Earlier this fall, a group of AFBF board members visited the West Coast and Canada to examine the impact of barriers to agricultural trade. They observed several intertwined issues that affect farmers' abilities to export their goods to global customers, but most notable was port infrastructure.

See *STALLMAN*, page 8

## Searle Takes Reins as 14<sup>th</sup> Idaho Farm Bureau Federation President



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

It is a great honor to be elected President of the Idaho Farm Bureau. My name is Bryan Searle. I've been a Farm Bureau mem-

ber for 30 years. I grow potatoes, alfalfa, grain and canola seed in Bingham County. My wife's name is Mary and we have five grown children.

I have served on the Idaho Farm Bureau Board of Directors for the past 24 years. Prior to that I attended Ricks College and Eastern Idaho Technical College. I have passion for agriculture and my time on the State Board has taught me a lot about leadership. Through the years I've learned

that you can't just stay home and complain and hope things will get better. You have to be involved and my involvement with Farm Bureau has both taught me a lot and allowed my voice to be heard. Now, it's time to put that training to use and train others who are moving up in the organization.

The Idaho Farm Bureau is the Voice of Idaho Agriculture. That's not just a catch-phrase. It comes from our grassroots policy de-

See *SEARLE*, page 9

## Newspeak is Alive Within the EPA



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

As a high schooler in Rigby, I was assigned to read George Orwell's novel, "1984." The main character Winston Smith lives under a totalitarian government that de-

liberately distorts truth and monitors and controls all that its citizens do. I must admit that when I first read the novel, 1984 seemed far in the future, but I remember wondering how anything like this could ever happen in the United States. "Big Brother would not do this," and more naively I thought, "Big Brother would never allow this to happen."

In the novel, Orwell developed a new term: newspeak. Newspeak is a government publication in an of-

ficial or semiofficial style of writing, saying one thing and meaning the opposite, in order to serve a political or ideological cause while pretending to be objective, as in referring to increased taxation as "revenue enhancement," for example.

Sadly, 1984 is here and newspeak is rampant in the Obama administration. Late last month, the Government Accountability Office (GAO) reported that the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)

See *KELLER*, page 9



# IDAHO FARM BUREAU

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Technological advances like GPS and auto steering help producers manage their crops more efficiently. *Farm Bureau file photo*

# Ag Technology Thrives: Can It Survive Tough Times to Come?

By Carrie Veselka

Ag-related technology is becoming more refined and more widely available, according to ag-tech professionals at Farm Bureau’s annual state convention.

Farm Bureau hosted workshops during the convention focused on innovations in row crop and pivot technology, GPS and other software used for agriculture purposes, feed measurement systems and automatic monitoring systems used in the livestock industry and aerial monitoring of crops.

During the New Technology in Agriculture panel, ag-tech professionals introduced products from their companies and discussed the present state of agricultural technology, as well as its future.

Panel members included Brand Mackert of Pioneer Equipment, Zach Beutler of MWI Veterinary Supply, and Jeff Bulkley of United Distributors. The Aerial Monitoring workshop was facilitated by Tyson Coles of Empire Unmanned.

The ag-tech professionals unanimously agreed that the improvement farmers are most interested in cultivating is an increase in yield.

“Ultimately, what I see farmers want is more yield,” said Bulkley. “They want to improve their yield, and the way that they’re getting those improvements is through technology and through data.”

Researchers in and out of the agriculture industry have busied themselves with developing software and technology like GPS and automatic steering, which are becoming a common feature on many large farms.

“Yield’s a big thing, and tracking,” said Mackert. “The big thing is that the farmers want to know what their crop is do-

*See AG TECHNOLOGY page 4*

**Cover:** Milk prices dropped to near break-even levels in 2015. University of Idaho economists are predicting a bleak outlook for Idaho commodity prices in 2016. *Farm Bureau file photo*



# AG TECHNOLOGY

Continued from page 3



Aerial monitoring with drones is only one facet of Idaho's expanding ag tech industry. *Farm Bureau file photo*

ing and for us as equipment dealers, they want to track everywhere their tractor has been.”

Mackert said farmers can use a variety of software programs to extract the information they want from a specific plot of ground.

“A lot of times, with the combines when they’re threshing grain, (farmers) want to know their yield so they can map their fields so they can know if they have not enough fertilizer or not enough water, so they can keep track of that,” said Mackert.

Farming technology has become sophisticated enough that farmers can get enough information about their crops that they can tweak their practices to fit their needs exactly.

“With all the new technology that’s come

out between the last 10 to 15 years, with auto steer and rate control and mapping and prescriptions, we’ve hit the point where everyone’s just trying to manage their operations better and the best way to do that is knowledge from the field,” said Coles.

Bulkley said data recorded on farms is a hot commodity. He said farm data would be even more valuable in the next four or five years. These next few years will form a blueprint for growers and help them make informed choices concerning their crops.

“Their data in the next four or five years is going to be crucial in helping them compile that, and make decisions on it,” said Bulkley. “Whether it be water or fertilizer or corn or seed; any of that stuff, using the data is going to help them make deci-

sions.”

“They’re going to continue and try to make the operation a little better, and they will be needing some information to help them do that,” said Coles.

According to Coles, data is a sure way to see exactly what farmers are doing with their crops and exactly where they can improve.

“They can go out and farm year after year, but if they don’t have any data, as to know how their operation is running they don’t know certain things to try to change to try and make the operation better.

Mackert talked about a new software system called “telematics” that would give the farmer the ability to keep track of all

*See AG TECHNOLOGY page 16*

# 76th Annual Idaho Farm Bureau Convention

## Farm Bureau Elects Bingham County Farmer

Bryan Searle of Bingham County was elected to serve as the 14th Idaho Farm Bureau President during the organization's 76th Annual Meeting held in early December at Fort Hall.

Delegates from 36 county Farm Bureaus participated in the election. Frank Priestley of Franklin County served as Idaho Farm Bureau President for the past 18 years. Priestley was re-elected eight times and was the longest-serving president in the organization's history.

Farm Bureau Delegates re-elected Mark Trupp of Teton County as vice president. Tom Daniel of Boundary County, Chris Dalley of Bingham County, Rick Pearson of Twin Falls County, and Tracy Walton of Gem County were re-elected to the State Board of Directors. Dean Schwendiman of Fremont County stepped down as a director. He was replaced by Stephanie Mickelsen of Bonneville County. Cole Smith of Bear Lake County was re-elected as the Young Farmer and Rancher Chairman.

Sherril Tillotson of Bannock County, Doris Pearson of Twin Falls County, and Carol Rust of Benewah County were re-elected to serve on the Idaho Farm Bureau Women's Leadership Committee.

Searle has served on the Idaho Farm Bureau Board of Directors for the past 24 years. A third-generation farmer, Searle grows potatoes, grain, alfalfa and canola seed on a 5,500-acre farm. He and his wife Mary are the parents of five children. Searle graduated from the Eastern Idaho Technical College.

Delegates also discussed a variety of agriculture and natural resource policy matters. Delegates adopted new policy on grizzly bears and voted to oppose a recent water ruling in the Boise River drainage.

Farm Bureau's annual banquet drew more than 350 members, packing the Fort Hall Convention Center to capacity.

Jim and Carol Guthrie of Bannock County received the President's Cup Award. The Guthries are lifelong ranchers and have

*See CONVENTION page 6*



Bryan Searle was elected on December 3 as the new Idaho Farm Bureau President.



Jim and Carol Guthrie of Bannock County received the Idaho Farm Bureau President's Cup Award this year.

# CONVENTION

Continued from page 5



Idaho Farm Bureau Women of the Year for 2015 are from left to right, Sara Erb from Bingham County, Margaret Cook of Benewah County, Susan Brown of Madison County and Elizabeth Kohtz of Twin Falls County.



Kyle and Jessica Wade, center, of Bannock County won this year's Young Farmer and Rancher Excellence in Agriculture Award.

been involved in Farm Bureau for three decades. Carol served as the Idaho Farm Bureau Women's Chair for more than 15 years and currently serves on the American Farm Bureau Women's Committee. Jim has served as Bannock County Farm Bureau President for nearly two decades.

Winner of this year's Young Farmer and Rancher discussion meet was Paige Nelson of Jefferson County. She comes from a ranching family and works as a freelance journalist. She received a Polaris 450 HD ATV and an all-expense paid trip to Orlando, Florida to compete in the American Farm Bureau Discussion Meet in January.

Kyle and Jessica Wade of Bannock County won the Young Farmer and Rancher Excellence in Agriculture Award. Todd and Jenny Cook of Bingham County received the Young Farmer and Rancher Achiever Award. The Wades received a \$1,500 check while the Cooks won a Polaris 570 Ranger. The Cooks and the Wades will also travel to the American Farm Bureau Convention in Orlando, Florida in January to compete for the national Excellence in Agriculture and Achiever competitions.

Dealers from 16 Idaho Polaris Dealerships donated the 570 Ranger, valued at \$10,000.

Recognized as Women of the Year were Sara Erb of Bingham County, Susan Brown of Madison County, Elizabeth Kohtz of Twin Falls County and Margaret Cooke of Benewah County.





Todd and Jenny Cook, seated, of Bingham County won this year's Young Farmer and Rancher Achiever Award and a Polaris 570 Ranger.



Paige Nelson, seated, of Jefferson County, won this year's Young Farmer and Rancher Discussion Meet. She received a Polaris 450 HD.

# STALLMAN

Continued from page 2

## Port Investment = Jobs

Sadly, U.S. ports and waterways are decades behind our international competitors due to years of neglect and a lack of funding. Only about half of the Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund, which funds the operation and maintenance of ports, is being allocated toward port infrastructure, and the Water Resources Reform and Development Act (WRRDA), seems to be permanently docked in Congress.

While U.S. ports on average were last updated around the same time the Beatles cut their first album, our international competitors are continually investing in their trading future. The Port of Vancouver, for example, is undergoing a nearly

\$900 million infrastructure improvement program that will be completed next spring.

While on the West Coast, the AFBF leaders saw how critical the ports are for farm products and local jobs. For example, Washington is the nation's most trade-dependent state, where trade is responsible for 40 percent of all jobs. Agriculture products are Washington's third-largest export. In Oregon, one in five jobs depends on trade of farm products, accounting for 10 percent of Oregon's gross domestic product.

Further, the Port of Oakland supports 73,000 local jobs and 827,000 jobs across the country. Last year, nearly half the value of exports leaving the Oakland port were farm prod-

ucts. East Coast ports, too, are just as critical to farm exports and are in dire need of improvements.

## Rails, Regs and Red Tape

There are other issues that affect global exports, such as state efforts to prevent coal transport and export, which could affect rail investment and potentially raise transportation costs to all rail customers, including farmers. Rails play a significant role in trade. For example, 40 percent of all activity around the Seattle port is tied to rail, making its infrastructure maintenance essential.

Another growing challenge for ports, shippers and farmers is the cost of keeping pace


with the loading and handling requirements for larger vessels that shippers are using, along with federal regulations for exporters. In other words, a lot of red tape.

The U.S. wine industry is faced with such strict export rules and regulations that it takes a month on average from the time an international order is placed until it leaves the U.S., making us the smallest exporter of wine by percentage in the world.

To maintain our edge in the global market, we need to invest more in our ports and waterways infrastructure, as well as alleviate prohibitive regulations that are forcing farmers to leave opportunities on the table.

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# SEARLE

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velopment process. We work harder to involve our members and encourage them to come forward with their concerns. Our process is amazing and I've never seen another organization that comes close. We have full-time lobbyists in Boise and active volunteers in 36 counties who are willing to testify and stand up for our policies. Because of our policy development process, we have a direction and we know what we stand for when the legislative session starts every January.

One of our biggest challenges going forward is likely to be how we manage and allocate water. Our state's population is growing and placing more

demand on this resource. Increasing the amount of stored water is a critical need for Idaho.

One of our most important tools is marketing. When we work as hard as we do in agriculture, we have to make a return on our investment. We need opportunities and options. We can't be like robots. Through increased competition we gain the ability to demand better commodity prices and export excess commodities. As a potato grower, I know that even a slight increase in market demand can make a big difference and keep you in business year to year. Increasing marketing opportunities for Idaho farm-

ers will be a priority for me in the future.

Developing sound policy is critical for this organization. We can always do better and as a grassroots organization we need to reach further into our counties and find new members who are willing to give some of their time. We need strong county Farm Bureaus and we need to reach out to more farmers and ranchers around the state who can help make our policy development process even better.

I know that I have big shoes to fill in this new position. Frank Priestley and his wife Susan have dedicated 18 years leading this organization forward. Frank has been a mentor to

me and many others who have served on the State Board of Directors. Now it's important for us to move forward and improve on what many previous leaders established here.

We have faced big issues in the past and more difficult political issues are most certainly in our future. I believe if Idaho's farmers and ranchers are willing to work together and support each other, we can find solutions that maintain our industry as the vital engine that powers Idaho's economy.

Once again thank you for your support and please feel free to contact me at [bsearle@idahofb.org](mailto:bsearle@idahofb.org).

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# KELLER

Continued from page 2

broke federal law on multiple occasions by using "covert propaganda" in support of a controversial regulation that gives the agency power over nearly 99 percent of the waters of the United States (WOTUS).

The EPA is functioning as Orwell's Ministry of Truth, which was responsible for propaganda and historical revisionism. The EPA continues its newspeak as it declares that the need for the WOTUS rule is "only for clarification," "to protect our nation's waters," and "a rule public comments support." Not only do we know the agency's newspeak has covert objectives,

but we know that the EPA will also illegally distort the public comment phase to force their desired outcome.

U.S. Senator Jim Inhofe (R-OK), chairman of the U.S. Senate Environment and Public Works Committee requested that GAO investigate EPA's lobbying efforts to manipulate public input in order to enact the devastating and overreaching rule. Inhofe commented, "GAO's finding confirms that EPA will go to extreme lengths and even violate the law to promote its activist environmental agenda."

The courts have already raised questions about the legality of the WOTUS rule

and have temporarily halted it from going into effect. EPA officials act as if the law does not apply to them.

Bob Stallman, President of the American Farm Bureau Federation stated, "Courts already have declared serious doubts about the legal authority for the rule. Now that it has become clear that the agency used illegal tactics to manufacture ill-informed support for the rule, Congress should act immediately to prohibit its implementation of this rule, which is the product of an unlawful and misguided process."

Fortunately, Idaho's entire congressional delegation is on

record to stop this encroachment.

Another assigned book in school was "*Alice in Wonderland*," by Lewis Carroll. In the book, the March Hare chastised Alice with, "Then you should say what you mean." It is expected of us to "say what we mean and to mean what we say." We should expect nothing less of our government.

The year 1984 has come and gone, but George Orwell's prophetic, nightmarish 1949 vision of the world we were becoming is more real than ever. It was startling when I first read the novel. It is haunting now.



The Waters of the U.S. rule as pushed by the EPA and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers would give Federal agencies control of all navigable waters in the US including upstream waters, irrigation and even seasonal streams. *Farm Bureau file photo*

# WOTUS On Hold After Inquiry

*By Jake Putnam*

The Government Accountability Office found that the Environmental Protection Agency engaged in “covert propaganda” in violation of federal law by conducting a social media campaign aimed at gaining support for a controversial rule on regulating water quality, the agency reported in an opinion issued in mid-December.

“The EPA violated publicity, propaganda and anti-lobbying provisions contained

in appropriations acts with its use of certain social media platforms in association with its ‘Waters of the United States’ rule-making in fiscal years 2014 and 2015,” the GAO said in the report.

The report struck a chord with the American Farm Bureau that had lobbied against WOTUS rule from its inception.

“It’s clear from this report that EPA orchestrated this matter in a biased fashion,” said AFBF President Bob Stallman.

“Now it’s up to Congress to clean up this mess by including a corrective measure in the omnibus bill now taking shape on Capitol Hill.”

“Specifically, EPA violated the publicity or propaganda prohibition though its use of a platform known as Thunderclap that allows a single message to be shared across multiple Facebook, Twitter, and Tumblr accounts at the same time. EPA engaged in covert propaganda when the agency did not identify EPA’s role as the

creator of the Thunderclap message to the target audience,” the GAO said.

Auditors also found that the agency violated anti-lobbying rules by including EPA blog hyperlinks to public web pages urging people to contact Congress in support of the WOTUS rule.

“Courts already have declared serious doubts about the legal authority for the rule. Now that it has become clear that the agency used illegal tactics to manufacture ill-informed support for the rule, Congress should act immediately to prohibit implementation of this rule, which is the product of an unlawful and misguided process.”

The EPA defended its social media policy and told the New York Times that they’ve done nothing wrong.

“We use social media tools just like all organizations to stay connected and in-

form people across the country about our activities,” EPA spokesman Liz Purchia said in a written statement. “At no point did the E.P.A. encourage the public to contact Congress or any state legislature.”

The rule, pushed by the EPA and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, broadened agency authority over navigable waters to include upstream waters, irrigation and even seasonal streams. Farmers opposing the rule say it’s a blatant federal overreach that could force fellow landowners to get EPA approval to irrigate crops or drain fields.

The GAO launched the investigation after The New York Times reported last May on the EPA’s social media campaign supporting the WOTUS rule.

“G.A.O.’s finding confirms what I have long suspected, that E.P.A. will go to extreme lengths and even violate the law to

promote its activist environmental agenda,” said Oklahoma Senator James M. Inhofe, chairman of the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee. He blasted the “E.P.A.’s illegal attempts to manufacture public support for its Waters of the United States rule and sway congressional opinion.”

“We applaud U.S. Senate Environment and Public Works Chairman Jim Inhofe for asking GAO to conduct this investigation. The GAO findings vindicate those, like the American Farm Bureau Federation, who have claimed all along that EPA’s tactics advocating for this rule stepped past the bounds of proper agency rulemaking. EPA was focused only on promoting the rule rather than hearing good-faith concerns from a wide cross-section of Americans. The public deserves better when important matters of public policy are at stake,” said Stallman.



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# Focus on Agriculture

## Farmers and Ranchers Call for 'Tax Relief Tuesday'

*By Erin Anthony*

With the holiday season in full swing and the year quickly coming to an end, farmers and ranchers are urging Congress to reinstate and extend expired tax provisions that help improve the economic viability and stability of our food, fiber and fuel production. Farmers need provisions like section 179 small business expensing and bonus depreciation to help them make business purchases while dealing with un-

controllable weather and unpredictable markets.

This fall, Farm Bureau and more than 2,000 other companies and organizations sent a letter to lawmakers explaining why these provisions, most of which expired at the end of 2014, are so important. And today we're calling for a "Tax Relief Tuesday" to finally bring farmers, ranchers, and other small business owners across the country the relief and predictability they need for

economic growth. Failure to pass a bill extending these provisions amounts to a tax increase.

Farmers and ranchers need a tax code that gives them certainty for long-term business decisions that can grow and expand their operations.

Earlier this year, Congress took steps toward bringing these tax provisions back for 2015 and possibly longer. Back in July, the Senate Finance Committee extended through 2016 a pack-

age of tax provisions, including a number of those important to farmers and ranchers.

The Farm Bureau-supported provisions in the tax extender package include:

**Section 179 Small Business Expensing:** The maximum amount that a small business can immediately expense when purchasing business assets instead of depreciating them over time is \$25,000. Last year, the maximum amount was \$500,000, reduced dollar for dollar when expenditures exceed \$2 million.

**Bonus Depreciation:** An additional 50 percent bonus depreciation for the purchase of new capital assets, including agricultural equipment.

**Incentives for renewable fuels and energy,** including biodiesel, wind power and refueling property.

An enhanced deduction for donated

## Farmers and ranchers need a tax code that gives them certainty for long-term business decisions that can grow and expand their operations.

food.

A provision encouraging donations of conservation easements.

On the House side in February, lawmakers passed the permanent extension of Section 179 small business expensing (H.R. 636), the tax deduction for donating food (H.R. 644) and the tax deduction for donating conservation easements (H.R. 644).

In addition, the House Ways and Means Committee in September approved a bill (H.R. 2510) to permanently extend 50 percent bonus depreciation. The measure would also expand the provision to include fruit- and nut-bearing

plants with pre-productive periods of two or more years.

It's time for Congress to finish what they started. Delaying these tax extenders will only delay economic growth and prevent farmers and ranchers from reinvesting in their businesses and local communities. Join Farm Bureau in calling on Congress to bring small businesses across the country the tax relief they need.


*Erin Anthony is editor of the American Farm Bureau Federation's FBNews e-newsletter and website.*



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Economists are predicting a downturn in agriculture commodity prices in the coming year. *Farm Bureau file photo*

# U of I Extension Holds Seminar to Discuss Idaho Agriculture's Future

By Carrie Veselka

Farmers should prepare to tighten their belts as a downturn in the agricultural markets looms in the near future.

Economist Garth Taylor of the University of Idaho facilitated a discussion concerning Idaho's agricultural background and what that means for the future at the University of Idaho Extension's third annual Ag Outlook Seminar in December. He gave a sober forecast for Idaho's agricultural markets.

"Agriculture is down eight percent in 2015," said Taylor. "We've had some major increases. We're going to return to about where we were in 2012 in terms of our cash receipts."

Taylor said Idaho's agriculture dynamics have changed in recent years. "Idaho agriculture is livestock," said Taylor. "Our license plate should not read 'Famous Potatoes,' it should read 'Famous Milk.'"

It has changed since around 2001 from crops to livestock, and, according to Tay-

lor, has not changed since then.

According to the University of Idaho, 63 percent of cash receipts in 2015 were from milk, cattle, and other livestock products. "When you take the amount of hay and grain and other products that go in there, we're talking about 75 percent, as related to livestock in the state of Idaho," said Taylor. "It's a livestock-oriented agriculture system anymore in the state."

According to Taylor, hay is the largest crop in the state by acreage. Hay only ac-

counted for seven percent of cash receipts in 2015, but cash receipts only account for the hay sold on the market, not the hay raised and used at home by producers.

“It’s bought by the farmers themselves,” said Taylor. “They raise their own hay and their own silage, and that’s not counted in cash receipts, only sales are.”

Milk, Idaho’s biggest agricultural commodity, hit a rough patch in 2015.

“There is a disaster in milk; it’s down 27 percent this year,” said Taylor. “So goes milk, and so goes Idaho agriculture.”

Taylor said things didn’t bode well for the cattle market, either. “Their big boom is going to end real soon,” he said. “We’re not riding that anymore. It’s looking down for that one next year.”

Taylor said Idaho farmers and ranchers have enjoyed a long stretch of prosperity, productivity and good prices. He said innovations in farming technology and improvement in production practices have set farmers up to withstand the coming downturn in the markets.

According to the University of Idaho, potatoes increased in production value by 14 percent and yield increased by 44 percent from 1980 to 2013. Prices decreased 30 percent and acreage stayed the same in that time frame. Taylor attributes these increases to innovations in technology and crop yield.

“Any farmer will tell you that prices, in real dollar terms,

were better in 1980 than they are now,” said Taylor.

“We’re adding to the crop about four to six sacks per year, increasing yields,” said Taylor. “This is where farmers need innovation; they have to innovate.”

In the dairy sector, real production value increased 146 percent from 1980 to 2013. Prices have decreased 38 percent, milk production per cow has increased 59 percent, and the number of cows has increased by 124 percent. “We’ve added about 20,000 cows to the herd every year in the state of Idaho. Its slowed in the past few years, only adding 14,000 to 15,000 head.”

The outlook for Idaho’s farming sector as a whole doesn’t look bright. According to Taylor, the net farm income for Idaho went down 30 percent in 2015. Revenues went down eight percent and expenses went down two percent. Taylor said net farm income is and always has been extremely volatile and difficult to depend on.

“The volatility is the killer,” said Taylor. “I will not make much of a forecast on net farm income, it is always wrong. My biggest forecast is that we will continue to see a lot of volatility.”

Taylor said the volatility will be affected, among other things, by low commodity prices and that it will affect many different parts of Idaho’s economy. “But,” said Taylor, “that volatility does not translate to instability in rural communities.”

The ripple effects from income volatility tend to die

out once they reach the fields. Taylor said despite changes in value and price, cows must still be milked, fed, and cared for and crops still need to be planted, watered and fertilized. That regularity and dependability helps keep agriculture on track.

Taylor said another saving quality of rural communities is their dedication to their work. Regardless of low prices, inauspicious growing conditions and a less-than-ideal economy, farmers will always press forward, putting every acre in production and using their resources to the fullest to bring about a successful harvest.

During low periods in the economy and slumps in the market, farmers use their

common sense and economize. “Mom’s not going to get her new fuchsia refrigerator this year, and Dad’s not going to get his new pickup,” said Taylor. “They’re going to start eating capital and living off their depreciation, but the stability in rural areas is not going to go away, in large part.”

Taylor said farmers should be able to weather this kind of economic downturn in agriculture better than they have in the past. “The declines in Idaho agriculture are nothing compared to what is happening nationally,” he said.

Taylor said agriculture is a mainstay in Idaho’s economy and will be a solid foothold in the face of the economic challenges that are sure to come.

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# AG TECHNOLOGY

Continued from page 4

**“The growers nowadays are very intelligent, they’re going to continue to look at ways to try to make the farm more efficient and get through those tough times. They might pull back on the reins, analyze things a little better and make sure they’re making correct decisions.”**

of their equipment from one location.

“It gives the farmer the ability to view all their equipment, track every bit of what that piece is doing as far as burning fuel, the places it’s been, the performance its doing, and what it does is give them the ability to set that up themselves and run everything of an iPad or a desktop, right in their office,” said Mackert. “They can track everything that piece is doing.”

An unavoidable problem in the agriculture industry is machine malfunction. With the new telematics system, the equipment automatically notifies administrators of the break down.

“If something happens the equipment will send off a code or signal to whoever is authorized to see it, most likely the person in the office, and it will send a signal off to the dealer so that they can get things rolling and be proactive about fixing things,” said Mackert. “As soon as the machine breaks down, they know what to fix before the farmer does. That way we can have a service guy on the way to fix it if there are any issues.”

Coles said this is the first year the use of drones for farm management purposes has been legalized.

Empire Unmanned has enjoyed a successful first year, despite the relatively unknown, unexplored range of use for drones.

Empire Unmanned largely does crop monitoring, but Coles expects that drones will exceed both their current work roles and capacity for labor. Coles said that one model was recently released that can carry up to 55 pounds of fluid, be it chemicals or water. He said drones are more widely used in Japan and other countries that already have regulations and guidelines in place to monitor drone usage.

Tyson said there are few, if any, flight regulations in place and it makes things difficult for those attempting to use drones in crop production. Coles is optimistic about the future of drones in agriculture.

The main concern with new technology like the telematics and the expansion into aerial monitoring is that they require a certain amount of time and investment, and if markets drop of and times get tough, farmers may have to cut back

on their explorations.

“There’s going to be a fine line,” said Mackert. “You’re going to have your big farmers, your big producers. I don’t see them purchasing as much, but they’re still going to purchase and the smaller farmers will probably go with what they’ve got.

Bulkley foresees a small drop in the ag-tech market in response to lower commodity prices, but nothing to cause real concern.

“I haven’t seen a decline in what I’m doing, but I’m sure that it’s going to pinch all of us if it does decline. I’m still enjoying technology a lot and guys are still using technology,” said Bulkley. “We still have guys investing in technol-

ogy, there’s guys making big investments in technology. I think that you’re going to see guys buying less big-dollar equipment and trying to get, with small investments, yield increases and I think, with the technology that we’re talking about, you’re going to see those increases.”

Coles expects farmers will continue to seek innovation as they always have.

“The growers nowadays are very intelligent,” said Coles. “They’re going to continue to look at ways to try to make the farm more efficient and get through those tough times. They might pull back on the reins, analyze things a little better and make sure they’re making correct decisions.”

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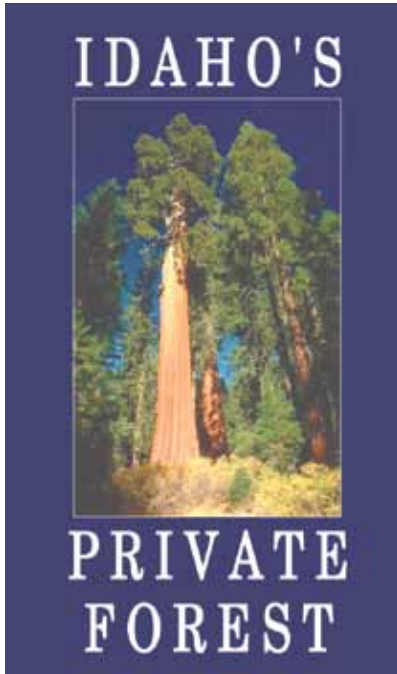
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# Salvage & Silviculture



*Article and photos by Chris Schnepf*

The Pacific Northwest had many fires last year. For some, forest fires conjure images of trees completely vaporized by fire. But crown fires often move through a forest fairly rapidly, consuming tree needles and fine branches and leaving charred snags. Chopping into those trees often reveals sound wood.

Salvage sales can be set up in response to anything that kills trees, including insects, disease, fire, or storms. For example, many forest owners in Bonner and Kootenai counties will be considering salvage for trees downed in wind storms in November and December of 2015. Salvage sales have different criteria depending on what killed or is killing the trees, the time of year, and markets available for what might be salvaged. Here we will focus primarily on salvaging trees killed by wildfire.

## **Beware of falling trees**

Trees killed in a fire may be unstable. As you assess your property, be aware of this hazard and wear a hard hat. Felling trees near frequently used trails or roads on your property reduces this hazard. If you drop trees for safety purposes, felling them parallel to slope will help catch eroded sediments generated by the fire and keep them



Some trees burned in fires may be salvaged.

from entering streams.

## **Is the wood good?**

First, check with your mills to see how much they are paying for what kinds of burn-salvaged timber – it may or may not be worth hauling to the mill. The woody parts of the tree that do not make it into

boards are typically sold by the mill for paper chips. If the char is limited to the bark, the price reduction may be small, since the char is removed with the bark. But if the fire gets into the wood, the chips may not be sellable for paper. Carefully manufacturing logs to leave out pieces with burned wood can help make logs more useable.

## Salvage sooner than later

Dead trees' wood quality degrades over time. Generally, the sooner you can harvest fire-killed trees, the better. Landowners often ask how much time they have to salvage trees before they "turn blue." Blue stain is a fungi that turns wood blue to grey. While blue stain does not degrade wood quality, most mills still deduct for the discoloration. Blue stain is commonly introduced by bark beetles, which feed in the phloem – the green layer between the bark and the wood of the tree. Since burned trees were not killed by bark beetles, the wood may not be blue, but eventually, the trees will attract wood boring insects, which may introduce blue stain.

Trees stressed but not killed by fire may attract bark beetles. Such trees may stain fairly quickly. The speed at which wood "blues" is variable, probably depending on moisture or other local environmental factors. To avoid price reductions for blue-stain, get beetle-attacked trees to the mill as soon as possible.

Beyond blue stain, pouch fungus, another decay fungus brought in by bark beetles and wood borers, has more structural consequence, because it decays the sapwood. To prevent decay from pouch fungus, try to salvage beetle-killed trees in less than two years. Removing trees killed by Douglas-fir beetle before May of the following year, prevents beetles from those trees emerging and killing additional trees.

### Is it dead yet?

In addition to trees clearly killed by fire, some trees will be partially burned or stressed by the fire, especially at fire edges and where the fire stayed on the ground surface. Whether a tree will die is always a judgement call, but different species are more likely to survive fire damage than others. We have an excellent extension publication on post-fire responses titled "After the Burn" (go to <http://www.uidaho.edu/extension/forestry/content/fire/ecology> and click on "After the Burn: Assessing and Managing Your Forestland After a Wildfire" under "Publications"). In addition to a variety of other post-fire in-



Keeping culverts open after a forest fire is critical.

formation, the publication has tables to help you assess whether a tree will survive some degree of scorch.

### Roads

If you are building or re-establishing a road for a timber sale, you might want to err on the side of larger culverts, or better

yet bridges on larger stream crossings. If a large amount of land area has burned in your watershed, drainage flows and sediment loads may increase, which can plug stream crossings. Larger drainage devices reduce the risk of expensive and environmentally damaging road failures.

*See UI FORESTRY page 22*

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# Farm Bureau Hires Lobbyist

Braden Jensen from Tremonton, Utah was recently hired as a lobbyist working with Idaho Farm Bureau's Governmental Affairs Team in Boise.

Jensen grew up on a farm in Box Elder County. His parents are active in the Utah Farm Bureau and farm 350 acres of wheat, alfalfa, corn and onions. They also run 2,000 head of sheep.

Jensen is a graduate of Bear River High School and Utah State University. He received undergraduate degrees in Agriculture Business, Agriculture Systems Technology and Spanish. His master's degree is in Applied Economics. As part of his master's program he and his wife Shalissa served in Paraguay for 27 months. She is a school teacher, currently teaching third grade in a dual language emersion program at Bridger Elementary School in Logan.

The couple will make their home in the Boise area. Jensen begins work on January 4. His email address is [bjensen@idahofb.org](mailto:bjensen@idahofb.org).

"Braden will be a tremendous addition to the Idaho Farm Bureau Governmental Affairs Team," said Russ Hendricks, IFBF Director of Governmental Affairs. "He has a solid agricultural background and a wealth of experience to draw upon."



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# UI FORESTRY

Continued from page 19

## Keeping biological legacies

Just because you can take a tree to a mill doesn't mean you should, depending on your objectives. Fire is a normal part of western forest ecosystems. Forest plants and trees have adapted to fire in many different ways. So have wildlife species. For example, black-backed woodpeckers specialize on burnt-over forests. If wildlife are important to you, leave some charred snags, especially trees with defects in log quality, such as forks, crook, or sweep. These trees will provide wildlife and soil benefits for decades or longer, while they are standing, after they fall, and as they decay into the ground. For more information, see "Managing Organic Debris for Forest Health" available at <http://www.cals.uidaho.edu/edComm/pdf/PNW/PNW0609.pdf>.

## Reforestation

Because of 100 years of fire exclusion, partial harvesting, and introduced diseases, many family forests' species composition has shifted from pines and larch to much heavier proportions of shade tolerant species such as Douglas-fir and grand fir. Post fire is an occasion to restore species to the site that are ultimately more tolerant of drought, fire, insects and disease.

Many shrubs and other plants are highly adapted to disturbance by fire. For example, since fires can volatilize ni-

trogen from a site, many of the first species to dominate a site after a fire (red-stem and slick leaf ceanothus, snowberry, alder) also fix nitrogen. These plants can help stabilize slopes, restore nutrients, and feed wildlife. But shrubs and grasses can also impede reforestation, especially on dry sites. Establish tree seedlings promptly to give them a head start. We have a variety of extension publications and articles on reforestation - go to <http://www.uidaho.edu/extension/forestry/content/management/silviculture> for a sampling.

## Weed Invasion

Many weed species can take advantage of the bare soils created by a fire. Have logging equipment thoroughly cleaned before it comes to your property, to remove as much weed seed as possible. Monitor the timber sale and associated access roads after the sale for weeds and control new patches promptly.

Seeding roadsides with grasses and other plants reduces erosion, suppresses weeds, and provides forage for livestock and big game. For more information, see a University of Idaho Extension publication titled "Grass Seeding Forest Roads, Skid Trails, and Landings in the Inland Northwest" (PNW628) available at <http://www.cals.uidaho.edu/edComm/pdf/PNW/PNW628.pdf>. Note that grass is a very effective competitor for moisture, especially on drier sites. If establishing new tree seedlings is a pri-

mary objective, limit grass seeding to areas where significant soil erosion may be an issue.

Salvage: an opportunity to accomplish other objectives

Do you have a forest management plan for your property? Be sure to carry out the salvage in concert with that plan, so roads and harvests are consistent with your long-range goals. Design new roads and skid trails to be useful for future harvests and other activities on your property. Take advantage of equipment, expertise, or income associated with a timber sale to address your other values for the property. For example, if you already have

a cat coming out to skid logs, also build or maintain other roads as needed, since you are already paying the cost to get the equipment to the site.

Wood is not the only value that can be salvaged from fire

People who live in areas with extensive fires may see people coming to harvest edible wild mushrooms. Some species of morels come in abundantly the first couple of years after a wildfire, especially with adequate moisture to support their growth.

If you do not charge people to harvest on your land, you are generally not legally liable for any accidents they might have. But if you want rev-

## Notice of Annual Meeting of Farm Bureau Mutual Insurance Co. of Idaho

To all policyholders: The 2016 annual meeting for policyholders of Farm Bureau Mutual Insurance Co. of Idaho will be held on Friday, Feb. 5, 2016, at 10 a.m. at the company's home office at 275 Tierra Vista Drive in Pocatello, Idaho. You are invited to attend.

Rick D. Keller  
Secretary

## Notice of Stockholders Meetings

The following annual stockholders meetings will take place Friday, Feb. 5, 2016, at the Idaho Farm Bureau home office, 275 Tierra Vista Drive in Pocatello, Idaho. The board of directors for each company will be elected at these meetings.

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

Rick D. Keller  
Executive Vice President, CEO

# UI FORESTRY

enue, you should have some sort of written contract that clearly spells out legal liabilities and insurance requirements, just as you would for a timber sale.

Just like some deer and elk hunters, commercial mushroom hunters may not always be clear where property boundaries lie, especially where private and public forests co-mingle. If mushroom harvesters trespass on your land, contact your county sheriff's office. English is not the first language of some commercial mushroom harvesters. Your county sheriff's office may have already made arrangements with interpreters to help them interact with commercial mushroom harvesters.

## Taxes

If you have been keeping good records on your forest management, the damage you suffered may qualify as a "casualty loss." For more information, check the National Timber Tax website, <http://timbertax.org> - type "fire" into the search engine.

## Assistance

To help you plan and contract a salvage sale, it is wise to seek assistance from a professional forester, especially if you are deciding on trees which may or may not be near death. If someone claiming to be a logger or forester knocks on your door, and seems to imply every tree with some brown needles will die shortly, ask for

credentials and check with a reputable forester to assess the actual threat before cutting trees.

Limited technical forestry assistance is available from Forest Practice Advisors with the Idaho Department of Lands (IDL). For more comprehensive assistance, consulting foresters offer timber inventory, timber sale administration, tree planting, and many other services for a fee. As your representative, the consultant's success depends on keeping you satisfied by getting top prices for your logs while meeting your land management goals. Make sure you confirm the consultant fee before agreeing to the work, call references, and check credentials.

## Conclusion

Fire has always lived large in western forests' ecology and management. It is heartbreaking to have trees killed by fire on your property, but our forests are relatively adapted to fire, and with some prompt attention you can sometimes salvage significant value and put your forest on back on track to meet your management objectives - sometimes on a better trajectory than it was originally on.

*Chris Schnepf is an area extension educator - forestry - for the University of Idaho in Bonner, Boundary, Kootenai and Benewah counties. He can be reached at [cschnepf@uidaho.edu](mailto:cschnepf@uidaho.edu).*

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# Prepare for Marketing Challenges in the Upcoming Year



**Clark Johnston**

Well, it's the beginning of a new year with renewed enthusiasm about the year ahead. Even with agricultural commodities looking depressed when compared to the past few years it's pretty difficult to be in the agriculture business if we are always looking at a half empty glass.

You have faith that the crop you plant will emerge and grow into a good yielding commodity. The calves that you helped hit the ground will be healthy and grow to just the right weight when it's time to contract.

As a group, producers are more optimistic than people in other professions. And this is what will get you through this upcoming year. I'm not saying that prices for your commodities will be lower than they are now but, I think it could be a battle to contract at levels that will give you the opportunity to be profitable.

When I say a battle I mean that you will need to watch the markets closely and understand what they are telling you. For instance, is there a carry charge in the futures and if so, just how much carry is the market willing to pay you to store your wheat. Does the carry give you the opportunity to contract your grain into one of the deferred contract months?

Now that we are watching the carry charge in the futures markets it is very important to also keep an eye on the basis. Watching and understanding the basis is where you will make your money in this upcoming year.

Remember, basis is the spread between the local cash bid and the price on the futures

market. Basis can be either a negative or a positive number and is a very good indicator of the local supply/demand. Historically we see the basis for soft white strengthen between the first of July and the end of November and this year was no different than history.

This year alone there was good amount of profit to be made in soft white by simply selling the December wheat futures in the first part of July and then waiting for the basis to strengthen into the first of December to contract your soft white. This strategy isn't necessarily a gimme but it will provide you with the opportunity if you have studied the market and the seasonal trends.

As we are looking at which crops to plant in the spring there is a little bit of a silver lining in the white wheat markets. According to the latest USDA reports we are looking at a reduction in the stocks to use ratio in white wheat when all other classes of wheat are increasing the stocks to use ratio moving into the 2016 crop.

This could very well give white wheat the potential for stronger basis for the upcoming crop year. Overall white wheat is looking at a ratio of 20 percent while all wheat combined is projected to be 43 percent. Hard white is included in the white wheat number. The cash bids for hard white this year have been disappointing but the demand is still there in the domestic market and we could see better markets for the 2016 crop year.

The local demand for hard white in south-east Idaho has been very good so far this

year as the mills continue to grind their normal amounts. We wouldn't expect this demand to weaken in the upcoming year. We are however seeing some spot demand for 13 plus protein hard white.

Keep in mind that you are already in your marketing year for the 2016 crop. You haven't missed out on any opportunities so far that you can't recover from but, it will be important to start planning right now. If you have already outlined your marketing plan then be ready to adjust as we move forward into the spring.

Watch your input costs also and be ready to shop these markets. At the current level of diesel fuel you may want to look into some programs I have recently heard. There are some contracts out there where you could lock in your fuel cost for the next two years. It may be wise to at least look into this type of plan just to see the level you will be paying over this time frame.

These plans would be beneficial in your budgeting as well as giving you protection from the unforeseen over this time frame.

*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](mailto:clark@jcmanagement.net)*



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# Let's Finish the Job!

*By Russ Hendricks*

Back in the late 90's during the Snake River Basin Adjudication, Idaho ranchers dutifully filed claims on water rights they had used for generations to water their livestock on land that is now administered by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM).

Eventually, the ranchers discovered the BLM had also quietly filed more than 10,000 claims across southern Idaho on the same water. When confronted, the BLM didn't withdraw their bogus claims. Instead, the BLM blackmailed the ranchers into submission. The ranchers were told if they protested the BLM's claims, the federal government would drag the appeals process out until the ranchers went broke trying to defend their legitimate rights.

Though the express purpose of government is to protect the rights of its citizens, shamefully the BLM was actively seeking to destroy legitimate rights. Even worse, the State of Idaho turned its back on the ranchers' pleas to defend their water rights, providing tacit approval of the BLM's illegal plan.

Although the BLM had no legal right to the water, the ranchers stood by helplessly as the BLM moved forward with their fraudulent claims. Since the state had abandoned them, the ranchers knew they could not hope to compete with the deep pockets of the BLM and their federal attorneys. That is, everyone except for two very courageous and stubborn Farm Bureau members, Tim Lowry and Paul Nettleton. Both Tim and Paul knew the BLM's claims had no legal basis. They realized that if nobody forced the courts to recognize that fact, the BLM would get away with stealing water rights from Idaho ranchers.

Tim and Paul took on the herculean task of proving the federal government was wrong. True to their word, the BLM strung out the proceedings as long as they possibly could. The BLM lost at every step, but appealed each time, knowing full well the ranchers could not continue to sustain the cost of the legal fees. Fortunately for all of us, Tim and Paul hung in there long enough for the case to go all the way through the Idaho Supreme Court. After nearly 10 years of litigation, the BLM ultimately lost on every point of their case.

Tim, Paul and their families had won a great legal victory for Idahoans, but at a tremendous cost. The Idaho Supreme Court ruled that the federal government does not own livestock and cannot put stock water to beneficial use. Therefore, the BLM cannot own stock water rights. However, in a cruel twist of fate, the Court also ruled that it could not require the federal government to pay the plaintiffs' attorneys' fees. Tim and Paul now face the very real threat of losing their entire ranching operations to overwhelming legal bills.

The state of Idaho was dead wrong when they declined to stand-up to the federal government's scheme to defraud our citizens. Now, more than 15 years later, it is time to right that egregious wrong. Since Idaho abdicated its obligation to protect the rights of its citizens, it must at least pay the attorney fees that are threatening the Lowry and Nettleton families. This was a far-reaching, precedent setting case that is a benefit for all Idaho citizens.

Amazingly, not long after this court decision, the U.S. Forest Service attempted the very same thing. They filed on stock water rights in North Idaho through the North Idaho Adjudication. Fortunately, Idaho



Russ Hendricks

Department of Water Resources Director Gary Spackman was aware of this ruling. The Department sent a letter to the Forest Service requiring them to show how they were putting these stock water rights to beneficial use. Within two weeks, the Forest Service withdrew their illicit stock water right claims.

Surprisingly, Idaho has never officially codified this important Supreme Court decision. Utah however, recognized its value and codified it into law back in 2009. Since Idaho may not always have an IDWR Director who understands how important it is to protect against federal encroachment of our water rights, we too must ensure this important decision is included in Idaho law.

Therefore, the Idaho Farm Bureau, along with other allied organizations, will be sponsoring the Idaho Stockwater Rights Restoration Act this legislative session. Please contact your legislators and ask them to support this important bill. Also, tell them the state of Idaho must appropriate money to cover the cost of this important legal victory. Paul and Tim were brave enough to begin this job; now it is time that we all work together to finish it.

# Prior Appropriation Reservoir One-Fill

By Lynn Tominaga

Recently, Treasure Valley Water Users (TVWU) have launched an unprecedented public relations campaign to change the way the State of Idaho tracks water rights using its computerized model. At the center of the attack is the Idaho Department of Water Resources (IDWR) “one fill rule” or what might be called second refill policy. This policy is used when more snow in the mountains is expected to result in more run-off than reservoirs can store. In years when there is a lot of snowmelt and runoff, federal agencies- the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation and U.S. Corp of Army Engineers, determine if, when, and how much, flood control water will be evacuated from storage. These federal agencies have the authority to release any amount of water they see fit to protect property in the flood plain.

There is a risk that, once water is released to prevent flooding in the Treasure Valley, any changes to the estimated snowpack could result in the reservoir not refilling. If they underestimate reservoir storage, there will be flooding in the valley. If they overestimate, reservoir storage will not refill. Under the one-fill rule, storage rights are treated like all other water rights; meaning that the water right holder is entitled to receive the full quantity of water only once under their senior priority. In their attack on IDWR, the Treasure Valley Water Users seem to forget this point of law. If their space does not fill following flood control leases, even though they may already be diverting water, they seem to expect that their storage space be filled a second or even a third time. This greatly expands their original water right and affects junior water right holders. During times of plentiful water, releases from the reservoirs are done in the name of flood control, which puts Idaho’s storage water under federal control. They can release any amount of water they see fit to protect property in the flood plain and have federal authority to do so.

TVWU say that the Idaho Department of Water Resources has recently changed the rules of how their water rights have been tracked. Not so. If you talk to the previous five directors of the department spanning over 35 years the one-fill rule has been followed consistently since 1977 in the Upper Snake Basin, 1986 in the Boise Basin, and 1996 in the Payette Basin. Shouldn’t the TVWU be working with the federal agencies to insure they don’t release more water than is necessary? IDWR is not operating the reservoirs, they only keep track water right diversions and reservoir releases.

The Prior Appropriation Doctrine protects all water users, not just senior water rights. It does so by protecting them in order of their priority. They have the first rights and are allowed their full decree of quantity but only once and no more. Once the seniors get their water, then juniors get their water rights. If the TVWU get their way, junior water holders would not get their water rights yet seniors could get their storage water rights two or three times. It just isn’t fair.

If the TVWU get what they want the federal agencies will gain more control of Idaho’s water, giving those federal agencies a free hand in releasing flood control water without needing to consider how to satisfy other water rights or balance flood control and irrigation storage rights. The question is how to balance the needs of federal agencies responsible for flood control with the needs of senior and junior water users in the Treasure Valley.

This balance has been found in the Upper Snake and Big Wood Basins, between the same federal agencies responsible for flood control in the Treasure Valley and irrigation storage right holders. In those circumstances, the senior irrigation storage right holders obtain a second water right to fill their reservoir space that is available to them after the junior water rights have been satisfied. In the Treasure Valley, this



Lynn Tominaga

should be easy to do with only 13,800 acre feet of junior natural flow waters to protect over of the 1.1 million acre feet of reservoir storage. This seems to be a simpler solution than trying to revise the Prior Appropriation Doctrine, something courts in Idaho have clearly maintained is the overriding principle in water administration.

Idaho has benefited from its firm adherence to the “Prior Appropriation Doctrine.” It is startling to us the senior water users, who have defended that doctrine in the courts are now trying to change it now by abandoning these principles and water accounting system which has successfully kept the federal agencies feet to the fire to balance flood control and reservoir storage. It would be a shame for the legislature to modify this doctrine for the benefit of some water users at the expense of others, how can Idaho hope to defend it in the future?

*Lynn Tominaga is the Executive Director of Idaho Ground Water Appropriators, Inc. IGWA represents 1 million acres of ground water irrigation on the Eastern Snake Plain Aquifer.*



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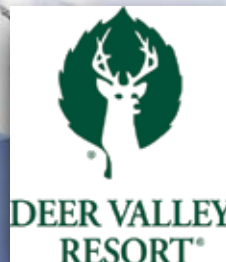
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**Questions? Call Joel 208-239-4289**

## Beef STEM Event to Engage Science Coordinators

WASHINGTON, D.C., - The American Farm Bureau Foundation for Agriculture has announced an on-farm experience for science curriculum coordinators, funded by the Beef Checkoff. Selected participants will receive a \$2,000 stipend to attend.

The “On the Farm STEM Experience” will be held March 28-30, 2016, immediately prior to the National Science Teachers Association annual convention in Nashville, Tennessee. The application and additional information can be found at <http://www.agfoundation.org/projects/beef-educator-event>.

Science curriculum coordinators are leaders at the district level who influence professional development and training for classroom science teachers. This event

seeks to provide coordinators with real-world experience connecting science to the beef industry. As part of the experience, leaders will visit beef production facilities, meet beef producers and their livestock, and have access to Foundation education consultants to help explore the connections between STEM and beef production.

State agricultural literacy organizations are encouraged to invite curriculum coordinators from urban districts to apply. The Foundation is offering an incentive to state Agriculture in the Classroom programs, state Beef Councils and state Farm Bureaus that encourage coordinators to apply. Once the attendees are selected, those organizations that referred the selected participant will receive a \$250 credit for the Foundation Resource Store or a \$250 cash card to

support educational efforts. Applications close Jan. 22. For additional information, contact Angela Mayfield at [educationdirector@fb.org](mailto:educationdirector@fb.org).

The Beef Checkoff Program funded development of this program. The Beef Checkoff Program ([www.MyBeefCheckoff.com](http://www.MyBeefCheckoff.com);) was established as part of the 1985 farm bill. The checkoff assesses \$1 per head on the sale of live domestic and imported cattle, in addition to a comparable assessment on imported beef and beef products. In states with qualified beef councils, states retain up to 50 cents of the dollar and forward the other 50 cents per head to the Cattlemen’s Beef Promotion and Research Board, which administers the national checkoff program, subject to USDA approval.

## Members of Congress Urge Review of EPA

WASHINGTON, D.C., - A crush of supporters recently filed friend-of-the-court briefs, joining the American Farm Bureau Federation in urging the U.S. Supreme Court to hear arguments on the Environmental Protection Agency’s plan to micro-manage state land-use and development decisions under the guise of the Chesapeake Bay water quality “blueprint.”

Filers included 92 members of Congress, 22 states, forestry groups represented by the Pacific Legal Foundation, and a broad cross-section of the U.S. economy represented by the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, the National Association of Manufacturers and the National Federation of Independent Business.

Farm Bureau members may choose from two dozen workshops covering a variety of topics and issues on Sunday, Jan. 10 and Monday, Jan. 11. Topics covered will include environmental regulations, the latest ag technology trends, trade, food safety and transparency, economic issues affecting today’s farmers, and skills and ideas leaders can take home and apply at their county and state Farm Bureaus.

“The fact that so many voices are being raised in support of Supreme Court review shows the broad and severe threat that EPA’s action here poses nationwide,” AFBF President Bob Stallman said. “EPA has asserted powers that do not appear in any law written by Congress, and it has done so in the context of an iconic national treasure, hoping that will inoculate its power grab in the courts. We have faith that the nation’s highest court will see this for what it is and hold EPA accountable to stay within its statutory authority.”

Despite aggressive new commitments and water quality achievements by the six states in the Bay watershed in the mid-2000s, the EPA asserted federal control over the Chesapeake Bay recovery in its 2010 “blueprint.” The new federal plan effectively gives EPA the ability to function as a super-zoning authority over local and state governments--dictating where homes can be built, where land can be farmed, and where commercial development can occur.

The plan will impose tens of billions of dollars in direct costs--with unknown economic impacts on local communities and

economies. It also denies state and local governments and businesses the flexibility to adapt to new circumstances, instead locking in limits that can quickly become outdated but can only be revised by EPA. The lower courts upheld EPA’s blueprint on the theory that it furthers the water quality goals of the Clean Water Act--despite the absence of words in the statute authorizing such federal action. A significant issue presented for the Supreme Court is the degree to which courts should defer to broad agency interpretations of their statutory power.

“The broad support for the Farm Bureau petition shows that deep concerns about the Bay blueprint go far beyond agriculture and far beyond the Bay region,” said AFBF General Counsel Ellen Steen. “Members of Congress, states and business groups recognize that this illegal framework will be imposed throughout the country unless the Court intervenes. Given the enormous social and economic consequences, not to mention the grave questions about federalism and deference to agency overreaching, this is a case that cries out for Supreme Court review.”

## AFBF's 2016 Annual Convention

WASHINGTON, D.C., - Election of a new president and vice president to lead the American Farm Bureau Federation, great speakers and dynamic educational workshops will highlight the organization's 2016 Annual Convention & IDEAg Trade Show in January. The event takes place Jan. 9-12 at the Orange County Convention Center in Orlando, Florida.

Nearly 7,000 Farm Bureau members from across the nation are expected to gather to hear from distinguished leaders and participate in a grassroots policy-setting process that will guide AFBF through 2016. During the annual convention's business session, voting delegates will select new leaders for the nation's largest farming and ranching organization.

Farm Bureau members may choose from two dozen workshops covering a variety of topics and issues on Sunday, Jan. 10 and Monday, Jan. 11. Topics covered will include environmental regulations, the latest ag technology trends, trade, food safety and transparency, economic issues affecting today's farmers, and skills and ideas leaders can take home and apply at their county and state Farm Bureaus.

In addition, directly related to AFBF's mission to enhance and strengthen the lives of rural Americans and to build strong, prosperous agricultural communities, a trio of workshops will zero in on today's hottest rural development topics. Finding

and funding rural entrepreneurs, navigating grant programs, and serving those who have served our nation through the Farm Bureau Patriot Project will be covered.

Full workshop descriptions will be available in the program on-site in Orlando.

### Convention kickoff

The convention kicks off with the opening general session on Sunday morning, when AFBF President Bob Stallman will share Farm Bureau's direction for 2016. At the closing general session on Monday morning, acclaimed real estate mogul and "Shark Tank" investor Barbara Corcoran will give the closing keynote address, providing insights on teamwork and courage when faced with pressure-filled situations.

### Cultivation Center

On Sunday and Monday, the Cultivation Center on the IDEAg Trade Show floor will serve as the educational centerpiece of the trade show. Located in the middle of the show floor, behind the AFBF booth, the Cultivation Center features a seating area where exhibitors, sponsors, educators and ag enthusiasts will present 15- to 30-minute sessions. Topics will include exhibitors' newest and best ideas, FRED Talks (Farmer and Rancher Education) and previews of upcoming convention sessions.

The Cultivation Center is also the location for the AFBF Presidential Candidates Forum (Jan. 9), Farm Bureau Rural Entrepre-

neurship Challenge live competition (Jan. 10) and the Young Farmers and Ranchers Discussion Meet "final four" round (Jan. 11).

Foundation for Agriculture events. Members attending the convention are encouraged to support ag literacy by bidding on items in the online/onsite auction and purchasing tickets to attend Flapjacks With the Foundation, the Foundation Golf Classic or the Foundation's Night Out, which includes a live auction featuring sports packages and trips. Learn more at [annualconvention.fb.org](http://annualconvention.fb.org).

### Registration

Before registering online at <http://annualconvention.fb.org/register/>, farmer and rancher members should check with their state Farm Bureau office to see if they have already been registered. The full Farm Bureau member convention registration fee is \$100 for Saturday, Jan. 9 through Tuesday, Jan. 12 and includes the IDEAg Trade Show, Young Farmer & Rancher competitive events, general sessions, workshops, the American Farm Bureau Foundation for Agriculture Silent Auction and the annual business session of voting delegates where the new AFBF president and vice president will be elected. Non-members may register for \$250.

*For more information on exhibiting or sponsorships, contact the IDEAg Group at [ideag@ideagroup.com](mailto:ideag@ideagroup.com).*

## AFBF Statement on Potential Tariffs

WASHINGTON, D.C., - "The World Trade Organization has given Canada and Mexico the right to place more than \$1 billion in tariffs on beef, chicken and pork, based on the last seven years of U.S. country-of-origin labeling requirements. These tar-

iffs would place our nation's farmers and ranchers at serious risk. We urge the Senate to act now to repeal country-of-origin labeling for beef, pork and chicken and eliminate the threat of damaging tariffs on U.S. agricultural exports to Canada and

Mexico.

"AFBF supports country-of-origin labeling that meets WTO requirements, and we support the remaining COOL programs, but the risk of retaliation by Canada and Mexico is too great. U.S. farmers and



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Proceeds benefit Idaho FFA Members through post-secondary education scholarships and support of Idaho FFA programs statewide through the Idaho FFA Foundation. **\$73,000** in scholarships has been awarded to date and another \$14,000 in scholarships will be awarded in April 2016.

In addition, the local FFA chapters designated on the winning tickets will receive a portion of the total ticket proceeds.

Tickets may be purchased from your local FFA chapter or the Idaho FFA Foundation. The drawing will be on April 8, 2016 at the Idaho State FFA Leadership Conference in Twin Falls. Need not be present to win.



This restored tractor has only 3,994 original hours on it and includes new tires and blade. **NOTE: This tractor does not include a sprayer tank.**



Idaho FFA Alumni

**Contact your local Idaho FFA Chapter for Tractor Raffle tickets, or call Idaho FFA Foundation Tractor Raffle Chairman Sid Freeman at 208-941-3584. For more information about the Tractor Raffle, visit: [www.idffafoundation.org](http://www.idffafoundation.org)**

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**\$1,000 Scholarships:**

Jordan Cates, Filer FFA Chapter  
Jarek Crossley, Preston FFA Chapter  
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Laurel Howe, New Plymouth FFA Chapter  
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A ticket order form is available on the website.

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# National News Briefs

## Omnibus Is an Overall Win for Ag but Still No Fix for WOTUS or GMOs

WASHINGTON, D.C.,—Congressional omnibus spending and tax extender bills will benefit agriculture greatly if passed, the American Farm Bureau said today. Farm Bureau said the bills would provide relief to America's farmers and ranchers, but is disappointed that Congress failed to stop the Waters of the U.S. rule.

"This tax extender package gives farmers and ranchers critical tools to help them reinvest in their businesses," AFBF President Bob Stallman said. "Tax provisions like Section 179 small business expensing and bonus depreciation free up cash flow for farmers and ranchers to put their money to work. New provisions will let our members make important upgrades that reduce costs, increase efficiency and help make their businesses sustainable for generations to come."

A provision to stop the EPA's unlawful Waters of the U.S. rule was surprisingly missing from the package, as was language that would have set a nationwide standard for labeling of food containing genetically modified ingredients. Congress's failure to act will bring the heavy cost of a patchwork of state labeling mandates to farmers and consumers as early as next month.

"We are truly disappointed that Congress did not include legislation to stop implementation of WOTUS," Stallman said. "The courts have already expressed serious legal concerns about the rule, and the U.S. Government Accountability Office has concluded that EPA broke the law with its covert propaganda campaign to drum up ill-informed support for it. We remain committed to working with Congress to stop EPA and help America's landowners, businesses and state and local governments avoid years in court to overturn the rule. This measure undeniably resulted from an illegal and deceptive process. Defeating WOTUS remains a priority of Farm Bureau. We will explore all avenues to ditch the rule."

AFBF also supports omnibus provisions to repeal of country-of-origin labeling requirements, which would effectively prevent Canada and Mexico from initiating retaliatory actions.

"Farm Bureau supports COOL programs that are in line with world trade rules," Stallman said. "Current COOL programs, unfortunately, risk serious retaliation by Canada and Mexico now that the World Trade Organization has approved more than \$1 billion in tariffs against American beef, pork and other U.S. commodities if COOL is not changed."

## AFBF Crop Market Update for December 2015D Supply and Demand Estimates

Typically, the December World Agricultural Supply and Demand Estimates (WASDE) report is not the most exciting event of the year. Not much new information generally crops up between November and December, and so it is with this year's December report. There were a couple of notable tweaks here and there in the report, though.

Starting with the U.S. balance sheet, USDA made some relatively small revisions to corn use. Estimated corn used for ethanol production was bumped up by 25 million bushels to reflect continued stronger-than-expected ethanol production in November. On the other hand, continued sluggish export sales led to a 50 million bushel drop in projected corn exports. On net, then, corn ending stocks projections were raised by 25 million bushels compared to the November report. This is not a huge increase, of course. The significance of the figure, to the extent that there is any, is that the corn stocks-to-use ratio—which had been projected to decline ever so slightly this marketing year—is now projected to increase for the third year in a row, climbing above the 13 percent mark for the first time since 2009/10.

The other notable change in this month's WASDE report had to do with world rice figures.

For 2015/16, estimated world rice production was reduced by just over 4 million metric tons (mmt), largely reflecting lower production estimates for India. Rice consumption estimates were also reduced in this month's report, but not by enough to offset the lower production, resulting in a further drawdown in world rice stocks.

If USDA's estimates hold, this will be the third consecutive year that rice consumption has outstripped production. The shortfall in production this year, at 15.3 mmt, will be the largest since 2003. World rice stocks do appear to be getting legitimately tight. Global rice stocks are projected to total just 88.4 mmt by the end of the present marketing year. This equates to a world stocks-to-use ratio of 18.2 percent—the tightest level of world stocks since 2006/07—the point at which world rice stocks bottomed out following about half a dozen years of decline.

Tight world rice supplies had a significant effect on the market in the 2006 to 2008 time period. For example, around harvest in 2006, U.S. rice prices received by farmers averaged around \$9 per hundredweight (cwt). Shortly after harvest in 2008, with global supplies still near those multi-year lows, the U.S. price received by farmers climbed to over \$19 per cwt. To this point, rice prices this time around are showing little sign of rallying on as projections call for dwindling world supplies.

The major difference in the market now in comparison with 2006-2008 is that supplies of other food and feed grains are relatively large and growing. In 2006/07, as rice stocks reached their lowest point, world wheat supplies were also at their lowest level in the entire post-war period (and were heading even lower, not bottoming out until 2007/08). Corn stocks were also at their lowest point in many years and were not expected to build due to strong demand growth from the biofuel sector and from a surging China.

The difference in the overall supply picture for grains now in comparison with 2006/07 is evident with all grains are considered together. Figure 1 shows the stocks-to-use ratio over the past twenty years for all food and feed grains reported by USDA Foreign Agricultural Service in their Production, Supply, and Distribution (PSD) database. This includes

barley, corn, millet, oats, rice (milled), rye, grain sorghum and wheat.

Data Source: USDA Foreign Agricultural Service, PSD Online.

Currently, the world stocks-to-use ratio for all food and feed grains combined is about even with the 20-year average. By contrast, in 2006/07, the stock-to-use ratio for grains was at its lowest point in years.

Of course, the fact that rice supplies, considered on their own, are historically tight is not an insignificant point. These tight supplies do provide substantial support for rice prices right now. Looking ahead, it is likely that any further disruption in the market (e.g., further crop losses in Asia) would elicit a strong market response. But it is important also to be aware that the overall market picture this time around is not the same as it was in the mid-2000s. Other grain stocks are at least adequate (arguably bordering

on burdensome for wheat), and demand is stable rather than rapidly growing. This will limit the potential upside for rice, though its fundamental situation does look more favorable than for most other major commodities right now.

### Renewable Fuels Standard Final Rule Implications

Late last month, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) finally released mandated renewable fuels volumes under the Renewable Fuels Standard (RFS). Preliminary volumes had been released in June and were, to say the least, controversial. At that time, EPA invoked their authority under RFS to waive a portion of the fuel volumes specified in the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007 (EISA). EPA had issued partial waivers before to account for the fact that cellulosic fuels were not available in the volumes

required under the EISA. What was novel and controversial about EPA's preliminary rule last June was that the agency partially waived mandated conventional ethanol volumes based not on a lack of availability of the fuel, but rather on the fact that mandated volumes would push beyond the 10 percent blend-wall.

EPA's exercise in baby-splitting last June really didn't satisfy anyone. Refiners and blenders argued that the reduced volumes were still too aggressive in pushing beyond the blend wall and included unrealistic projections for advanced bio-fuels. Ethanol producers (and the farmers who supply their primary raw material) complained that the reduced mandates went too far in letting refiners off the hook and thus undermined the intent of Congress to force open the market to alternative fuels.

In their final rule, EPA has essentially stuck with their compromise position, though the revised numbers do appear to be somewhat more aggressive in pushing the mandated volumes beyond the blend wall than was the case with the preliminary June volumes. Table 1 shows the blending percentages prescribed under the preliminary rule and the final rule. For each category of renewable fuel, for 2015 and 2016, the required blending percentage is higher under the final rule than was initially proposed. Notably the total renewable blending percentage for 2016 exceeds 10 percent for the first time ever under the RFS.

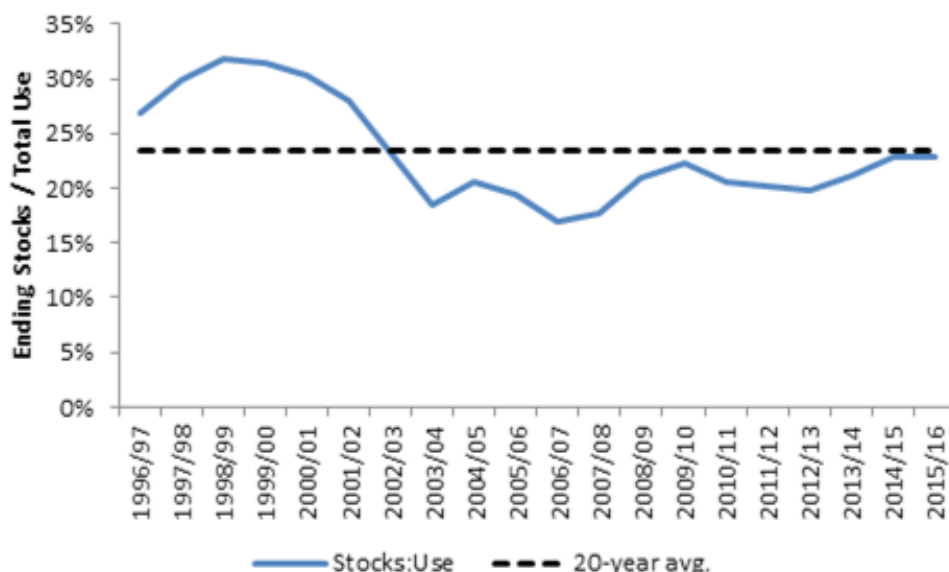


Figure 1. World Food and Feed Grain Supply: Stocks-to-Use Ratio, 1997/97 to 2015/16

# FARM BUREAU COMMODITY REPORT

GRAIN PRICES	11/17/2015	12/16/2015	Trend
<b>PORTLAND:</b>			
White Wheat	4.83-5.40	N/A	N/A
11% Winter	5.48-5.68	5.56-5.66	+ .08 to - .02
14% Spring	6.10-6.50	6.25-6.45	+ .15 to - .05
Oats	265.00	265.00	Steady
<b>OGDEN:</b>			
White Wheat	5.18	5.23	+ .05
11% Winter	4.28	4.51	+ .23
14% Spring	5.40	5.45	+ .05
Barley	6.98	6.98	Steady
<b>BLACKFOOT/ IDAHO FALLS</b>			
White Wheat	4.95	4.88	-.07
11.5% Winter	4.00	4.55	+ .55
14% Spring	5.00	5.13	+ .13
Hard White	4.55	5.00	+ .45
<b>BURLEY:</b>			
White Wheat	5.00	4.95	-.05
11% Winter	3.94	4.01	+ .07
14% Spring	4.80	5.01	+ .21
Barley	6.00	6.00	Steady
<b>NAMPA:</b>			
White Wheat (cwt)	9.33	9.50	+ .17
(Bushel)	5.60	5.70	+ .10
<b>LEWISTON:</b>			
White Wheat	5.10	5.15	+ .05
H. Red Winter	5.33	5.38	+ .05
Dark N. Spring	6.10	6.05	-.05
Barley	131.50	131.50	Steady

## LIVESTOCK PRICES

	11/17/2015	12/16/2015	Trend
<b>FEEDER STEERS</b>			
Under 500 lbs	180-265	155-234	- 25 to - 31
500-700 lbs	150-220	137-203	- 13 to - 17
700-900 lbs	135-188	120-165	- 15 to - 23
Over 900 lbs	100-149	111-130	+ 11 to - 19
<b>FEEDER HEIFERS</b>			
Under 500 lbs	160-250	136-213	- 24 to - 27
500-700 lbs	141-196	130-170	- 11 to - 26
700-900 lbs	130-167	115-155	- 15 to - 12
Over 900 lbs	107-142	108-133	+ 1 to - 9
<b>HOLSTEIN STEERS</b>			
Under 700 lbs	102-150	90-120	- 12 to - 30
Over 700 lbs	89-137	85-115	- 4 to - 22
<b>COWS</b>			
Utility/Commercial	57-84	51-76	- 6 to - 8
Canner & Cutter	51-76	42-63	- 9 to - 13
Stock Cows	975-1325	775-1950	- 200 to + 625
<b>BULLS</b>			
Slaughter	75-115	58-100	-17 to - 15
<b>BEAN PRICES:</b>			
Pinto	22.00	22.00	Steady
Pink	Not Established	Not Established	N.A.
Small Red	33.00-35.00	33.00-35.00	Steady
Garbanzo	29.00-30.00	30.00-31.00	+ 1.00

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# IDAHO HAY REPORT

USDA Market News, Moses Lake, WA

December 11, 2015

Tons: 3175 Last Week: 600 Last Year: 3100

Compared to last Friday, not enough of any one class of hay last week for accurate market trends. Trade remains slow this week with continued light demand. Some interest was noted this week from California buyers. 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				
Supreme	300	180.00-180.00	180.00	Tarped
Premium	1000	260.00-260.00	260.00	Organic
Good/Premium	300	130.00-130.00	130.00	Tarped
Fair/Good	1175	70.00-70.00	70.00	
Oat				
Mid Square				
Fair/Good	200	45.00-50.00	47.50	
Wheat Straw				
Mid Square				

# POTATOES & ONIONS

December 15, 2015

## Potatoes

UPPER VALLEY, TWIN FALLS-BURLEY DISTRICT, IDAHO--- Shipments 509-614-691 (includes exports of 2-0-1) ---Movement expected to remain about the same. Trading bales active, others moderate. Prices bales and Burbank 70s higher, Burbank 40-60s and Norkotah carton 40-60s lower, others generally unchanged. Russet Burbank U.S. One baled 10-5 pound film bags non size A mostly 6.00; 50-pound carton 40-50s mostly 7.50-8.50, 60s mostly 8.00-8.50, 70s mostly 9.50, 80-90s mostly 10.00, 100s 9.00-10.00. Norkotah Russet U.S. One baled 10-5 pound film bags non size A mostly 6.00; 50-pound carton 40-60s mostly 6.50, 70s mostly 7.00, 80-100s mostly 8.00.

## Potatoes for Processing

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

## Onions

IDAHO AND MALHEUR COUNTY OREGON--- Shipments 247-270-313---Movement expected to remain about the same. Trading moderate. Prices jumbo White and jumbo Red lower, others generally unchanged. Yellow Spanish Hybrid U.S. One 50-pound sacks super colossal mostly 10.00, colossal 8.00-9.00, jumbo mostly 7.00, medium mostly 5.00; White U.S. One 50-pound sacks jumbo mostly 13.00, medium 12.00; Red Globe Type U.S. One 25-pound sacks jumbo mostly 14.00, medium 9.00-10.00.

# 5 YEAR GRAIN COMPARISON

Grain Prices..... 12/19/2011..... 12/26/2012..... 12/20/2013..... 12/23/2014..... 12/16/2015

### Portland:

White Wheat.....	5.86	8.27	6.86	No Bid	No Bid
11% Winter.....	6.74-6.86	8.94-9.07	7.43-7.63	No Bid	5.56-5.66
14% Spring.....	9.62	9.51	8.12	No Bid	6.25-6.45
Corn.....	260-261.50	288-291.25	No Bid	265.00	265.00

### Ogden:

White Wheat.....	5.85	8.40	6.25	6.95	5.23
11% Winter.....	5.73	8.21	7.07	6.69	4.51
14 % Spring.....	8.22	8.83	7.50	7.50	5.45
Barley.....	10.70	11.20	7.45	5.45	6.98

### Pocatello:

White Wheat.....	5.55	7.80	5.90	6.75	4.88
11% Winter.....	5.73	7.37	6.13	7.09	4.55
14% Spring.....	8.32	8.02	6.48	7.11	5.13
Barley.....	9.90	11.67	No Bid	7.24	5.00

### Burley:

White Wheat.....	5.65	7.40	5.95	6.80	4.95
11% Winter.....	5.46	7.53	6.47	5.90	4.01
14% Spring.....	8.00	7.95	6.80	7.61	5.01
Barley.....	9.50	12.25	7.50	5.20	6.00

### Nampa:

White Wheat (cwt).....	8.58	12.65	10.17	10.16	9.50
(bushel).....	5.15	7.58	6.10	6.10	5.70

### Lewiston:

White Wheat.....	5.65	8.19	6.75	6.85	5.15
Barley.....	176.50	224.50	141.50	156.50	131.50

### Bean Prices:

Pintos.....	45.00	35.00-36.00	38.00-40.00	25.00-27.00	25.00-27.00
Pinks.....	45.00	40.00-42.00	40.00	No Bid	No Bid
Small Reds.....	45.00-46.00	40.00-42.00	40.00	38.00-40.00	38.00-40.00

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# MILK PRODUCTION

November 19, 2015

## Milk Production up 0.1 Percent

Milk production in the 23 major States during October totaled 16.0 billion pounds, up 0.1 percent from October 2014. September revised production, at 15.6 billion pounds, was up 0.5 percent from September 2014. The September revision represented an increase of 12 million pounds or 0.1 percent from last month's preliminary production estimate.

Production per cow in the 23 major States averaged 1,857 pounds for October, 7 pounds below October 2014. This is the second highest production per cow for the month of October since the 23 State series began in 2003.

The number of milk cows on farms in the 23 major States was 8.63 million head, 38,000 head more than October 2014, but 1,000 head less than September 2015.

## 5 YEAR LIVESTOCK COMPARISON

	12/19/2011	12/26/2012	12/20/2013	12/23/2014	12/16/2015
Under 500 lbs.....	136-195	126-198	157-235	255-351	155-234
500-700 lbs.....	120-160	116-166	134-187	210-284	137-203
700-900 lbs.....	105-139	112-150	121-167	195-237	120-165
Over 900 lbs.....	98-119	116-135	129-145	150-198	111-130
<b>Feeder Heifers</b>					
Under 500 lbs.....	125-159	117-172	155-214	225-337	136-213
500-700 lbs.....	112-149	117-148	133-173	201-281	130-170
700-900 lbs.....	101-128	110-135	115-158	153-218	115-155
Over 900 lbs.....	110-112	119-120	122-143	149-192	108-133
<b>Holstein Steers</b>					
Under 700 lbs.....	65-96	65-101	90-123	120-212	90-120
Over 700 lbs.....	65-99	75-106	80-115	150-185	85-115
<b>Cows</b>					
Utility/Commercial.....	46-72	55-79	60-87	89-127	51-76
Canner & Cutter.....	45-62	50-71	60-78	81-114	42-63
Stock Cows.....	800-1470	800-1500	950-1400	1250-2200	775-1950
Bulls – Slaughter.....	50-73	63-89	63-97	105-140	85-100

## CATTLE ON FEED

November 20, 2015

### United States Cattle on Feed Up 2 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 November 1, 2015. The inventory was 2 percent above November 1, 2014.

Placements in feedlots during October totaled 2.28 million head, 4 percent below 2014. Net placements were 2.21 million head. During October, placements of cattle and calves weighing less than 600 pounds were 645,000 head, 600-699 pounds were 530,000 head, 700-799 pounds were 431,000 head, and 800 pounds and greater were 675,000 head.

Marketings of fed cattle during October totaled 1.63 million head, 3 percent below 2014. Marketings are the lowest for October since the series began in 1996.

Other disappearance totaled 75,000 head during October, 23 percent below 2014.

## CATTLE OUTLOOK

December 11, 2015

The World Trade Organization has given Canada and Mexico a green light to impose tariffs on U.S. products they import. The tariffs are in retaliation to our country of origin labeling law for cattle and hogs which the WTO has four times ruled to be a violation of international trade agreements. It is unclear how long it will take Canada and Mexico to put the tariffs in place. U.S. beef imports were down 12.9% in October. The decline in imports was due to a big drop in shipments from Australia.

U.S. beef exports were down 14.4% compared to October 2014. Except for Mexico, most major foreign buyers took less U.S. beef this October than last.

Beef imports equaled 11.2% of U.S. beef production while beef exports equaled 9.2% of production.

Year-over-year, live cattle imports were down 28.7% in October with a 56.1% decline in Canadian imports more than offsetting a 12.2% increase in cattle imports from Mexico. Thus far for 2015, cattle imports are down 7.4%. This morning the choice boxed beef cutout value was \$203.05/cwt, down 32 cents from the previous Friday and down \$42.58 from a year ago. The select carcass cutout was \$188.45/cwt, down \$4.17 from last week.

Through Thursday, the 5-area average price for slaughter steers sold on a live weight basis was \$118.41/cwt, down \$5 from last week's average and down \$44.70 from a year ago. The 5 area average dressed price this week for steers was \$187.27/cwt, down \$7.17 for the week and down \$69.28 compared to the same week last year.

The average steer dressed weight for the week ending on November 28 was 923 pounds, down 2 pounds from the week before.

Cattle slaughter this week totaled 581,000 head, up 3.75% from the week before and up 1.9% from the same week last year.

Feeder cattle prices at Oklahoma City were \$8 to \$12 lower this week. Prices for medium and large frame #1 steers by weight group were: 400-450# \$206-\$229, 450-500# \$203-\$226, 500-550# \$185-\$217, 550-600# \$167-\$199, 600-650# \$160.75-\$184.50, 650-700# \$155-\$166, 700-750# \$152-\$167.25, 750-800# \$150-\$164, 800-900# \$150-\$163 and 900-1000#, \$141-\$159.50/cwt.

Cattle futures were lower this week. The December live cattle futures contract settled at \$121.45/cwt today, down \$2.82 for the week. February fed cattle settled at \$126.25/cwt, down \$2.97 from the previous week.

January feeder cattle ended the week at \$152.15/cwt, down \$7.30 from a week earlier. March lost \$7.13 this week and closed at \$150.12/cwt.

University of Missouri

# CLASSIFIEDS

## Animals

Heeler Mix-8 mo. spayed female. Great looks and temperament. House/crate trained. UTD on vax. Good with older kids but too much energy for our small home. To good farm/ranch home only. \$200 cash/firm. 208-610-3836 or dillingham.mtn@gmail.com for photos and more info.

Purebred Scottish Highland silver dun bull calf, red heifer calf & red bull calf ,nice head and shoulder, level topline, stout hind quarter, correct conformation, black sire, red dams, tattoo, vaccinations, wormed

Hot Springs Highlands, Melba, ID 208-896-5529 hotspringshighlands@gmail.com

## Farm Equipment

J.D.4430 tractor with duals and front weights. 10,150 hours, good condition. Hazelton, ID 208-731-4181

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

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.

## Help Wanted

Agricultural Appraiser. Our top part-time livestock and Equipment appraisers earn 60,000/year. Agricultural Background Required. Call 800-488-7570 www.amagappraisers.com.

## Miscellaneous

Maytag wringer washer, still like new, barely used although about 50 yrs old. Pocatello, ID 208-238-7547

S.E. Idaho Water Rights For Sale :23 acres of water with 4 acre feet per acre, total 92 acre feet. WR is ground water with a priority date of 1953. Located 2 miles East of Pocatello Airport and 1/2 mile north of I-86. Call 208-251-2627

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.

## Real Estate/Acreage

Small cabin, \$30,000. Natural gas, claw foot tub, city water and sewer. Large corner lot with second set city utilities. Excellent local hunting, fishing and recreations. Bovill, ID. 208-669-2138

Small acres in desert wanted in Idaho or Nevada, no power - water. 208-358-7475.

Lot for Sale - 3/4 Acre Country Lot. City water, Gas, Utilities. \$25,000. Shelley. Call 528-5337.

## Vehicles

2014 Nissan Sentra, Like new, 22,000 miles, great gas mileage. Twin Falls, ID Call 208-420-9195.

## Wanted

Older camp trailer wanted. 50s rounded style, up to 15, 16 long. Just retired and need a project. Prefer no water damage and will consider all available. Please call 208-865-2100.

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.

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

**DEADLINE  
DATES:  
ADS MUST BE  
RECEIVED BY  
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FOR  
NEXT ISSUE.**

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

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