

# Gem State Producer



December 2017 • Volume 21, Issue 8

 **IDAHO FARM BUREAU**

IDWR **3** Increases  
Recharge Estimates

Idaho Farm  
**10** Exports Increase

Secretary Zinke Makes  
Wildfire Prevention  
**14** a Priority

## Agriculture's Time for Tax Reform



By Zippy Duvall  
AFBF President

Congress is debating the first major tax reform package in more than 30 years. This is no small task, and if the right provisions are set in place, an updated federal tax code could yield real economic growth across rural America.

We've been busy reviewing the

## Beyond the Fencerows



tax plan details, looking to the bills coming out of committee, and keeping our eyes set on our primary goal: reducing the tax burden for America's farms and ranches. We talk a lot about how farms and ranches face unique challenges, and that fact becomes all the more clear during tax season. For example, 94 percent of all farms are not incorporated as large businesses—which

goes to show how much smaller our stack of income receipts is compared to most businesses. We face the balancing act every season as we manage high input costs against an unpredictable cash flow to keep our businesses running and, we hope, turn a profit. It takes a lot of faith and careful business planning—some years even the best

See DUVALL, page 6

## Planning for the Future Begins with Communication



By Bryan Searle  
President Idaho Farm Bureau Federation

Succession planning is a critical part of farm and ranch management. But it's often put on the back-burner because of our regular flow of work and many other reasons. It's an easy

thing to procrastinate about, but putting a thorough, written and agreed upon plan in place, is one of the most important components of farm or ranch management.

Now that harvest is over, the winter months are a good time to consider how our, land, livestock, equipment and other holdings will go forward in time. Especially important in this equation is how our families will be effected by a retirement, accident, or illness. Putting a plan down on paper is critical to our families and the future of agriculture in this country.

To relate a personal experience that solidified my thinking on this issue, about two years ago we lost a business partner who passed away suddenly. It was in a brokerage business which held no tangible assets, even so the partner was gone and the future had to be figured out with his family. Although we had discussed strategies we never did put a plan down on paper and when faced with the loss it became more complicated than it should have been. Our experience has worked out well but I've

See SEARLE, page 7

## You Are Making a Difference



By Rick Keller  
CEO Idaho Farm Bureau Federation

I enjoy this time of the year in Farm Bureau. There is a rush of excitement that is contagious. It starts with county resolutions meetings. Farmers and ranchers gather in their counties discussing and debating resolutions to problems facing

agriculture. The resolutions hope to become Idaho Farm Bureau policy. It's exciting to see the enthusiasm and thought that goes behind each resolution. Everyone wants to make a difference.

The county annual meeting season follows shortly after. It's obvious the county boards are conscientious in this deliberation. They plan the date and venue, select the menu items, and seek ways to get as many of their members to attend as possible. Nominating committees are organized and the board is actively

engaged in searching their farmer and rancher neighbors to serve on the county boards with them. The nominating committees seek individuals who are respected in the community, someone they themselves look up to and value their input. Committee members go to the farms of these potential candidates, often around the kitchen table and ask if they'd be willing to serve if elected.

The counties hold their annual meetings and banquets. Hundreds

See KELLER, page 6



# IDAHO FARM BUREAU

Volume 21, Issue 8  
IFBF OFFICERS

President .....Bryan Searle, Shelley  
Vice President .....Mark Trupp, Driggs  
Executive Vice President ..... Rick Keller  
Assist Executive Vice President.....Dennis Brower

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Austin Tubbs .....Malad  
Dan Garner ..... Clifton  
Chris Dalley .....Blackfoot  
Stephanie Mickelsen..... Idaho Falls  
Danny Ferguson .....Rigby  
Scott Steele ..... Idaho Falls  
Gerald Marchant ..... Oakley  
Rick Pearson ..... Hagerman  
Rick Brune .....Hazelton  
Luke Pearce ..... New Plymouth  
Cody Chandler ..... Weiser  
Tracy Walton ..... Emmett  
Marjorie French ..... Princeton  
Bob Konen .....Lewiston  
Tom Daniel ..... Bonners Ferry  
Judy Woody ..... Filer  
LaNae Nalder.....Rupert

### STAFF

Dir. of Organization ..... Justin Patten  
Director of Admin. Services ..... Cara Dyer  
Commodities & Marketing Assistant . Melissa Nelson  
Member Services Assistant ..... Peggy Moore  
Public Relations Assistant ..... Dixie Ashton  
Assistant Treasurer..... Tyler Zollinger  
Dist. I Regional Manager ..... Ott Clark  
Dist. II Regional Manager ..... Tyrel Bingham  
Dist. III Regional Manager ..... Charles Garner  
Dist. IV Regional Manager .....Brody Miller  
Dist.V Regional Manager ..... Bob Smathers  
Dir. of Governmental Affairs .....Russ Hendricks  
Asst. Dir. of Governmental Affairs ... Dennis Tanikuni  
Energy/Natural Resources ..... Braden Jensen  
Director of Public Relations ..... John Thompson  
Video Services Manager ..... Steve Ritter  
Broadcast Services Manager ..... Jake Putnam  
Office Manager, Boise ..... Julie Araquistain  
Member Services Manager ..... Joel Benson  
Commodities and Marketing.....Zak Miller

Printed by: Owyhee Publishing, Homedale, ID

#### GEM STATE PRODUCER

USPS #015-024, is published monthly  
except February, May, August and November by the  
IDAHO FARM BUREAU FEDERATION,  
275 Tierra Vista Drive, Pocatello, ID 83201.

#### POSTMASTER send changes of address to:

GEM STATE PRODUCER  
P.O. Box 4848, Pocatello, ID 83205-4848.  
Periodicals postage paid at Pocatello, Idaho,  
and additional mailing offices.

#### Subscription rate:

\$6.00 per year included in Farm Bureau dues.

#### MAGAZINE CONTACTS:

Idaho Farm Bureau Federation  
EDITOR (208) 239-4292 • ADS (208) 239-4279  
E-MAIL: [dashton@idahofb.org](mailto:dashton@idahofb.org)  
[www.idahofb.org](http://www.idahofb.org)



The Idaho Department of Water Resources is working with canal companies to run excess water into the ground to recharge the Snake River Plain Aquifer.

*Farm Bureau file photo*

# Aquifer Recharge on Pace to Match Last Year

*By Jake Putnam*

The U.S. Bureau of Reclamation recently released plans to allocate water that will keep southeastern Idaho canals flowing this winter.

During normal years the Bureau has a requirement that Palisades Reservoir must shut down the canals for the winter to rebuild the water supply. But things are different this year because Upper Snake Reservoirs are nearly full after a record precipitation this year.

“I just checked and most of the state is at 145-percent of average precipitation. This is a good thing for recharge. It’s a good thing to get all that water back in the ground,” said Danny Ferguson, of

Jefferson County, a farmer and Idaho Farm Bureau State Board member.

Last year’s landmark winter left record snowpack and because of that, streamflows continue to run high. Water District 1 officials say that flows at the Heise gauge north of Idaho Falls are the second highest in recorded history. The Idaho water year officially ended Sept. 30th, but last year’s snowpack will extend into next summer.

“I don’t see a downside to releasing this water at all,” said Ferguson who gets his water downstream from Palisades, “On the Harrison canal, we shut down for a couple of weeks but the canals are running again and all of the water is going into the aquifer.”

*See AQUIFER RECHARGE page 4*

**Cover:** A recharge site north of the Snake River in Jerome County. The Idaho Department of Water Resources is increasing the amount of stored water in the Snake River Plain Aquifer.

*Farm Bureau file photo*



# AQUIFER RECHARGE

Continued from page 3

Under the Reclamation's Winter Water Savings Program, canal companies must close their canals for 150 consecutive days after the irrigation season, which allows the reservoirs to fill back up.

After last winter, The Idaho Department of Water Resources reported more than 315,000 acre-feet of water was recharged this past year in accordance with the state's water right. Canal companies and irrigators recharged another 140,000 acre-feet. And pumpers are doing their part with an agreement to cut well irrigation by more than 240,000 acre-feet a year to help build the aquifer back up.

It all started exactly a year ago according to the National Weather Service. The fall of 2016 brought heavy rainstorms in Boise, Twin Falls, and Pocatello. The Snake River plain got almost three inches of precipitation, or almost two inches more than normal with heavy snow and cold temperatures into May. The National Weather Service says we've had a nearly identical pattern this year.

That weather pattern has water managers already thinking where to put all of that water. Water District 1 in Eastern Idaho reports reservoirs have just a million acre-feet of available space. Normally they have nearly twice that much storage space behind the dams.

The Bureau of Reclamation is acting proactively, they're suspending the Winter Water Savings requirement for the next three months. The usual Palisades winter release is about 900 to 1,100 cubic feet per second. But so far this winter they're releasing more than 3,000 cubic feet per second and could keep those flows well into March depending on snowpack.

"We need the measuring stick that last year provided us, we need to see the

science and this release will show us what we've done over the past couple of years. It's exciting because these measurements will tell us what we've done and where we need to go in terms of restoring the aquifer," said Ferguson.

The state has a water right on the lower Snake River specifically for aquifer recharge. Recharge involves paying canal companies to run water through unlined canals or into spill basins where water seeps naturally into the aquifer and restores groundwater.

Wes Hipke, heads the Idaho Department of Water Resources recharge program and says they've already recharged 120,000-acre-feet, 61,000 acre-feet of that came from the Surface Water Coalition. The coalition received the water from junior groundwater users and food processing companies.

"We're running water everywhere," said Hipke. "Above Minidoka, Springfield, American Falls, Twin Falls Canal Company, Southwest Irrigation District. There are at least 12 different entities taking part in this recharge effort."

The Bureau's announcement will enable some canal companies to continue recharging the storage water for the state in November when they'd normally restricted by Winter Water Savings.

"We're off to an amazing start, normally we'd be at 20,000-acre-feet and currently we're six times that," said Hipke.

With winter weather the canals are starting to freeze up. That limits recharge but a warm fall kept the recharge going at a record pace. Still, even with snow and ice the Department of Water Resources expects to drop 600 to 700 cubic feet per second into the aquifer through the winter and hope to triple that in March depending on snowpack.

"My current numbers show at least 280,000-acre-feet for the current year. That doesn't count the Little and Big Wood rivers, and the Upper Valley. There's a good chance we can do what we did last year, but that depends on Mother Nature. This is far beyond our expectations three years ago," said Hipke.

The recharge program is still making calls to find more recharge partners. They're also speeding up releases in the Upper Valley to free up space in Palisade Reservoir.

Last month the National Weather Service declared that the Pacific Northwest was under the influence of the La Nina weather system.

"Right now in terms of precipitation, we're 20 percent higher than last year at this time and well above normal. But that doesn't mean much until January. That's when the weather patterns start diverging. But we're in a really good place right now, we've had a wet fall and were off to a great start, and the reservoirs started nearly full this water year that started in October," said Hipke.

Idaho water officials have asked Congress to approve a permanent policy change that would make it easier for the Bureau to dispense with Winter Water Savings during wet years. Farmers are on board and look forward to restoring the aquifer.

"We're going into this winter, wet," said Ferguson who runs an alfalfa operation in Jefferson County. "We have above average precipitation. I'm positive about this. Instead of flushing it out for fish, we're doing something for the aquifer. We have so much water that we have to get rid of reservoir water just to hold off a normal year."



Weather patterns for the coming winter could be shaping up to repeat the widespread flooding that occurred in the Magic Valley last winter.  
*Farm Bureau file photo*

# La Nina Could Bring Another Big Snow Year

By Jake Putnam

Boise-The National Weather Service recently declared that La Nina conditions are officially here.

Forecasters say there's at least a 65-percent chance that La Niña conditions will continue through the winter.

"Last year, was an unusual year because we had cold temperatures," said Ron Abramovich of the Natural Resources Conservation Service. "The last week of January we started getting a lot more snow in the high country and it kept snowing and we had record high-snow-packs."

Things are shaping up very much like last year. Fast moving storms have been hitting the Gem State in since early October.

In Idaho, the La Niña weather pattern is known for bringing above-average precipitation to the state while delivering below-average precipitation to northern and southern California.

"Last year's season started with a pattern similar to what we're seeing this year as indicators are pointing to another weak La Niña this fall," said Abramovich. But the veteran NRCS forecaster doesn't think that Idaho will have the same epic winter as last year.

"Storms came through and the precipitation levels last winter in the Boise Basin was 2.5 times normal," said Abramovich."The Big Wood Basin received 5 times normal precipitation in February. It's going to be hard to duplicate that."

Nearly 40 inches of snow fell in Boise from December through April while Pocatello had more than 86 inches. That's the second biggest winter on record, rivaling the winter of 1948 In Bannock County.

La Nina is the cousin of better-known El Niño.  
*See LA NINA page 16*

---

# DUVALL

---

Continued from page 2

plans are wiped out by Mother Nature or a downturned economy.

Farmers know better than most how to stretch every dollar, and that's why we depend on tax provisions that let us deduct legitimate business expenses—from regular expenses like feed, seed and fuel to major expenses like equipment and interest on loans. We also rely on accounting practices such as cash accounting, which helps us deal with narrow margins in an unpredictable industry. Common-sense tax reform must continue to include provisions, such as like-kind exchanges and stepped-up basis, that help farmers and ranchers

weather the ups and downs. Otherwise, farmers will face a tax increase without the deductions they count on.

Any tax boost will be short-lived on the farm if farmers can't pass on their businesses from one generation to the next. For too long the estate tax has hung over the heads of farmers and ranchers. It threatens the future of our farms and forces us to find workarounds to keep businesses in the family and preserve our nation's agriculture industry.

Land is at the center of all of this. It's our greatest asset, but it can also be the hardest to come by as property values increase. Younger generations

who would otherwise return to the farm are hard pressed to hold on to that farm property if they can't afford to pay the estate tax. Farm Bureau has been working for decades now to see the estate tax put to death once and for all. Rural farm families shouldn't be forced to spend their limited resources protecting themselves from a tax that was meant for the wealthy.

Lawmakers need to hear from you as tax reform legislation comes up for a vote. We are long overdue for a federal tax code that gives us the freedom to reinvest in our businesses and keeps agriculture moving forward. We must be certain that Congress' action on tax re-

form does just that.

Many of you have heard me speak about this being "our time," meaning agriculture's time to make progress on issues we've been working on for years. Tax reform is definitely on that list of issues, and with a Congress and White House that are working to create a tax code that rewards hard work and helps farmers and ranchers keep more of their hard-earned money on the farm, it is our time. To ensure we capitalize on this short window of opportunity—our time—we must engage with our senators and representatives in Congress.

---

# KELLER

---

Continued from page 2

of farmers and ranchers gather at their county banquets to learn a little of Farm Bureau, a current issue of the day, mingle and win door prizes. Collectively, more than 5,000 Idaho Farm Bureau members attend county annual meetings each year. It's amazing how many door prizes are given away and the excitement of having received one. Laughs are freely given as an old cowboy wins a pair of earrings and an elderly widow gets a pair of fencing pliers. I've even won a gift certificate at a county Farm Bureau banquet to a local funeral parlor. These are just some of the exciting things an annual meeting provides. We can't forget the wonderful meals prepared and served by the American Legion Auxil-

iaries, the High School Rodeo Clubs, the local FFA Chapters or a host of other great service providers.

Personally, I enjoy crisscrossing this great state to attend the county annual meetings. State officers travel from Bear Lake to Boundary and from Washington County to Teton County to attend the annual meetings for a slice of roast beef and a piece of pie for four busy weeks. What a wonderful opportunity that I wish many could enjoy. It is indeed a favorite time of the year for us.

Following the county banquet, the old and the new board members just elected, gather in the corner of the meeting hall for a few minutes. Two items are most often on their agenda, 1) when to hold the next county

board meeting and 2) who will be the county delegates to represent their county at the state annual meeting. Schedules are compared as to who is available and assignments are given. The counties know how important it is to send a delegate that will represent the interests and concerns of the farmers and ranchers from their communities. They want someone who will represent the collective interests of the county's agricultural community, even if it may conflict with the personal views of the delegate. They seek a delegate who can articulate the issues and has the power to convince and persuade and just as important, someone who will listen and learn and be decisive at the same time. The board agrees and appoints the delegates and alternates

The county annual meetings like I described have been going on year after year, county by county, in Idaho for one hundred years. The American Farm Bureau turns 100 years old in 2019, in just two years. Although the Idaho Farm Bureau wasn't established until 1939, county Farm Bureaus existed in Idaho since 1917. We express appreciation to the many farmers and ranchers, members of the county Farm Bureaus who are so purposeful in ensuring Farm Bureau is an organization for farmers and ranchers and led by farmers and ranchers, meeting the needs of their members. It is a unique organization. It is the "Voice of Idaho Agriculture."™ Farm Bureau is making a difference because of you.

# SEARLE

Continued from page 2

heard several similar stories and most were much worse because an oversight like not having a succession plan in place, can tear a family apart. Farms and ranches must be treated as a business for the benefit of all involved.

On the bright side, there is a lot of information out there that can be put to practical use. Most land grant universities across the nation offer succession planning advice.

The University of Idaho offers a free step-by-step succession planner that can be found at the following link: <http://www.extension.uidaho.edu/publishing/pdf/CIS/CIS1058.pdf>

It takes you through a process describing how the farm or ranch currently operates, lines out who the decision makers are,

where the assets and liabilities are, and identifies goals for the future. It asks pertinent questions like what are your plans for retirement. And it gives consideration for how assets will transfer in the event of a sudden death.

According to another University of Idaho document titled "Keeping the Legacy Alive; estate and farm business succession planning," while about 60 percent of farmers and ranchers have a will, only 36 percent have an estate plan and 18 percent have a succession plan in place. "These statistics are alarmingly low when considering the value of the assets at stake and even more so the difficulty of successfully moving the farm or ranch into the next generation," the document states.

The University of Idaho has conducted workshops around

the state on succession planning in recent years. One of the first steps to creating a working plan is development of a mission statement. From that, producers should draft two or three corresponding strategic goals that are long-range, specific, measurable, achievable, realistic and time-bound.

With these options and many others such as legal experts and accountants the real challenge usually lies in getting each family member or partner to sit down for the discussions. We each have a different idea of how the future should be, but it's critical to take the time and go through the process. There are always pressing issues to attend to. But those most important to us deserve a peaceful transition rather than bitter feelings being created from misunderstandings of how they felt dad or mom or

business partner wanted the business to proceed. There is no farm or business too big or small that doesn't need a plan for the future. Be persistent about the plan no matter what road block is hit. The process is and will be much easier though very complicated while the person is alive. I learned years ago from a statement that said, "if you fail to plan you plan to fail." Never give up in the process as the differences of opinions from partners and family members arise. Use an outside moderator if needed so they can facilitate the process. It will be some of the wisest use of your money. The opportunity to be a farmer or rancher brings with it enough challenges of commodity and livestock prices, ridiculous regulations, and many others but we don't want to let the future of your family or business be the cause of greater challenges.



**Idaho Farm Bureau receive a 10% discount at participating Motel 6 locations.**

**For reservations, call 800-466-8356**

**Idaho Farm Bureau Code CP2IHF1**



**ISN'T IT TIME TO PUT YOUR MONEY TO WORK FOR YOU?**

*Farm Bureau Finance Company offers subordinated debenture notes at rates above most competitors.*

**BENEFITS**

- Minimum investment of \$50.00
- You choose the term one month to 60 months
- Automatic re-investment for your convenience with no loss of interest

Amount	Rate/Yld	Term in Months							
		1 to 3*	4 to 5*	6 to 11*	12 to 15*	18 to 24*	30 to 36*	48 to 60*	
\$ 50 - \$ 999	Rate Yield	.000 .600	.700 .700	.800 .800	.900 .900	1.20 1.21	1.50 1.51	1.80 1.81	
\$ 1,000 - \$ 2,499	Rate Yield	.650 .650	.750 .750	.850 .850	.950 .950	1.25 1.26	1.55 1.56	1.85 1.86	
\$ 2,500 - \$ 4,999	Rate Yield	.700 .700	.800 .800	.900 .900	1.00 1.00	1.30 1.31	1.60 1.61	1.90 1.91	
\$ 5,000 - \$ 9,999	Rate Yield	.750 .750	.850 .850	.950 .950	1.05 1.05	1.35 1.36	1.65 1.66	1.95 1.96	
\$ 10,000 - \$ 24,999	Rate Yield	.800 .800	.900 .900	1.00 1.00	1.10 1.10	1.40 1.41	1.70 1.71	2.00 2.02	
\$ 25,000 - \$ 49,999	Rate Yield	.850 .850	.950 .950	1.05 1.05	1.15 1.15	1.45 1.45	1.75 1.76	2.05 2.07	
\$ 50,000 - \$ 99,999	Rate Yield	.900 .900	1.00 1.00	1.10 1.10	1.20 1.21	1.50 1.51	1.80 1.81	2.10 2.12	
\$ 100,000 +		Call	Call	Call	Call	Call	Call	Call	

\*Terms in months. Yield assumes that interest is compounded quarterly and is left in the account for a full year. Call for rates on amounts over \$100,000.00.

**Call: Rod Eggleston, Vice Pres. (208) 239-4259**

Farm Bureau Finance Company  
275 Tierra Vista Drive  
Pocatello, Idaho 83201

A subordinated debenture note is a security offered by Farm Bureau Finance Company that may only be purchased by residents within the State of Idaho. Prospectus available upon request and furnished with each purchase.



# Potato Yields Down, Prices Up

By Jake Putnam

Idaho Falls — The Thanksgiving holiday drove potato prices up and a trucking shortage might keep them there.

That's the word from growers who are basking in strong prices but worry about getting spuds to market.

"The market is pretty good," said grower Bryan Searle of Shelley, "but we're having trouble shipping potatoes right now. We can't find enough trucks or railcars and that might be helping the prices and it's definitely working in our favor but it's something we worry about."

Over the Thanksgiving, holiday retailers told the Packer magazine that con-

sumer bags of potatoes flew off grocery store shelves. Packer reports that producers harvested larger potatoes this year and there are fewer small sized potatoes for the small bag market.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture reports that 50-pound cartons of five 10-pound film bags of russet Norkotahs spiked from \$5.50 per carton on Sept. 5 to \$6 per carton by Nov. 1, with russet Burbanks at \$6.50 per carton for the same pack on Nov. 1. Prices at the same time last year were \$4.50 to \$5 per carton.

Russet Norkotah 50-count potatoes are \$9 per carton, compared with \$12 for 80 count cartons. Prices for both sizes were well above a year ago when 50 count Norkotahs were \$5.50 per carton and 80 count Norkotahs

were \$6 per carton in early November.

Bryan Mickelsen of Mickelsen Farms, Rigby, says yields were down but quality very good with sizes all over the charts.

"We had big, middle and mediums and our sizes were all over the place. We had an excellent quality crop but the size range varied from field to field. We had to adapt a little bit, but it worked well with the way we market," said Mickelsen.

The Packer reports that everyone has the big potatoes but the smaller grocery store sizes are hard to find this season. The 60s, 70s, 80s, 90s are short and producers specializing in those sizes made money.

See POTATO MARKET page 23





Several counties in Idaho are made up of predominantly federal land that is not taxed. Payments from federal programs that help rural counties compensate for the inability to collect property tax, are delinquent.

*Farm Bureau file photo*

## Senators Call for Rural School Program Funding

*By Jake Putnam*

There are big problems on the horizon for Idaho County if the Federal Government does not fund the Secure Rural Schools (SRS) and Self-Determination Act.

Idaho County is the 17th largest county in the United States with a population of just 16,000 residents. But with more than 5.4 million acres of land, the county is broke because 85 percent of the county is public land. That means no tax revenue off that land for schools, roads, and bridges without federal SRS funding.

“This has hit all our school districts hard,” said Idaho County Commissioner Skip Brandt. “Payments stopped years ago. Our

County road and bridge budget is \$3.4 million. Almost half the budget, \$1.2 million comes from SRS and all 12 Highway districts in the county have lost funds.”

With winter approaching, senators from most western states are urging the Trump White House and the budget office to honor the federal government’s promise to fund the Secure Rural Schools and Self-Determination Act.

The SRS grew out of the 2000 Craig-Wyden Bill to compensate rural counties for the decline in timber harvest in national forests. SRS provides 775 rural counties and 4,000 schools with funds to support public services that include roads and forest health. Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILT) compensates local governments for non-taxable fed-

eral lands in their jurisdictions to provide roads, maintenance and law enforcement.

“The funding to rural communities extends a lifeline by funding road repairs, schools and law enforcement to communities heavily dependent on the federal government to help with taxes,” said Idaho Senator Mike Crapo.

Senators Crapo and Ron Wyden of Oregon are encouraging the Trump administration for a two-year authorization of the SRS and Self-Determination Act.

“Secure Rural School payments are critical ensuring that counties across Idaho and the nation, that have tax-exempt, feder-

*See RURAL SCHOOL FUNDING page 23*



# US Farm Exports on the Rise

By John Thompson

Exports of farm goods from the U.S. are up nearly \$11 billion over fiscal year 2016, according to a press release from the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

The November 16 release states total farm exports valued at \$140.5 billion, increased by \$10.9 billion over the previous fiscal year. In addition, as it has done for over 50 consecutive years, U.S. agriculture posted an annual trade surplus, reaching 21.3 billion, up almost 30 percent from last year's \$16.6 billion.

"U.S. agriculture depends on trade. It is great to see an increase in exports and we hope to open additional markets to build on this success," said Agriculture Secretary Sonny Perdue. "I'm a grow-it-and-sell-it kind of guy. If American agri-

cultural producers keep growing it, USDA will keep helping to sell it around the world."

China finished the fiscal year as the United States' largest export customer, with shipments valued at \$22 billion, followed by Canada at \$20.4 billion. U.S. agricultural exports to Mexico reached \$18.6 billion, a six-percent gain from last year, while exports to Japan grew 12 percent, to \$11.8 billion. Rounding out the top 10 markets were the European Union (\$11.6 billion), South Korea (\$6.9 billion), Hong Kong (\$4 billion), Taiwan (\$3.4 billion), Indonesia (\$3 billion) and the Philippines (\$2.6 billion).

U.S. bulk commodity exports set a volume record at 159 million metric tons, up 11 percent from FY 2016, while their value rose 16 percent to \$51.4 billion. The surge was led by soybean exports, which reached a

record 60 million metric tons, valued at \$24 billion. Exports of corn, wheat and cotton all grew as well, with the value of cotton exports climbing 70 percent, to \$5.9 billion, wheat exports up 21 percent, to \$6.2 billion, and corn exports up six percent, to \$9.7 billion.

A number of other products saw significant export increases. U.S. dairy exports grew 17 percent to \$5.3 billion, beef exports were up 16 percent to \$7.1 billion, and pork exports rose 14 percent to \$6.4 billion. Overall, horticultural product exports increased three percent to nearly \$33.9 billion, largely driven by an eight-percent increase in exports of tree nuts, which reached \$8.1 billion, the second-highest total on record. Processed food and beverage exports rose two percent to \$39.2 billion.

Exports are responsible for 20

percent of U.S. farm income, also driving rural economic activity and supporting more than one million American jobs both on and off the farm. Complete FY 2017 (Oct. 2016-Sept. 2017) agricultural export data are available from the Global Agricultural Trade System (GATS) database: <https://apps.fas.usda.gov/gats/>.

Idaho agriculture exports for FY2017 are not yet available. Data collected through the second quarter of the fiscal year shows an 11 percent bump over last year with processed milk products leading the way. Edible vegetables increased 27 percent over the previous year but oilseeds and malt both dropped by 22 percent and 1.4 percent consecutively, according to the Idaho Department of Commerce.

# MEMBER DISCOUNTS

## CHOICE HOTELS

Comfort Inn - Comfort Suites  
Quality Inn - Sleep Inn  
Clarion - Main Stay Suites  
Econo Lodge - Rodeway Inn

## WYNDHAM HOTELS

Super 8 - Days Inn  
Travelodge - Knights Inn  
Wyndam - Wingate Inns  
Howard Johnson - AmeriHost Inn  
Villager Ramada

## HOLIDAY INN

Holiday Inn - Candlewood  
Crown Plaza - Staybridge

## MOTEL 6

## INDUSTRIAL SUPPLIES

Grainger

## FINANCIAL

\$1,000 Vandalism Reward  
Farm Bureau Bank  
Farm Bureau Scholarships

## DENTAL CONTRACTED RATES

Dental Benefit Program

## AGRICULTURE

CASE-IH Tractors & Equipment  
FEWA H2A Program

## FOOD STORAGE

Walton Feed

## DISCOUNTED MOVIE TICKETS

Boise, Nampa, Pocatello  
Idaho Falls, Coeur d'Alene

## RENTAL CARS

Hertz - Enterprise  
Avis - Budget

## SUMMER FUN

Lagoon  
Silverwood  
Roaring Springs  
Wahooz Family Fun Zone  
San Diego Zoo - Sea World  
Knott's Berry Farm

## WINTER SKIING

Pebble Creek  
Brundage Mtn.  
Silver Mountain  
Deer Valley Resort, UT

## PROPANE

Amerigas  
Suburban Propane

## OFFICE SUPPLIES

Office Depot - Office Max

## MEDICAL ALERT SYSTEMS

LifeStation

## LOCALIZED

Cub River Ranch (Preston)  
Silver Mountain Resort (Kellogg)  
Dwight Baker Orthodontics (Eastern Idaho)  
Summit Eyecare (Eastern Idaho)  
Felton & Felton Law (South Central)  
Village Coffee & Bistro (Boise)  
Desert Canyon Golf Course (Mountain Home)  
Larry Jensen Sod (Eastern Idaho)  
Helping Hands Home Health (Eastern Idaho)

## OIL CHANGE

Jiffy Lube

## SHUTTLE TRANSPORT

Salt Lake Express  
(To or From SLC)

## APPLIANCES

Sears Commercial

## MEDICATION

The Canadian Pharmacy  
Farm Bureau RX Card

## LIFEFLIGHT

EIRMC - Portneuf  
St. Alphonsus - St. Lukes

## HEARING

Clear Value Siemens

## PAINT

Sherwin Williams  
Kelly-Moore Paints  
Columbia Paint

## IDENTITY THEFT PROTECTION

Lifelock

## SOLAR ENERGY

Big Dog Solar Energy

## NBA

Utah Jazz

## MACHINERY

Caterpillar

[www.idahofbstore.com](http://www.idahofbstore.com)

(208) 239-4289



Idaho Farm Bureau®



Idaho's Craters of the Moon National Monument was excluded from a U.S. Department of Interior review in August. The size of the Monument will not be altered. Two monuments in Utah and one in Oregon are under scrutiny and may be reduced by President Trump. However, legal challenges are expected. *Farm Bureau file photo*

---

# Zinke Recommends Shrinking Monuments: Mum on Specifics

By John Thompson

Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke recently completed a review of national monuments created in the last 20 years, but specific information about what he found has yet to be made public.

In August, Zinke narrowed the review, ordered by President Donald Trump last May, down to three monuments and released about 20 others from the process. Idaho's Craters of the Moon National Monument was included in those released from consideration. Two monuments in Utah and one in Oregon remain on the list. Their overall acreage may be shrunk and other changes are possible in order to make them comply with the intentions of the Antiquities Act.

In a report submitted to the White House, Zinke recommended shrinking the size of Utah's Bear's Ears National Monument, Grand Staircase National Monument and Oregon's Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument, according to the Washington Post.

Advocates for the West, a Boise law firm, filed suit in federal court in early November to force the release of Zinke's complete report, but court action has not yet commenced as of deadline for this publication.

The Antiquities Act, passed into law in 1906, is a tool used by presidents to block out areas of cultural or natural significance and create national monu-

---

**“No President should use the authority under the Antiquities Act to restrict public access, prevent hunting and fishing, burden private land or eliminate traditional land uses unless such action is needed to protect the object”**

---

ments. In some cases national monuments become national parks. Use of the Antiquities Act is frequently controversial, especially at the local level because a president can change federal land designations unilaterally. Utah has been a target of two successive Democrat presidents who used the Antiquities Act in the face of strong local opposition.

In 1996, President Bill Clinton created the 1.9 million-acre Escalante Grand Staircase National Monument in southwest Utah. And in 2016 at the end of his term of office, President Barack Obama created the 1.35 million-acre Bear's Ears National Monument in southeastern Utah. Obama used the Antiquities Act more frequently than any president in history, designating 3.9 million acres of federal land in national monuments.

Back in May, President Trump ordered Zinke to review more than two dozen monuments established by Clinton, George W. Bush and Obama. The process pitted those who feel marginalized by the federal government's heavy-handed practices over the past 20 years against many who view the creation of new monuments as a tool to bolster tourism and recreation while preserving

relics and areas of cultural significance.

“No President should use the authority under the Antiquities Act to restrict public access, prevent hunting and fishing, burden private land or eliminate traditional land uses unless such action is needed to protect the object,” Zinke said. “The recommendations I sent to the President on national monuments will maintain federal ownership of all federal land and protect the land under federal environmental regulations, and also provide a much needed change for the local communities who border and rely on these lands for hunting and fishing, economic development traditional uses and recreation.”

Congress has the authority to alter national monuments through legislation but throughout U.S. history, presidents have reduced boundaries only on limited occasions. President Woodrow Wilson cut the size of Olympic National Monument, in Washington, by half. The Monument was established by President Theodore Roosevelt six years prior. Roosevelt championed creation of the Antiquities Act and used it frequently during his tenure. It's been 40 years since any president sought to reduce the size of a national monument.

# Interior Secretary Launches Aggressive Fire Prevention Plan

By John Thompson

In the wake of numerous catastrophic wildfires across the West, U.S. Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke recently issued a new Wildland Fire Directive advising all those in his charge to take aggressive action to prevent wildfire.

In the last year, 47,700 wildfires burned eight million acres with the majority of the devastation in California and Montana.

“This Administration will take a serious turn from the past and will proactively work to prevent forest fires through aggressive and scientific fuels reduction management to save lives, homes, and wildlife habitat,” Zinke said. “It is well settled that the steady accumulation and thickening of vegetation in areas that have historically burned at frequent intervals exacerbates fuel conditions and often leads to larger and higher-intensity fires. These fires are more damaging, more costly, and threaten the safety and security of both the public and firefighters. In recent fire reviews, I have heard this described as ‘a new normal.’ It is unacceptable that we should be satisfied with the status quo. We must be innovative and where new authorities are needed, we will work with our colleagues in Congress to craft management solutions that will benefit our public lands for generations to come.”

According to a DOI press release, superintendents and land managers at all levels were ordered to adopt more aggressive practices to prevent and combat the spread of catastrophic wildfires. They intend to use robust fuel reduction practices and pre-suppression techniques.

“It is critical to fully consider the benefits of fuels reduction in the everyday management activities that we carry out for our public land management objectives, such as clearing along roadsides, around visitor use areas like campgrounds and trails, near



Fire investigators could not confirm the origin of a fire that burned a home near Pocatello in September.

employee housing areas, and within administrative site areas subject to wildfire,” said Bryan Rice, Director of the Office of Wildland Fire.

The Department has lost historic structures in wildfires like Glacier National Park’s historic Sperry Chalet lodge. In an effort to help prevent future losses, the Secretary is also directing increased protection of Interior assets that are in wildfire prone areas, following the Firewise guidance.

“I welcome Secretary Zinke’s new directive and his attention to the catastrophic fires taking place in many western

states,” said Senator Lisa Murkowski, Chairman of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee. “Treating our landscapes mitigates wildfire risk, increases firefighter safety, and makes our forests and rangelands healthy and resilient. We can no longer delay the implementation of this important work.”

House Natural Resources Chairman Rob Bishop said, “We must ensure our land management agencies have the tools and resources they need to protect communities and landscapes from catastrophic wildfire. Over the long term, Congress and the Administration must work together to

reverse the sorry state of our federal forests and grasslands. I'm heartened to finally have an Administration that's focused on actively managing and addressing the on-the-ground conditions that are contributing to our historic wildfire crisis. I hope to build on this by enacting comprehensive legislation to restore the health and resiliency of federal lands."

In a memo to DOI employees, Zinke noted that accumulation of vegetation in areas that have historically burned at frequent intervals exacerbates fuel conditions and often leads to larger and higher-intensity fires. These fires are more damaging, more costly, and threaten the safety and security of both the public and firefighters.

Further, the memo states one of the federal fire strategic goals is to ensure that landscapes and communities across all jurisdictions are resilient to fire-related disturbances in accord with management objectives.

"A key part of implementing such a strategy is carrying out activities that address vegetation composition and structure and also alters fuel loads to reduce hazards," the memo states. "Such methods of fuel treatment safeguard public and firefighter safety and protect our landscapes, scenic vistas, and natural and historic objects; our neighbors, nearby communities, and infrastructure; and our own administrative and visitor service assets and facilities. For our managers and superintendents of units that have burnable vegetation, I am directing you to think about fire in a new and aggressive way. Address the threat of fire in all of your activities, rather than engaging only the fire staff. All land managers across the Department of the Interior (Department) have a responsibility, using the full range of existing authorities, to consider using fuels management to achieve their programs' and units' resource- and land-management objectives. Where dead and dying trees have become hazards that can carry fire across our boundaries or into

areas that are a threat to values-at-risk, we must move aggressively to minimize that threat. If we don't have the people on hand, we have authorities to contract it to capable resource managers in the private sector. It makes little sense to be thinning to protect structures when we see flames on the ridge and smoke in the air—fuel management is more effective when undertaken before fires break out."

Zinke requested that agency personnel do the following: 1) use existing policies more aggressively; 2) think differently about how those policies may be applied; 3) look for opportunities to partner with adjacent agencies, state and local governments, tribes, and private landowners to maximize resources; 4) look carefully at existing management plans and ask if all that can be done today is getting done to address the threats of tomorrow; and 5) ensure that our landscapes are restored and maintained to meet our mission.

## Evan Frasure Appointed to FSA Post

The Trump Administration recently appointed Evan Frasure as the new State Executive Director (SED) for the USDA Idaho Farm Service Agency (FSA). Frasure joined the Idaho FSA team on Monday, Nov. 13.

Frasure most recently served as a commissioner for Bannock County, Idaho. While serving in the Idaho legislature, he served as the Senate Transportation chairman where he received the non-partisan recognition as one of the top 100 most influential Idahoans for multiple years in a row. Frasure's extensive background in business includes managing agents in southeast Idaho for both residential and commercial real estate, owning of several small businesses, and serving as executive director for a large international marketing company.

The Farm Service Agency serves farmers, ranchers and agricultural partners through the delivery of effective, efficient agricultural programs. The agency offers farmers a strong safety net through the administra-

tion of farm commodity and disaster programs. FSA continues to conserve natural resources and also provides credit to agricultural producers who are unable to receive private, commercial credit, including special emphasis on beginning, underserved and women farmers and ranchers.

Under the direction of Secretary Sonny Perdue, the USDA will always be facts-based and data-driven, with a decision-making mindset that is customer-focused. Secretary Perdue leads the USDA with four guiding principles: to maximize the ability of American agriculture to create jobs, sell foods and fiber, and feed and clothe the world; to prioritize customer service for the taxpayers; to ensure that our food supply is safe and secure; and to maintain good stewardship of the natural resources that provide us with our miraculous bounty. And understanding that we live in a global economy where trade is of top importance, Secretary Perdue has pledged to be an unapologetic advocate for American agricul-



Evan Frasure

ture.

As SED, Frasure will use his leadership experience to oversee FSA programs in a customer-focused manner to ensure a safe, affordable, abundant and nutritious food supply for consumers.

# LA NINA

Continued from page 5

Niño, known for its cooling of the equatorial waters in the eastern and central Pacific Ocean, which impacts atmospheric conditions throughout the world.

Idaho has already started seeing the effects of El Niño. Tamarac Ski Area outside of Cascade had a two-day, 20-inch snowstorm on the November 3rd weekend. Smaller storms have blown through and snowpacks are starting to build in the mountains.

Abramovich says last year's record snowpack came from the La Niña weather pattern. El Niño and La Niña are opposite phases of the El Niño

Southern Oscillation - that's the fluctuation in temperatures between the ocean and atmosphere in the eastern Pacific along the equator.

In normal seasons atmospheric pressure pulls trade winds westward toward East Asia. During El Niño seasons the trade winds weaken, allowing the warmer water to shift east and taking the potential for strong tropical storms with it.

Typically, La Niña follows an El Niño event and Abramovich says it's a classic weather correction.

La Niña will show ocean temperatures in the eastern Pacific

that are cooler than average. It allows a ridge of high pressure to settle along the West Coast of the United States, pushing the polar jet stream further north and pulling the Pacific jet stream through Idaho.

La Niña years usually translate into cooler-than-average temperatures across portions of the Northwest.

So southern Idaho could once again see cooler-than-average temperatures. When it comes to precipitation, Idaho is on the fringe of a wetter than average winter. But, the northern Rockies could see another winter with above normal rain and snowfall.

But even with expectations from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Climate Prediction Center, experts have no guarantees about the storms heading our way.

"Are they going to hit Washington and the Cascades or are they going to come through Oregon and Northern California again or nail southern Idaho?" Abramovich asks. "Again, we'd be hard-pressed to see back-to-back rainfall patterns like last year. "But I think we're going to get storms."

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

To all policyholders: The 2018 annual meeting for policyholders of Farm Bureau Mutual Insurance Co. of Idaho will be held on Friday, Feb. 2, 2018, 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. 2, 2018, 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

## LOW INTEREST LOANS FOR IDAHO SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION

- Sprinkler Irrigation
- No-Till Drills
- Fences
- Livestock Feeding Operations
- Solar Stock Water Pump Systems

**2.5% - 3.25%**  
Terms 7-15 Years  
Up to \$200,000



swc.idaho.gov | 208-332-1790



# TAME — THE — MARKET

**LOCK IN GAINS AND NEVER LOSE MONEY<sup>1</sup>**

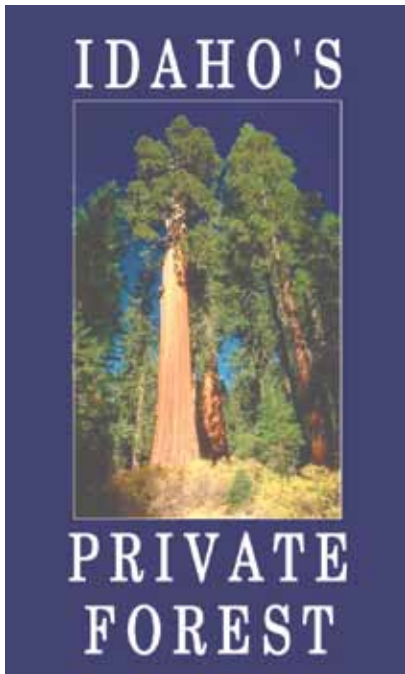


**GRAB YOUR  
FUTURE BY  
THE HORNS.**

**CONTACT YOUR  
FARM BUREAU  
AGENT TODAY!**

 **FARM BUREAU  
FINANCIAL SERVICES**

<sup>1</sup>Surrender of the contract may be subject to surrender charges. Withdrawals before age 59 ½ may result in a 10% IRS penalty tax. Additionally, there is a charge for the Simple7 Income Rider once it is activated. Qualifications and restrictions apply for activation. Farm Bureau Life Insurance Company \*West Des Moines, IA. \*Company provider of Farm Bureau Financial Services A144 (9-17)



Trojan Fir foliage

## Today's Tree Farm – Not just for Christmas anymore

Article and photos by Yvonne Barkley

Long before tinsel and blinking lights, Christmas decorations came from the natural world. Holly and ivy were used to decorate churches since at least the 1500s and the first written record of a decorated



Corkbark Fir foliage

Christmas tree comes from Riga, Latvia in 1501. The Christmas tree was introduced in the United States by German settlers in the 1800s and rapidly grew from the tabletop version to the current floor-to-ceiling size preferred today.

By 1851, native evergreen trees harvested from the forests began to be sold commercially as Christmas trees and 1901 saw the first Christmas tree farm established by W. V. McGalliard, who planted 25,000 Norway spruce on his farm in New Jersey. Currently, there are approximately 350 million Christmas trees growing on American tree farms. Real Christmas trees are a crop planted and harvested by farmers; an industry that employs 135,000 people annually.

In 2016, The New York Post reported that one New York City tree stand sold a 13-foot-live tree for \$1,000, delivered. The 2017 holiday season will again see shortages in the real Christmas tree market with a corresponding increase in prices. Why? An overabundance of trees in the early 2000s kept prices down, and when coupled with the “Great Reces-

sion”, forced many tree farmers out of the Christmas tree business. As it takes seven to nine years before the first trees planted are ready to be cut and sold, remaining tree farmers are having a hard time keeping up with demand.

A small number of new tree farms have been established in the Pacific Northwest over the past 10 years. Establishing a tree farm is not an easy task and one that is more of a life-style than a commercial business. Those that are successful have diversified their operations to include other crops, such as pumpkins, small fruits and ornamental flowers, as well as hosting planned events. Fall harvest festivals, pumpkin hunts and wine tastings with live music are quickly followed by hot-cider and sleigh rides, wreath making and fabulous gift shops that showcase local artisans. Today's tree farm visitors experience all this and more - and yeah, get that perfect Christmas tree while there as well.

Not only are western small tree farms expanding their operations into other crops, they are also growing new varieties of

Christmas trees. Some new variety traits are of interest to the grower in particular – such as increased tolerance to drought and late spring frosts, but all offer buyers exciting new trees to choose from.

### New species

The most popular species of Christmas trees has remained the same for decades – the grand, noble, concolor, balsam and Fraser firs, Douglas-fir, Colorado blue and white spruce, and white and Scotch pines. Poor seed crops and undesirable traits of existing favorites coupled with the increasing demand for new varieties has spurred growers to plant new species. Here are a few currently gaining popularity:

Corkbark fir. Native to south-

western U.S., the corkbark fir looks very similar to a Colorado blue spruce, but with softer, fragrant needles and a creamy white, corky bark. With a narrow, conical shape, this gorgeous tree has good needle retention and fragrance. Supplies are limited as the corkbark fir is a slow grower with desirable characteristics extremely dependent on seed source, which is in short supply.

Canaan fir. From the scenic Canaan Valley in West Virginia, the Canaan fir is a cross of the northern balsam fir and Fraser balsam fir. The blue-green, flattish needles are a silvery color on the underside and have good needle retention. More drought tolerant than Fraser fir, Canaan fir has a sweet and spicy fragrance



Canaan Fir foliage



Serbian Spruce foliage

soft and lacy branches sturdy enough to support ornaments of many sizes. For those who like a Fraser fir and want to try something new, the Canaan fir is your tree.

Trojan fir. Trojan fir is native to the mountains of western Turkey. Quickly becoming a popular Christmas tree variety because of its outstanding drought tolerance and good form, Trojan fir has soft green foliage, strong needle retention and a nice fragrance.

Serbian spruce. Referred to as “one of the most graceful and beautiful spruces,” Serbian spruce has medium to dark green needles with two very distinct white bands on the lower surface that give the tree a silvery appearance. Though the needles only have an average retention rating, they are soft and bear a pleasant fragrance. Native to northern Europe and northern Asia, Serbian spruce makes an attractive Christmas tree

with its narrow, pyramidal, spire-like shape and pendant branches that twist to show the silvery undersides of the needles, giving the tree an almost-two-toned appearance.

Selecting and cutting your own Christmas tree creates unforgettable memories shared with family and friends. And that is what U-cut tree farms are all about – the experience. To have that experience this year with your family, find a tree farm close to you by going to:

Inland Empire Christmas Tree Association - <http://iechristmastrees.org/>

National Christmas Tree Association - <http://www.realchristmastrees.org/All-About-Trees/Tree-Locator>

*Yvonne Barkley is an associate extension forester for the University of Idaho. She can be reached at [yvonnec@uidaho.edu](mailto:yvonnec@uidaho.edu)*

# Idaho Farm Bureau Online

**Idaho Farm Bureau Homepage**  
[www.idahofb.org](http://www.idahofb.org)

**Flickr**  
[flickr.com/photos/idfarmbureau](https://www.flickr.com/photos/idfarmbureau)

**YouTube**  
[www.youtube.com/user/IDFarmBureau](https://www.youtube.com/user/IDFarmBureau)

**Twitter**  
[twitter.com:IDFarmBureau](https://twitter.com:IDFarmBureau)

**Blogger**  
[idahofarmbureau.blogspot.com](http://idahofarmbureau.blogspot.com)





# IDAHO FFA EXCELS AT NATIONAL FFA CONVENTION

Congratulations to Idaho FFA state winners competing and earning recognition at the 2017 National FFA Convention in Indianapolis, IN, in October.

Twenty-six teams and individuals represented Idaho in Career and Leadership Development Events (CDEs and LDEs) with an impressive nine Gold Rankings earned. CDEs and LDEs provide competitive learning activities that help students develop the abilities to think critically, communicate clearly, and perform effectively in a competitive job market.

Here are the rankings for all Idaho CDE and LDE participants:

- ◆ **Agricultural Communications**—South Fremont FFA Chapter—*Bronze Award*
- ◆ **Agricultural Issues Forum**—American Falls FFA Chapter—*Silver Award*
- ◆ **Agricultural Sales**—Castleford FFA Chapter—*Bronze Award*
- ◆ **Agricultural Technology and Mechanical Systems**—Nampa FFA Chapter—**12th Place, GOLD Award**
- ◆ **Agronomy**—Fruitland FFA Chapter—**7th Place, GOLD Award**
- ◆ **Conduct of Chapter Meetings**—Kuna FFA Chapter—*Silver Award*
- ◆ **Creed Speaking**—Tanner Acor, Fruitland FFA Chapter—*Bronze Award*
- ◆ **Dairy Cattle Evaluation and Management**—Preston FFA Chapter, *Silver Award*
- ◆ **Dairy Cattle Handlers' Activity**—Caden Lindhardt, Preston FFA Chapter—*Silver Award*
- ◆ **Employment Skills**—Mallie Miller, Meridian FFA Chapter—**2nd Place, GOLD Award**
- ◆ **Environmental and Natural Resources**—Rigby FFA Chapter—**4th Place—GOLD Award, Dalton Johnson 2nd Place Individual**
- ◆ **Extemporaneous Public Speaking**—Cody Jackson, Jerome FFA Chapter—*Semifinalist, Silver Award*
- ◆ **Farm Business Management**—West Jefferson FFA Chapter—*Silver Award*
- ◆ **Floriculture**—Cambridge FFA Chapter—**6th Place, GOLD Award**



Mallie Miller, Meridian FFA—2nd in the nation in Employment Skills event.

- ◆ **Food Science and Technology**—Meridian FFA Chapter—**9th Place, GOLD Award, Rachel Mansfield, 8th Place Individual**
- ◆ **Forestry**—Fruitland FFA Chapter—*Bronze Award*
- ◆ **Horse Evaluation**—Nampa FFA Chapter—*Silver Award*
- ◆ **Livestock Evaluation**—Madison FFA Chapter—*Silver Award*
- ◆ **Marketing Plan**—North Fremont FFA Chapter—*Silver Award*
- ◆ **Meats Evaluation and Technology**—Filer FFA Chapter—*Silver Award*
- ◆ **Milk Quality and Products**—Fruitland FFA Chapter—**5th Place, GOLD Award, Nate Connell 1st Place Individual**



Fruitland FFA's 5th Place Milk Quality and Products Team. Pictured from left are Ami Wall; Nate Connell, 1st Place Individual; Ellie Tesnohlidek; and Allison Church, 11th Place Individual.

- ◆ **Nursery/Landscape**—Cambridge FFA Chapter—*Silver Award*
- ◆ **Parliamentary Procedure**—Kuna FFA Chapter—**4th Place, GOLD Award**
- ◆ **Prepared Public Speaking**—Kaitlin Mirkin, Jerome FFA Chapter—*Bronze Award*
- ◆ **Poultry Evaluation**—Preston FFA Chapter—*Silver Award*
- ◆ **Veterinary Science**—Meridian FFA Chapter—**8th Place, GOLD Award, Courtney Chambers, 9th High Individual**



Margaret Mackin, Rigby FFA—National FFA Proficiency Award Winner.

In other top news from Idaho, **Margaret Mackin** of the Rigby FFA Chapter won the **NATIONAL PROFICIENCY AWARD** for Environmental Science and Natural Resources Management Entrepreneurship/Placement.



# Focus on Agriculture

## American Agriculture Can't Afford to Lose out on Trade

*By Hope Pjesky*

As a farmer, it saddens me the way anti-trade rhetoric has escalated in the media and political climate over the last few years. Overlooking the benefits, people are too often quick to write off free trade agreements. They seem to forget the basic economic principle of comparative advantage, which allows people to do what they are best at and trade with others for the goods and services they lack. When this principle is followed, everyone benefits from access to the best and most affordable products and services.

International trade is incredibly important to hundreds of thousands of American farm and ranch families, including mine. Using knowledge and innovation, Ameri-

can farmers and ranchers have become efficient at growing a diverse and abundant supply of food, fiber and fuel. Our productivity provides American consumers with more nutritious food choices, at lower prices than any other country in the world. But some of the products we take for granted in our grocery stores wouldn't be available without trade, due to the limits of our local climates and growing seasons. For example, tropical products such as coffee, cocoa and bananas cannot be produced in the continental U.S.

American farmers and ranchers are so efficient, in part, because we specialize in growing crops and raising livestock that are best suited to our land and climate. This efficiency allows us to grow an abundance of certain agricultural products to sell to

markets around the world. And that's vital to keeping agriculture and the jobs it supports on American soil alive and well. With 95.6 percent of the world's consumers living outside the U.S., family farmers like me depend on international trade to make our businesses sustainable.

On our farm in Oklahoma, we produce wheat and beef for consumers in the U.S. and abroad. Our climate is challenging for growing most crops but the crop best suited to our region is hard red winter wheat, the type of wheat used in the bread that Americans eat every day. American family farmers depend on international markets to keep us in business, however, as demand is not high enough in the U.S. alone. Each year between 50 and 60 percent of the hard red winter wheat grown in the U.S.

is exported to many countries around the world, including Mexico, Japan, the Philippines, China, Nigeria and South Korea.

In spite of our nation's love affair with red meat, valuable beef would be tossed out if our farm sold only to domestic customers. Access to markets in other countries that use the cuts

of beef American consumers don't not only adds value—between \$250 and \$300 for each calf—but also reduces food waste. For example, there isn't much demand for beef short ribs, tongue or internal organ meat in the U.S., but in South Korea short ribs are in high demand. In Mexico, tongue tacos are a favorite, and consumers in many countries around the

world welcome internal organ meats on their dinner plates. Without trade our farm couldn't make a living just producing the beef Americans enjoy.

Next time you hear that trade is bad for American businesses, take a moment to consider the safe, affordable food you enjoy every day, and imagine for a moment what your shopping

cart and dinner table might look like if a lack of trade opportunities forced American farms out of business.

*Hope Pjesky, a member of AFBF's GO Team, blogs at [hopepjesky.wordpress.com](http://hopepjesky.wordpress.com). She is a farmer/rancher in northern Oklahoma, where her family grows wheat and raises beef cattle.*

---

## POTATO MARKET

Continued from page 8

“What I've seen is demand is good across the board,” said Searle. “We have decent size here in the Shelley area but I haven't seen a shortage of smaller potatoes.”

According to the USDA's Potato size and grading report, the market is short on smaller size spuds but demand and prices are up.

The November report revealed that potatoes in the 2-inch or 4 oz. minimum size and grade

requirements for US No. 1 potatoes were 79.7 percent of the total. That's down from 82 percent last year. Processing grade No. 2's with a 1.5-inch minimum, accounted for just 15 percent of this year's crop.

“After three years of terrible market prices, finally prices are very good for this time of year, and with lower yields its gathering strength,” said Searle

Mickelsen says his research shows that Idaho potatoes could

be down 3 percent to 5 percent this year and that could keep prices up throughout the winter.

“Most of the projections show that prices will remain steady, at these levels, that's good and there's a smaller crop so it looks like prices will hold so that's good and its good for everybody,” said Mickelsen.

Mickelsen said the market could climb to \$6.50 for 10-pound bags and that's well above price levels over the

past few years. Last year, delivered prices for 10-pound bags of Idaho potatoes to the Midwest markets was about \$9.50-10. This week it is \$11.

“I'm happy with this year, especially after three years of bad prices. There are farmers just hanging on by the fingernails and finally this year we have decent prices. These prices are welcome. We have growers that have lower yields but the quality is excellent and market prices are good,” said Searle.

---

## RURAL SCHOOL FUNDING

Continued from page 9

ally managed lands, have the funding necessary for schools, roads, bridges, forest management projects and public safety,” said Senator Crapo.

The payments expired last March, leaving counties without enough money to fund basic services like law enforcement, road repairs, and snow removal in rural areas.

“We stressed the importance of prioritizing the SRS program in the federal budgeting process,” said Crapo in

a Town Hall meeting in Kamiah. “SRS payments provide critical revenues to more than 4,400 schools throughout the country. In many cases, these ‘forest counties’ include massive swaths of public lands in national forests,” said Crapo.

Crapo and fellow western senators wrote to President Trump that they're working in a bipartisan way to support strapped rural communities. The lack of certainty about SRS funding comes after another record fire season and rural unemployment

at 7 percent in Idaho County.

“These county payments, are designed to offset the loss of the local share of timber sales revenue due to the drastic decline in timber harvests. Nearly 80 percent of Idaho's counties receive county payments because of a large amount of national forest land in Idaho,” added Crapo.

Counties received their last SRS funds in March 2016. Since the program expired, residents in many of the counties that depend on this funding have had

to choose between keeping schools and libraries open and laying off law enforcement.

A two-year extension is our goal in the short term,” said Senator Crapo, adding the long-term effort is a funding fix that provides rural counties stable funding that allows them to fund programs and move forward. Establishing a permanent solution, “that's what our goal is,” he said.

# Market Your Wheat the Same as Large Grain Traders



Clark Johnston

*By Clark Johnston*

As we approach the end of another calendar year it is good to reflect and ponder on all that was good over the past twelve months. It is no coincidence that we have Thanksgiving and Christmas at the end of the year.

Thanksgiving reminds us as well as giving us the opportunity to really take a good look at all the good things that have happened over the year as well as our lifetime. We are able to reflect on where we live, our country, state and communities as well as our family and friends. We are also blessed with the opportunity to work hard and provide for our family. I realize that some years are better than others but we still have the opportunity and that is what is important.

When I look at the agriculture industry as a whole I see individuals as well as organizations that are ready and willing to step up to the plate wherever and whenever someone is in need. It really doesn't matter to producers if commodity prices have or haven't been at profitable levels or if the quality of the crop may not have been as good as desired. Producers are there to help when needed whether in their own family or in the community. And I believe that more often than not these acts of kindness are performed anonymously.

It is the kindness that you have in your hearts that helps to give you the hope that

next year will be a good year. After all when we have our priorities in order and are thinking of others rather than what's in it for me, life is good.

Now let's not forget that we still have a job to do and we should always be looking at ways to do it better. Once the Holidays are over and we begin the new calendar year in January we will need to get very serious about the next crop and how we are going to market that crop. We should always remember that quality and yield are vital to your operation however; marketing is where you get paid.

Just as you are diversified in the commodities you produce you should also be diversified in how you market those commodities. The old saying, "Don't put all your eggs in one basket" is true whether pertaining to production or marketing. Would you (for instance) increase your production of a commodity without having at least a percentage of that commodity contracted or hedged at a specific price? I hope the answer to that question isn't YES.

Just look at what basis has done this year since harvest especially in hard white. Those hard white producers that hedged at least part of their production and now are contracting their crop have hit a home run (it may not have been a grand slam but it definitely has been a home run).

Often time I am asked, how I (meaning producers) can take advantage of the

same opportunities the grain companies and the large traders are able to do and the answer is, you need to market the same way they do.

We all need to learn how to use the futures markets to our advantage as well as how basis can be used in our marketing. Too often we are caught up in what is the most convenient or just watching the cash price throughout the year. As we have visited about in the past, when we separate the futures and the basis and trade them separately a whole new world is opened up to us.

I'm not saying that by hedging with futures and trading basis that we still won't need to watch and manage marketing efforts daily. What I am saying is that by doing this you will have opportunities that you won't currently have by just trading the cash market.

We wish you all a very "Merry Christmas" and look forward to a new year of working with you.

*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)*



## House Poised to Take Up Farm Bureau-supported Tax Bill

The lower individual tax rates and the new business tax rate contained in the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act (H.R. 1), set for a House vote in late November, hold the potential to reduce income taxes for farmers and ranchers, according to the American Farm Bureau Federation.

The measure would also preserve many critical tax provisions farmers and ranchers need to manage tight margins and unpredictable income.

The Tax Cuts and Jobs Act would expand and increase

expensing limits for Sec. 179 small business expensing and allow for unlimited immediate expensing. In addition, the bill would let farmers and ranchers continue to deduct customary business expenses including, but not limited to, feed, seed and other inputs. The deduction for state and local taxes is another tool that would continue to be available under the bill.

“A tax system that is fair to small business must allow for the deduction of all legitimate business expenses,” AFBF

President Zippy Duvall wrote in a letter to House members in support of the measure.

Cash accounting and like-kind exchanges for buildings and land would continue under the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act, though not permanently, as farmers had hoped. These provisions are critical to people who operate low-margin businesses with unpredictable income streams.

“We look forward to working with Congress to make expensing provisions permanent so that farmers and ranchers will

have the certainty they need to manage their farm and ranch businesses,” Duvall said.

The bill’s provision to increase the estate tax exemption and permanently repeal the tax in 2024 was cheered by farm and ranch families.

“While we would prefer immediate repeal, the doubling of the estate tax exemption indexed for inflation with a continuation of the spousal transfer is a positive intermediate step that will ease the burden for the vast majority of farmers and ranchers,” Duvall wrote.



Refer a friend, get a gift!

When a friend you refer purchases a policy from us, you'll receive a **\$25 MasterCard® Gift Card** and be entered into our quarterly drawing for a **\$500 Gift Card**.\* Our latest \$500 drawing winner is **Lavern Talbot** from Preston. Congratulations Lavern!

**Farm Bureau INSURANCE**  
FARM BUREAU MUTUAL INSURANCE COMPANY OF IDAHO

\*Certain restrictions apply. Please see the Rewards Program flyer available from your Farm Bureau Insurance agent for complete details.



**RANGER XP® 1000:  
YOUR NEW 80HP  
WORKHORSE**

**THE HARDEST WORKING, SMOOTHEST RIDING  
AUTHORITY ON GETTING EVERY JOB DONE.**

The all-new Polaris RANGER XP® 1000, the world's most powerful and most comfortable utility side-by-side featuring a class dominating 80HP ProStar® engine, an all-new industry-exclusive 3-mode throttle control for ideal power and control for every situation, and best-in-class payload and towing capacity. See your dealer for more information or visit [polaris.com](http://polaris.com) to see the full RANGER® lineup.

Thanks to the following Polaris Dealers for supporting the Young Farmer & Rancher Program:

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <b>Action Cycles N Sleds</b><br>Twin Falls (208) 736-8118        | <b>Mile High Power Sports</b><br>McCall (208) 634-7007     |
| <b>Action Motorsports</b><br>Idaho Falls (208) 522-3050          | <b>Northstar</b><br>Preston (208) 852-1888                 |
| <b>Buds Powersports</b><br>Cottonwood (208) 962-3211             | <b>Performance Motorsports</b><br>Ashton (208) 652-7738    |
| <b>Carl's Cycle Sales</b><br>Boise (208) 853-5550                | <b>Post Falls Powersports</b><br>Post Falls (866) 628-3821 |
| <b>Dennis Dillon</b><br>Boise (208) 343-2830                     | <b>Rexburg Motorsports</b><br>Rexburg (208) 356-4000       |
| <b>Grizzly Sports</b><br>Caldwell (208) 454-8508                 | <b>Sandpoint Marine</b><br>Sandpoint (208) 263-1535        |
| <b>Guys Outdoor</b><br>Lewiston (208) 746-0381                   | <b>Switchback Motor Sports</b><br>Pocatello (208) 238-1575 |
| <b>Krehbiel's Sales &amp; Service</b><br>Aberdeen (208) 397-4704 | <b>Young Powersports</b><br>Burley (208) 678-5111          |



Warning: The Polaris RANGER is not intended for on-highway use. Driver must be at least 16 years old with a valid driver's license to operate. Passengers must be at least 12 years old and tall enough to sit with feet firmly on the floor. All SxS drivers should take a safety training course. Contact ROHVA at [www.rohva.org](http://www.rohva.org) or (949) 255-2560 for additional information regarding safety training. Polaris recommends that drivers and passengers wear helmets, eye protection, and protective clothing, especially for trail riding and other recreational use. Always wear seat belts. Be particularly careful on difficult terrain. Never engage in stunt driving, and avoid excessive speeds and sharp turns. Riding and alcohol/drugs don't mix. Check local laws before riding on trails.

# This Month's Top Farm Bureau Agents



Rob Ellis -  
Magic Valley Region  
Agent of the Month



Joseph Richards -  
North Idaho Region  
Rookie of the Month

**Region of the Month:  
Magic Valley Region**



2016-2017 Season



**Look For Farm Bureau Discounts At:  
[www.idahofbstore.com](http://www.idahofbstore.com)**

# Young Farmers & Ranchers Announce National Competition Details

Winners of the 2018 American Farm Bureau Federation Young Farmers & Ranchers awards will receive a new Ford truck and paid registration to a leadership conference in Reno, Nevada.

Award winners will be recognized during the AFBF Annual Convention in early January. The Young Farmers & Ranchers Leadership Conference will be held in Reno, Nevada on February 16.

Winners of the YF&R Achievement Award, Discussion Meet and Excellence in Agriculture competitions will have their choice of

a 2018 Ford pickup sponsored by Southern Farm Bureau Life Insurance, Farm Bureau Financial Services and Country Financial, respectively.

- The **runners-up** (second place) of the YF&R Achievement Award, Discussion Meet and Excellence in Agriculture competitive events will each receive a Case IH Farmall 50A tractor, courtesy of Case IH.

- **Third place** finalists of the YF&R Achievement Award, Discussion Meet and Excellence in Agriculture competitive events will receive a Case IH 40" Combination Roll Cabinet & Top Chest and \$500 Case IH parts card,

courtesy of Case IH and \$2,000 of Stanley Black & Decker merchandise (PROTO, Dewalt, Stanley, Lenox & Irwin) courtesy of Stanley Black & Decker.

- **Fourth place** finalists of the YF&R Achievement Award, Discussion Meet and Excellence in Agriculture competitive events will receive a Case IH 40" Combination Roll Cabinet & Top Chest and \$500 Case IH parts card, courtesy of Case IH.

- The winners will be determined during AFBF's 99th Annual Convention on Jan. 5-10, 2018 in Nashville Tennessee.

## Thank you to all of our sponsors:



**SOUTHERN FARM BUREAU  
LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY**



# Farm Bureau Survey Reveals Lowest Thanksgiving Dinner Cost in Five Years

American Farm Bureau Federation's 32nd annual price survey of classic items found on the Thanksgiving Day dinner table indicates the average cost of this year's feast for 10 is \$49.12, a 75-cent decrease from last year's average of \$49.87.

The big ticket item – a 16-pound turkey – came in at a total of \$22.38 this year. That's roughly \$1.40 per pound, a decrease of 2 cents per pound, or a total of 36 cents per whole turkey, compared to 2016.

## Farm Bureau Reveals Lowest Thanksgiving Dinner Cost in Five Years

"For the second consecutive year, the overall cost of Thanksgiving dinner has declined," AFBF Director of Market Intelligence Dr. John Newton said. "The cost of the dinner is the lowest since 2013 and

second-lowest since 2011. Even as America's family farmers and ranchers continue to face economic challenges, they remain committed to providing a safe, abundant and affordable food supply for consumers at Thanksgiving and throughout the year."

The shopping list for Farm Bureau's informal survey includes turkey, bread stuffing, sweet potatoes, rolls with butter, peas, cranberries, a veggie tray, pumpkin pie with whipped cream, and coffee and milk, all in quantities sufficient to serve a family of 10 with plenty for leftovers.

Consumers continue to see lower retail turkey prices due to continued large inventory in cold storage, which is up almost double digits from last year, Newton explained.

Foods showing the largest decreases this year in addition to turkey, were a gallon of milk, \$2.99; a dozen rolls, \$2.26; two nine-inch pie shells, \$2.45; a 3-pound bag of sweet potatoes, \$3.52; a 1-pound bag of green peas, \$1.53; and a group of miscellaneous items including coffee and ingredients necessary to prepare the meal (butter, evaporated milk, onions, eggs, sugar and flour), \$2.72.

"Milk production has increased, resulting in continued low retail prices," Newton said. "In addition, grocers often use milk as a loss leader to entice consumers to shop at their stores."

Items that increased modestly in price were: a half-pint of whipping cream, \$2.08; a 14-ounce package of cubed bread stuffing, \$2.81; a 30-ounce can of pumpkin pie mix, \$3.21; a

12-ounce bag of fresh cranberries, \$2.43; and a 1-pound veggie tray, \$.74.

"Whole whipping cream is up about 4 percent in price, due to increased consumer demand for full-fat dairy products," Newton said.

The stable average price reported this year by Farm Bureau for a classic Thanksgiving dinner tracks with the government's Consumer Price Index for food eaten at home. But while the most recent CPI report for food at home shows a 0.5 percent increase over the past year (available online at <http://www.bls.gov/news.release/cpi.nr0.htm>), the Farm Bureau survey shows a 1.5 percent decline.

After adjusting for inflation, the cost of a Thanksgiving dinner is \$20.54, the lowest level since 2010.



# New Idaho Farm Bureau Member Benefits

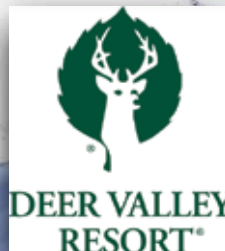


Idaho Farm Bureau Members  
Receive a 15% Discount on Their  
First Year FEWA Membership Fees

- Increase Productivity and Reliability of Your Workforce
  - Employ Legal Temporary Labor (H2A & H2B work visas)
  - Stay Compliant with Government Regulations
  - Save Money by Limiting Your Risk with In-house Legal Counsel
  - Have a Voice in Washington, DC
  - Call 1-877-422-3392 for a Complimentary Consultation
- [www.fewaglobal.org](http://www.fewaglobal.org)  
[info@fewaglobal.org](mailto:info@fewaglobal.org)

You Have Labor Demands?  
We Have Solutions!

## Farm Bureau Members Ski For Less This Winter



[www.idahofbstore.com](http://www.idahofbstore.com)

208-239-4289

# Importance of NAFTA to Agriculture in Each State for 2016

## NAFTA

As modernization of the North American Free Trade Agreement, or NAFTA 2.0, continues, concern from the agricultural community over a potential NAFTA withdrawal has intensified. NAFTA supporters point toward the tens of billions of dollars in U.S. agricultural exports delivered to our NAFTA partners each year or point out that exports to Mexico and Canada represent 30 percent of all U.S. agricultural exports. Put simply, Mexico and Canada are among our top three export markets.

Total withdrawal from NAFTA would make U.S. farmers and ranchers less com-

petitive in our top export markets – and could result in billions of dollars of agricultural products accumulating in inventories – further weakening the U.S. farm economy. The integration of the North American agricultural market that has occurred over the last quarter century is at risk. According to the Congressional Research Service, Potential Effects of a U.S. NAFTA Withdrawal: Agricultural Markets:

In general, the application of MFN tariffs on U.S. agricultural imports would likely raise prices both to U.S. consumers and other end users, such as manufacturers of value-added food products. MFN tariffs on U.S. agricultural exports would, in

turn, likely make U.S. products in those markets less price-competitive and more costly to foreign buyers, which could result in reduced quantities sold. Given that certain agricultural products dominate U.S. trade with Canada and Mexico—such as meat products, grains and feed, and processed foods—these products could become more costly and less competitive as MFN tariffs are imposed and other trade preferences are removed under a NAFTA withdrawal. This could result in reduced market share for U.S. products in these markets.

— Congressional Research Service

A series of Market Intel articles reviews the NAFTA benefits for a variety of commodities. Revisiting NAFTA: Implications for U.S. Agricultural Markets reviewed the free trade agreement as a whole.

Today's article takes a step back from the commodity-by-commodity approach and instead reviews the importance of NAFTA to the contiguous 48 states during 2016. Data from USDA's Foreign Agricultural Service are used to estimate the share of total agricultural exports represented by our NAFTA partners. Viewing NAFTA through the lens of what it means in terms of total agricultural exports will help policymakers, industry stakeholders and Farm Bureau members better understand how much our export markets, and U.S. farm income, relies on an integrated North American agricultural market.

Which States Would be Hit Hardest?

During 2016 \$38 billion in U.S. agricultural products were delivered to our NAFTA partners, with approximately \$20.3 billion going to Canada and \$17.8 billion to Mexico. Already, through September 2017, exports to Mexico are up 6 percent over year-ago levels and total NAFTA exports are up 3 percent.

Figure 1. Share of Total Agricultural Exports to NAFTA, 2016

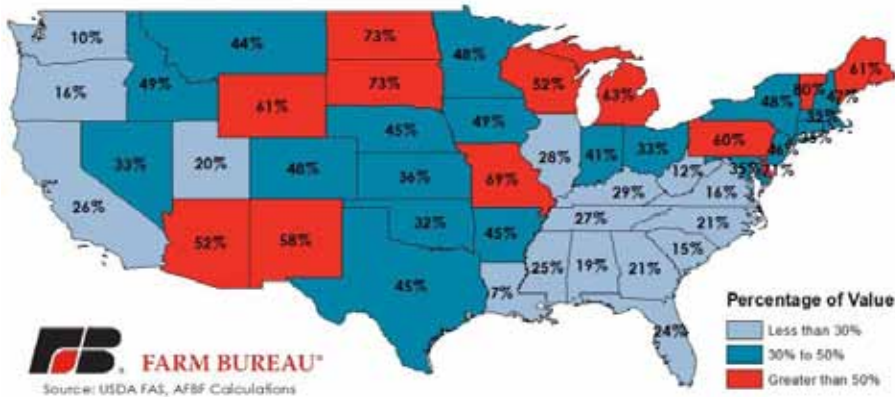
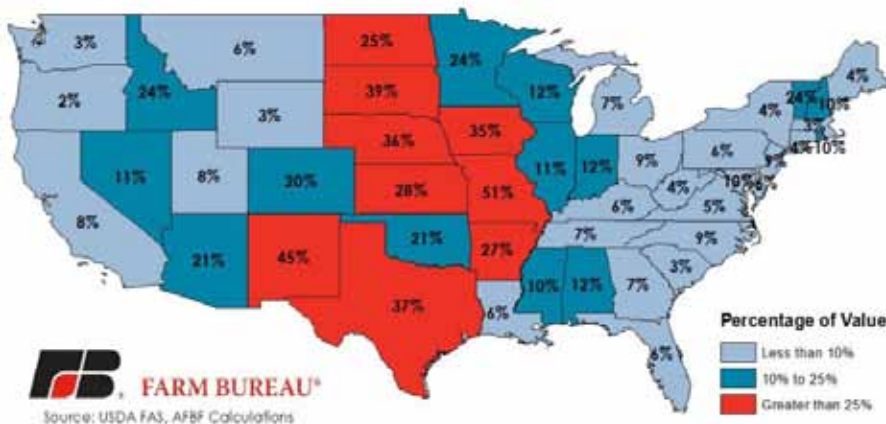


Figure 2. Share of Total Agricultural Exports to Mexico, 2016





# Always Check To See If A Farm Bureau Corporate Rate Is Cheaper.



**Call 1-800-654-2210**  
**Give CDP code: 409226**  
 Get certificate at [www.idahofbstore.com](http://www.idahofbstore.com)

**Call 1-800-736-8222**  
**Give CID code: CID2197**

**Call 1-800-331-1212**  
**Give AWD code: A298812**

**Online Instructions:**

**Step 1:** At the bottom of the reservation box there is a box to check for discount and promo codes. After checking the box, type in 0409226 in the CDP code section". Proceed to make the rest of your reservation. Farm Bureau discount prices will now be shown instead of regular prices.

**Step 2:** Go to [www.idahofbstore.com](http://www.idahofbstore.com) and print off a coupon from the Hertz section and take it to the Hertz counter when picking up the vehicle.

**Online Instructions:**

**Step 1:** At the bottom of the reservation box there is a line that reads, "OPTIONAL: COUPON, CUSTOMER OR COPORATE NUMBER: Enter Farm Bureau code of "CID2197".

**Step 2:** When the screen asks for the first 3 letters of company name type in "FAR" for Farm Bureau. Farm Bureau discount prices will now be shown instead of regular prices.

**Online Instructions:**

**Step 1:** At the bottom of the reservation box there is a box labelled, "Avis Worldwide Discount (AWD) Number or Rate Code. Place A298812 in the box.

**Step 2:** Proceed to make the rest of your reservation. Farm Bureau discount prices will now be shown instead of regular prices.



## IDAHO FARM BUREAU DISCOUNT PROGRAM



**Step 1:** Members go to [sears.com](http://sears.com) and find the product(s) they are interested in and write down the product/model number(s).

**Step 2:** Members email the product number(s) to Farm Bureau's designated contact at Sears Appliance Select: [cmurlin@searshc.com](mailto:cmurlin@searshc.com) for a quote. To receive this pricing a member must include their Farm Bureau membership number and Farm Bureau discount code **CU068062** in the email.

**Step 3:** After receiving a quote (allow 5 business days), members can then choose to use a credit card to purchase the discounted item(s) and it will be delivered via a custom freight company in 2-14 days.

**THIS OFFER IS NOT AVAILABLE THROUGH SEARS RETAIL OR DEALER**

All manufacturer warranties apply with the option to purchase extended Sears Protection Agreements. Installation is not included with delivery.

**For more information call (208) 239-4289**





Idaho wheat markets are oversupplied and storage is scarce. *Farm Bureau file photo*

# Grain Storage Tight

By Jake Putnam

Outside of Pocatello mountains of grain wait for shipment to Ogden and points east.

John Evans of Evans Grain in Burley says grain storage is tight at elevators across the state.

“We just got the 2017 crop in,” said Evans. “But we’re still moving the ’16 grain. The prices just haven’t been there, the futures are looking better but at this point, it all depends on Australia and what kind of crop they export. Our producers are holding onto their wheat.”

The last combines finished weeks ago. At the start of the season, Evans had enough storage for just 650,000 bushels of soft white wheat. He quickly filled that up and is now shipping every day.

“Prices are in the low \$4-dollar range, but futures look better and if you look around the state, you see the grain piling up in storage. That’s because everyone is keeping an eye on the market,” said Evans.

Just down the road in Rupert Brian Darrington set another personal record. He had a field of soft white that topped 160 bushels per acre. But he also had fields that brought in 100 bushels. His average was 131 bushels per acre. He’s sold some wheat and will market grain throughout the winter.

“We had a couple of fields that we had to replant last spring, and we were off to a slow start, but we got caught up,” said Darrington.

The grain is piled up, from outside to Pocatello to Burley and

Gooding.

Evans says trucks are at a premium and hard to find. When trucks are lined up shippers have to pay the price. But growers like Darrington are taking it in stride.

“I did my part,” said Darrington. “Now it’s up to the markets. If they can help out with higher prices we’ll have a really good year.” Darrington said the late start didn’t affect his operation. “We still had very high yields. I’m really happy with the year and way things turned out but these prices have to get better.”

A total of 1.1 million acres of wheat was harvested in Idaho this year, that’s down slightly from 1.13 million acres last year. Yields averaged 82.2 bushels per acre statewide in 2017, down from last year’s re-

cord of 91.4 bushels.

Doug Barrie of Idaho Falls says he’s marketing wheat this month. “I need cash flow, it’s something I have to do. But I’m moving 2016 grain this week. I haven’t got to this year’s crop.”

“Farmers are in a bad spot in terms of storage of grain,” said John Evans in Burley. It’s mainly because we had a lot of white wheat carry-over.

Evans says the Ogden market where most of Eastern Idaho grains are trucked, is still awash with wheat.

“Freight rates are so high we can’t ship it down the river anymore for export. That used to be our release but these days no one can afford to get the grain to Portland from here. Com-

*See GRAIN STORAGE page 34*

# GRAIN STORAGE

Continued from page 33

petitive rates aren't there," said Evans.

To deal with the second large crop in a row, farmers, grain elevators, and co-ops are looking at temporary storage space. Evans thinks storage is the key to making money this year.

"If you can figure out a way to store your grain, find a place to store it," said Evans. "Even if you got to pay 3-cents per bushel to store the stuff. This year is different kind of year than

last year. Prices are going to be higher if you can wait and pick the right time to sell."

"We had drought and weather issues in the Midwest, the Dakotas, and Canada. If you got some white wheat we're pushing the markets at \$4 or above producers need to be ready and take advantage of it," said Evans.

Evans hopes that producers can get some grain out on the rails and hit the Midwest where

prices are bit better. He said last year producers had nowhere to go because the market was so overwhelmed with record yields. And the brewing companies will play a factor this year.

"The maltsters like Anheuser Busch over contracted. They sent out a letter in June saying they were not going to take their commitment until September," said Evans. "That meant that farmers that were hoping to empty their bins by harvest didn't have a place to go."

He adds that grain was moving well until trucks got scarce. He said that going into winter producers need to be on their toes when trucks become available and prices improve.

"Right now producers need to shop around for storage. We saw what happened with white wheat last year. The same thing is happening this year. There's still so much carry over from last year, I'm telling producers don't get greedy, if you see a good price, sell," said Evans.

## AMERICAN FARM BUREAU FEDERATION NEWS

### USDA Pulls Problematic Biotech Proposal

USDA's withdrawal of agriculture biotech regulations proposed last year will give the department, along with farmers and other stakeholders, time to improve the rules so they better foster innovation while meeting the demands of U.S. agriculture's international customers, according to the American Farm Bureau Federation.

AFBF was joined this summer by 102 other agricultural organizations in a letter to Agriculture Secretary Sonny Perdue in which they noted the proposed revisions took some very constructive and bold steps in the right direction, but major changes were needed.

"USDA's proposal had some positives, particularly how the department was viewing new breeding techniques, such as gene editing. However, there were also some concerns, such as how traditional biotechnol-

ogy production practices might be regulated in the future and what that means for innovation and research and development," explained Andrew Walmsley, AFBF biotech specialist.

USDA's plan to start over on the regulations is an opportunity to make sure the department has the best regulatory approach for new breeding techniques, as well as for innovation in biotechnology and agriculture in general, Walmsley added.

Among some of the major concerns Farm Bureau and the other groups had with the proposal were researchers' and developers' inability to learn the regulatory status of new genetically engineered organisms without undergoing complex risk assessments. This would have provided little clarity about which products would be subject to regulation.

The requirement that risk as-

sessments would be conducted for plant products based only upon the technology used in their production, rather than actual risk, was another problem.

With the shift of the regulatory burden from commercialization stages to research and development phases, each new GE plant variety would have had to undergo a complex risk assessment and comment period before a single plant could be planted in a small-scale field trial. In addition, the proposed assessment process likely would not have accommodated the scale of U.S. research and development, which could have resulted in many products being stuck in regulatory limbo.

Also at issue were the barriers to innovation that would have been raised under the proposal's expansion of authority under Part 340, which would have created a redundant weed risk regulatory

process. This process currently works under USDA's Part 360 regulations.

Finally, USDA's push for major changes to the current regulatory system would likely have had unintended consequences for other regulatory agencies, and domestic and international markets, and would have led to significant litigation risks.

Though USDA did not lay out a timeline for the biotech rule revamp, the department said it is committed to "re-engage with stakeholders to determine the most effective, science-based approach for regulating the products of modern biotechnology while protecting plant health," so farmers and others are optimistic they'll have ample opportunity to share their thoughts on a new proposal, Walmsley said.

## Transportation Department Waives Logging Device Mandate

The Department of Transportation has granted a 90-day waiver from the requirement that agricultural and livestock haulers install electronic logging devices in their vehicles. Over those 90 days the department plans to look closely at agriculture's request for an exemption while developing additional guidance for agricultural haulers.

Most farmers and ranchers should be exempt from the ELD mandate because they can claim covered farm vehicle status, but drivers who haul livestock, live fish and insects are likely to fall under the requirements.

In September, the American Farm Bureau Federation and seven livestock organizations petitioned DOT for a waiver and exemption from the Dec. 18 ELD implementation deadline. In their request, the groups explained their two biggest concerns about the requirement:

livestock haulers' readiness to comply and the effect on the transported animals' well-being.

Drivers who have to use ELDs would be limited to current hours of service rules, which restrict a driver to only 14 "on duty" hours, with no more than 11 active driving hours. Once a driver hits those maximum hour allotments, he must stop and rest for 10 consecutive hours, which would be problematic when transporting livestock and other live animals.

In their petition, the groups pointed out livestock haulers' strong commitment to ensuring the safety of both the animals they're transporting and the drivers they share the road with. In addition, livestock haulers often receive specialized training beyond that required for their counterparts driving conventional commercial mo-

tor vehicles. The pork industry's Transport Quality Assurance Program and the beef industry's Master Cattle Transporter program provide detailed instruction on proper animal handling and transportation methods.

"As reflected in the [Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration's] data, the emphasis these programs place on animal welfare benefits driver safety as it encourages livestock haulers to slow down, be more aware of their surroundings and road conditions, and avoid rough-road situations that could result in animal injury," the groups noted.

Another major roadblock to implementation for livestock haulers is their lack of awareness of the rule. Because the livestock hauling industry is small compared to the overall trucking industry, it isn't strongly engaged by DOT's Federal Motor Car-

rier Safety Administration. As a result, livestock drivers who are aware of the program have had difficulty researching the ELD marketplace and identifying cost-effective solutions that are compatible with livestock hauling and current agricultural hours of service exemptions.

In their petition, the groups also asked DOT to address the incompatibilities between the FMCSA's hours of service rules and the structure and realities of the U.S. livestock sector.

"For many drivers, there is concern that there are those, with no understanding of or concern for animal welfare or livestock hauling, who will arbitrarily penalize them for choosing the proper care of animals over stopping in excessive heat or cold because of an arbitrary HOS cutoff," the groups said.

## Ag Investment Summit Brings Entrepreneurs and Investors Together

For the second year, the American Farm Bureau is offering a one-day conference to help entrepreneurs tap into the billions of dollars venture capital fund managers are looking to put into agriculture and food businesses. The 2018 Farm Bureau Agriculture Investment Summit, hosted in conjunction with the organization's Annual Convention, is slated for Jan. 6 at the Gaylord Opryland Resort and Convention Center in Nashville, Tennessee.

Geared toward entrepreneurs, investors and Farm Bureau staff

who want to support entrepreneurs in their states, the conference will address pitching to investors and working with them in the early stages, attracting later stage private equity investors, and dealing with legal issues.

"As a start-up, there is a cost to going out and meeting people and raising capital. One of the best things about this conference is the American Farm Bureau is bringing together some of the top ag tech investors in the country. Having access to those resources in one place,

at one event, is an outstanding opportunity," said Casey Niemann, founder of AgriSync, an app that allows advisors to reach their farmer-customers with mobile-first, video-first support on any connected device. Niemann attended the 2017 conference.

Attendees will also hear about both sides of the venture capital coin; entrepreneurs will share their stories of taking on investors, while investors will explain exactly what they're looking for.

"It was very helpful to look at investment capital from the other side of the table. As a start-up, you're so focused on your business and your capital needs. It's really valuable to look at the risk and the strategy of the investor, meaning what do they need in terms of their portfolio to make a return for their investors," Niemann said.

In addition, the conference will give the best entrepreneurs the opportunity to pitch their businesses to investors during rapid-fire pitch sessions.

# Farm Bureau Members

Pay  
Less  
For  
Choice Hotels!



A \$80 room will be closer to



**\$64**

A \$90 room will be closer to



**\$72**

A \$100 room will be closer to



**\$80**

**1.800.258.2847**

FARM BUREAU DISCOUNT CODE

**00209550**

ADVANCED RESERVATIONS REQUIRED



## FARM BUREAU COMMODITY REPORT

GRAIN PRICES	10/19/2017	11/20/2017	Trend
<b>PORTLAND</b>			
Soft White Wheat	5.27 - 5.35	5.17 - 5.35	-.10 to steady
Hard Red Winter	5.59 - 5.74	5.41 - 5.51	-.18 to -.23
DNS 14%	7.45 - 7.50	7.46 - 7.56	+.01 to +.06
Corn (bushel)	4.20 - 4.27	4.31 - 4.39	+.11 to +.12
Oats	215.00	215.00	Steady
<b>OGDEN</b>			
Soft White Wheat	4.02	3.88	-.14
Hard Red Winter	4.14	4.33	+.19
DNS	6.00	6.34	+.34
Barley	6.05	6.20	+.15
Hard White	4.74	4.88	-.14
Corn (bu/cwt)	4.09 / 7.30	3.95/7.05	-.14 to -.15
<b>BLACKFOOT/ IDAHO FALLS</b>			
Soft White Wheat	3.80	3.80	Steady
Hard Red Winter	4.35	4.35	Steady
DNS 14%	5.75	6.00	+.25
Hard White	4.55	4.55	Steady
<b>BURLEY</b>			
Soft White Wheat	3.82	3.70	-.12
Hard Red Winter	3.86	4.03	+.17
Hard Red Spring	5.57	5.69	+.12
Feed Barley	6.05	5.50	-.55
Hard White	4.74	4.70	-.04
<b>MERIDIAN</b>			
Soft White Wheat	4.28	4.11	-.17
Hard Red Winter	4.70	4.59	-.11
<b>LEWISTON</b>			
White Wheat	5.15	4.91	-.24
Barley (ton)	111.50	111.50	Steady
<b>LIVESTOCK PRICES</b>			
	10/20/2017	11/20/2017	Trend
<b>FEEDER STEERS</b>			
Under 500 lbs	156 - 221	148 - 216	-8 to -5
500-700 lbs	135 - 180	135 - 172	Steady to -8
700-900 lbs	121 - 155	129 - 161	+8 to +6
Over 900 lbs	100 - 130	100 - 138	Steady to +8
<b>FEEDER HEIFERS</b>			
Under 500 lbs	133 - 194	137 - 189	+4 to -5
500-700 lbs	125 - 160	125 - 162	Steady to +2
700-900 lbs	110 - 144	110 - 157	Steady to +13
Over 900 lbs	88 - 120	98 - 115	+10 to -5
<b>HOLSTEIN STEERS</b>			
Under 700 lbs	85 - 106	85 - 100	Steady to -6
Over 700 lbs	75 - 100	82 - 97	+7 to -3
<b>COWS</b>			
Utility/Commercial	55 - 78	48 - 75	-7 to -3
Canner & Cutter	43 - 68	35 - 61	-8 to -7
STOCK COWS	800 - 1,325	1,100 - 1,450	+300 to +125
<b>BULLS</b>			
Slaughter	64 - 94	52 - 89	-12 to -5

COMPILED BY THE IDAHO FARM BUREAU COMMODITY DIVISION

# IDAHO HAY REPORT

## USDA Market News, Moses Lake, WA

November 17, 2017

Tons: 1000 Last Week: 6300 Last Year: 4800

Compared to last week, Alfalfa steady. Trade very slow with good demand especially for higher testing Alfalfa to California interest. Retail/Feedstore not tested. Prices are dollars per ton and FOB the farm or ranch unless otherwise stated.

	Tons	Price	Wtd Avg	Comments
Alfalfa				
Mid Square				
Utility	1000	100.00-100.00	100.00	Weedy

Alfalfa hay test guidelines, (for domestic livestock use and not more than 10% grass), used with visual appearance and intent of sale  
Quantitative factors are approximate and many factors can affect feeding value.

	ADF	NDF	RFV	TDN-100%	TDN-90%	CP-100%
Supreme	<27	<34	>185	>62	>55.9	>22
Premium	27-29	34-36	170-185	60.5-62	54.5-55.9	20-22
Good	29-32	36-40	150-170	58-60	52.5-54.5	18-20
Fair	32-35	40-44	130-150	56-58	50.5-52.5	16-18
Utility	>35	>44	<130	<56	<50.5	<16

RFV calculated using the Wis/Minn formula. TDN calculated using the western formula. Values based on 100% dry matter, TDN both 90% and 100%. Quantitative factors are approximate, and many factors can affect feeding Value. Values based on 100 pct. dry matter. End usage may influence hay price or value more than testing results.

# POTATOES & ONIONS

November 24, 2017

UPPER VALLEY, TWIN FALLS-BURLEY DISTRICT IDAHO (Idaho Falls) 2017 Season DEMAND BALES MODERATE, OTHERS GOOD. MARKET NORKOTAH CARTON 60-100s HIGHER, OTHERS ABOUT STEADY. Truck and rail availability limiting movement. Russet Burbank U.S. One 2" or 4-oz Min baled 5 10-lb mesh sacks non sz A 6.50-7.00 mostly 7.00 baled 5 10-lb film bags non sz A 6.00-7.75 mostly 6.50 baled 10 5-lb mesh sacks non sz A 7.50-8.00 mostly 8.00 baled 10 5-lb film bags non sz A 7.00-8.00 mostly 7.50 50 lb cartons 40s 10.00 50s 10.00-10.50 mostly 10.00 60s 11.00-12.00 mostly 12.00 70s 12.00-13.00 mostly 12.50 80s 12.00-13.00 mostly 12.50 90s 12.00-13.00 mostly 12.50 100s 11.00-12.50 mostly 12.00 U.S. Two 50 lb sacks 6 oz min 7.00-9.00 mostly 9.00 10 oz min 8.00-10.00 mostly 9.50-10.00 Norkotah U.S. One 2" or 4-oz Min baled 5 10-lb mesh sacks non sz A 6.50-7.00 baled 5 10-lb film bags non sz A 6.00-7.00 mostly 6.00-6.50 baled 10 5-lb mesh sacks non sz A 7.50-8.00 baled 10 5-lb film bags non sz A 7.00-8.00 mostly 7.00-7.50 50 lb cartons 40s 9.00-10.00 mostly 9.00 50s 9.00-11.00 mostly 9.00 occas higher 60s 11.00-12.00 mostly 11.00 70s 11.50-12.00 80s 11.50-12.00 90s 11.50-12.00 100s 11.50-12.00 U.S. Two 50 lb sacks 6 oz min 7.00-8.00 mostly 8.00 10 oz min 8.00-9.00 mostly 8.50-9.00

# 5 YEAR GRAIN COMPARISON

GRAIN PRICES..... 11/22/2013 ..... 11/19/2014 ..... 11/17/2015 ..... 11/18/2016 ..... 11/20/2017

**Portland:**

White Wheat.....	7.11	6.92	4.83-5.40	4.68-5.03	5.17-5.35
11% Winter.....	7.92-7.97	7.17-7.36	5.48-5.68	4.68-4.78	5.41-5.51
14% Spring.....	8.40	9.35	6.10-6.50	6.29-6.44	7.46-7.56
Corn.....	No Bid	265.00	265.00	255.00	15.00

**Ogden:**

White Wheat.....	6.57	6.60	5.18	3.88	3.88
11% Winter.....	7.21	6.31	4.28	3.83	4.33
14 % Spring.....	7.54	7.49	5.40	5.44	6.34
Barley.....	7.30	5.55	6.98	5.85	6.20

**Pocatello:**

White Wheat.....	6.25	6.25	4.95	3.30	3.80
11% Winter.....	7.03	6.82	4.00	3.65	4.35
14% Spring.....	7.00	7.12	5.00	4.95	6.00
Barley.....	No Bid	6.87	4.55	4.75	4.55

**Burley:**

White Wheat.....	6.17	6.30	5.00	3.55	3.70
11% Winter.....	6.51	5.75	3.94	3.50	4.03
14% Spring.....	6.82	6.65	4.80	5.10	5.69
Barley.....	7.50	5.20	6.00	5.00	5.50

**Nampa/Meridian:**

White Wheat (cwt).....	10.42	10.50	9.33		
(bushel).....	6.25	6.30	5.60	3.60	4.11

**Lewiston:**

White Wheat.....	6.94	6.60	5.10	4.45	4.91
Barley.....	141.50	141.50	131.50	101.50	111.50

**Bean Prices:**

Pintos.....	40.00-42.00	40.00-42.00	22.00	30.00	21.00-23.00
Small Reds.....	No Bid	No Bid	33.00-35.00	34.00-36.00	No Bid

# MILK PRODUCTION

Released November 20, 2017, by the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS), Agricultural Statistics Board, United States Department of Agriculture (USDA).

## October Milk Production up 1.5 Percent

Milk production in the 23 major States during October totaled 16.7 billion pounds, up 1.5 percent from October 2016. September revised production, at 16.2 billion pounds, was up 1.1 percent from September 2016. The September revision represented a decrease of 9 million pounds or 0.1 percent from last month's preliminary production estimate.

Production per cow in the 23 major States averaged 1,917 pounds for October, 13 pounds above October 2016. This is the 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 8.74 million head, 67,000 head more than October 2016, but 1,000 head less than September 2017.

## October Milk Production in the U.S. up 1.4 Percent

Milk production in the United States during October totaled 17.8 billion pounds, up 1.4 percent from October 2016.

Production per cow in the United States averaged 1,894 pounds for October, 12 pounds above October 2016.

The number of milk cows on farms in the United States was 9.40 million head, 65,000 head more than October 2016, but 1,000 head less than September 2017.

## 5 YEAR LIVESTOCK COMPARISON

### 5 Year Livestock Comparison

	11/19/2013	11/17/2014	11/17/2015	11/18/2016	11/20/2017
<b>Feeder Steers</b>					
Under 500 lbs.....	150-218	250-352	180-265	116-179	148-216
500-700 lbs.....	143-186	210-292	150-220	105-147	135-172
700-900 lbs.....	125-165	180-246	135-188	97-129	129-161
Over 900 lbs.....	100-148	160-212	100-149	80-104	100-138
<b>Feeder Heifers</b>					
Under 500 lbs.....	145-201	230-345	160-250	110-160	137-189
500-700 lbs.....	130-165	196-275	141-196	95-143	125-162
700-900 lbs.....	120-146	171-227	130-167	95-115	110-157
Over 900 lbs.....	100-127	150-212	107-142	76-86	98-115
<b>Holstein Steers</b>					
Under 700 lbs.....	80-118	150-230	102-150	73-85	85-100
Over 700 lbs.....	75-108	135-204	89-137	72-80	82-97
<b>Cows</b>					
Utility/Commercial.....	61-80	92-125	57-84	48-70	48-75
Canner & Cutter.....	50-69	80-110	51-76	40-55	35-61
Stock Cows.....	1100-1675	1225-2275	975-1325	900-1290	1100-1450
<b>Bulls – Slaughter</b>					
	65-90	105-147	75-115	53-78	52-89

## CATTLE ON FEED

Released November 17, 2017, by the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS), Agricultural Statistics Board, United States Department of Agriculture (USDA).

### United States Cattle on Feed Up 6 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 11.3 million head on November 1, 2017. The inventory was 6 percent above November 1, 2016.

Placements in feedlots during October totaled 2.39 million head, 10 percent above 2016. Net placements were 2.32 million head. During October, placements of cattle and calves weighing less than 600 pounds were 675,000 head, 600-699 pounds were 590,000 head, 700-799 pounds were 510,000 head, 800-899 pounds were 368,000 head, 900-999 pounds were 160,000 head, and 1,000 pounds and greater were 90,000 head.

Marketings of fed cattle during October totaled 1.80 million head, 6 percent above 2016.

Other disappearance totaled 73,000 head during October, 28 percent above 2016.

## CATTLE MARKET REPORT

November 24, 2017

In spite of the packers smaller purchase volumes last week, the show lists declined slightly from the previous week and will create a positive tone for this week trading. This optimism crept into the futures market soon after the open. The markets always seem to be jerky between Thanksgiving and Christmas. The natural rhythms are lost to the individual interruptions always present during the holiday season. Beef demand also seems to be uneven with different grocery chains developing differing holiday features. One common ground will be the meats of which there will be plenty.

Last week cattle traded in the south mainly at \$118-9 and in the north as high as \$120. Dressed prices were mainly at 188-189.

**Cattle Futures.** Futures prices moved higher in early week trading as traders look for higher cash prices this week. The deferred futures contracts are carrying premiums and this will encourage holding cattle on feed but that will carry with it a weather risk.

**Carcass weights** are released each Thursday and are a closely watched barometer indicating the position of cattle feeders in the nation's feedlots. The last report released for the week of November 11th, had steer carcass weights were up 1# at 903# which is 16# under prior year. Heifers were 10# under last year but there are more heifers in the mix lending to lower overall weights.

Seasonally, carcass weights should begin to decline. While this winter has brought some cold weather, there has been little moisture and damage to performance has been minimal in the plains feeding areas. Carcass weights will

be an important factor in the marketplace in the coming year. Weights this year have been consistently under last but well above the 5 year average. At some point early next year carcass weights will begin to compare to the lower weights of this year. It would be a mistake to expect carcass weights in 2018 to run under 2017.

**Forward Cattle Contracts:** Packers backed off forward purchases for the second week in a row.

The weekly breakdown of fed cattle moving to the beef processing plants is as follows. 1) formulas 55%; 2) negotiated 20% [both live and flat dressed]; 3) forward contracts 25%. Some of the formula arrangements are week to week negotiated prices and not committed cattle to one plant.

**The Cutout.** Box prices were lower in early week trading. The spread between choice and select has skyrocketed in the past few weeks. The move has been from \$9 to almost \$23.

Export demand is always an important factor in cattle prices and never more so than now. The excessive supplies of cattle from a larger cattle herd must either discover new markets or suffer the price consequences. Slowly but deliberately the exports as a percent of total beef production have been moving higher. The most recent numbers have some weeks reaching towards 20% of all beef production moving to the export market.

**Beef Feature Activity Index.** Beef specials serve as drawing cards into the stores and are profit centers. This new link provides perspective on the level of feature activity week by week in the country.

# CLASSIFIEDS

## Animals

A neat group of heifers for sale. Highland and LongHorn Cross Bull registered Scottish Highland. Fun personalities, 1½ years old. Ready for breeding at two. I have 5 for sale. \$600 each or let's trade or barter something I need. Call Darlene 208-940-0827.

Himalayan Yaks for sale. Calves, Yearlings, Cows \$800.00 - \$3000.00. Yaks produce fiber, milk, meat and can be trained to pack. Excellent mothers that will protect their calves from predators. Call, email or text Anna at [oryakranch@frontier.com](mailto:oryakranch@frontier.com) or (208)890-6399.

## Farm Equipment

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

## Miscellaneous

50 tons Whole Bly for sale \$8.00 cwt in Preston, Id Mill storage. 1991 Ford 460 cu in EFI engine only 67,000 miles. All parts included. A real beauty \$600. In Weston, Id 208-747-3268.

Looking to sell outdoor wood furnace. Used to heat home, shop and/or barn. The stove sits outside and uses water to transfer the heat into your home and to pre-heat your hot water. Please contact John 208-781-0691.

## Real Estate/Acreage

12 acres - 10 miles N. of Priest River, Id. Approx. 1200 sq ft house, 2Bd, 2Bth, new roof, paint, 2 wells, 3 car garage. RV garage, outbuildings, fenced garden, greenhouse, etc. \$245,000. Call Gary 208-826-3132.

Lot for Sale - 1/2 Acre Country Lot. Building Lot or for New Manufactured Home. City water, Gas, Utilities available. Must obtain permits for water hook-up & septic system. Shelley area. Call 528-5337

81 acres in Cache Valley, two artisan flowing wells, 3 miles from Logan City and Utah State University. Connects to the Logan-Cache Airport, and is 40 miles from Spectacular Bear Lake and the Beaver Ski Resort. Call 208-785-6888 or 435-563-5969.

## Vehicles

1991 Ford 460 cu in EFI engine only 67,000 miles. All parts included. A real beauty \$600. Preston 208-747-3268

## Wanted

Want-used 4wd van, good condition, 10 yrs old or newer, mechanically sound, side entry for wheel chair access. 208-926-4784.

Looking for an old sheep wagon (any condition) to rebuild. Prefer one with wooden wheels. Call 208-278-5548.

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

## Wanted

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

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

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](mailto:gearlep@gmail.com). 208-285-1258

Our Idaho family loves old wood barns and would like to restore/rebuild your barn on our Idaho farm. Would you like to see your barn restored/rebuilt rather than rot and fall down? Call Ken & Corrie 208-425-3225.

**DEADLINE  
DATES:  
ADS MUST BE  
RECEIVED BY  
December 20  
FOR NEXT ISSUE.**

## FREE CLASSIFIEDS

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.

Mail ad copy to:

FARM BUREAU PRODUCER  
P.O. Box 4848, Pocatello, ID 83205-4848  
or e-mail Dixie at: [dashton@idahofb.org](mailto:dashton@idahofb.org)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City / State / Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Membership No. \_\_\_\_\_

Ad Copy: \_\_\_\_\_

**FREE  
CLASSIFIED ADS  
FOR IDAHO FARM BUREAU MEMBERS  
send to: [dashton@idahofb.org](mailto:dashton@idahofb.org)**



# JOHN DEERE

## NEW

Use your Idaho Farm Bureau membership number for GreenFleet at [JohnDeere.com/FarmBureau](http://JohnDeere.com/FarmBureau). You will have access to the following benefits:

**IDAHO FARM BUREAU FEDERATION**  
P.O. Box 4848  
Pocatello, ID 83205-4848



\$350-\$3,200 off Commercial Mowing  
\$100-\$250 off Residential Mowing  
\$200-\$350 off Utility Vehicles

\$200-\$350 off Tractors  
\$500-\$3,700 off Golf & Sports Turf  
17% off MSRP – Commercial Worksite

- Combine GreenFleet equipment savings with National Offers
- Special parts savings delivered to their inbox
- 10% off Home & Workshop Products, including air compressors, generators and more!
- 10% off apparel and accessories at [JohnDeereStore.com](http://JohnDeereStore.com)

#### Other Details and Restrictions

- GreenFleet Loyalty Rewards benefits are **only available at John Deere dealerships**. Purchases from Lowes or Home Depot will count towards GreenFleet status, but are not eligible for a GreenFleet discount.
- There is no minimum length of Farm Bureau membership to receive the GreenFleet benefit.
- Members need to sign up once for the GreenFleet Loyalty Rewards program, then renew or reactivate their membership approximately every two years.
- GreenFleet members can manage their account at [MyJohnDeere.Deere.com](http://MyJohnDeere.Deere.com).
- For full GreenFleet Terms & Conditions, visit [JohnDeere.com/GreenFleet](http://JohnDeere.com/GreenFleet).

**Quick access to links at  
[www.idahofbstore.com](http://www.idahofbstore.com)**