



Idaho Farm Bureau.

Quarterly

Spring Issue • Volume 24 Issue 2



Idahoans Head to the Polls May 21

**Feeding the
Economy, 4**

**Friend of Ag
Award, 8**

**IFBF Endorsed
Candidates, 14**



Farmers feed the economy

Spring is a time of planning, planting and new growth on the farm. From preparing to plant seeds for the next crop to tending trees freshly in bloom, farmers are working hard to ensure strong yields in the months ahead. And those yields spring up well beyond the farm gate too. While we know that farmers and ranchers play a critical role growing the food, fiber and fuel we rely on, did you also know that we play an important role in growing our nation's economy? A new report shows agriculture's significant, and growing, impact.

According to the 2024 Feeding the Economy report, economic output related to agriculture grew by more than a trillion dollars since last year. A trillion dollars! That's a remarkable reminder of the role our farms and ranches play across the supply chain. Agriculture contributes to 20% of U.S. economic activity. Just let that sink in for a minute. One fifth of our nation's economic output would not be possible without the nearly 2 million farms across our country.

See **DUVALL**, page 6

The President's Desk

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



Prepare to vote, then vote

I appreciate when groups encourage people to get out and vote. What a wonderful freedom we all have. However, I would like to suggest that our personal preparation to vote is just as important.

We all come from different backgrounds, giving us unique perspectives on candidates and issues.

For example, I have been a lifelong farmer, which gives me perspective from someone whose occupation it is to put food on our grocery shelves—something I don't take lightly.

My vote counts the same as someone with a different occupation, but my preparation to vote must include studying whether candidates will help sustain agriculture for future generations.

That is my background, so I do my homework to prepare for the voting booth.

Whether you are a teacher, plumber, pilot, or nurse, take time to learn about candidates.

They are people like us, but they can't be specialists in every area. This is why it is so important we have a relationship with them to share our

See **SEARLE**, page 6

Inside Farm Bureau

By **Zak Miller**
CEO Idaho Farm Bureau Federation



Avoiding adverse consequences

During a summer internship at a cattle feedlot in Western Idaho, I had to drive myself early every morning from Caldwell to the feedlot in Parma. That early morning commute proved to be very educational for me. On my second day of work, I learned that the speed limit in Parma was not a mere suggestion. As I approached Parma, I let my car coast into town.

Unfortunately, my deceleration plan was not in sync with the police officer on patrol that morning. The lights flashing in my rearview

mirror quickly made me realize that I had not paid enough attention to the change in the speed limit. Luckily, the police officer did not give me an excessive lecture or an excessive speeding ticket. Instead, he gave me a standard ticket.

For many, a brush with law enforcement quickly changes behavior; I wish it did for me, especially while I waited for the police officer to decide my fate the next afternoon again in Parma. That summer, Canyon County, Idaho, received two checks from me for two

See **MILLER**, page 7

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FEEDING THE ECONOMY

U.S. FOOD AND AG INDUSTRIES

The 2024 Feeding the Economy report shows that America's food and agriculture sector is a thriving, integral component of the U.S. economy with economic output growing by more than a trillion dollars since the 2023 report. These industries directly support nearly 24 million jobs (over 15% of U.S. employment) and are responsible for more than \$9.6 trillion of the country's economic activity – that's 20% of total U.S. output.

It begins in the rich soil of America's farms and ranches – nearly two million of them – spread across the heartland and stretching to the coasts, covering two out of every five American acres.

Meanwhile, millions of food scientists, production workers, logistics experts, truck drivers, and engineers work in more than 200,000 food manufacturing, processing, and storage facilities to keep our food supply chains strong and fresh, safe food readily available worldwide.

Idaho

● Total Jobs 381,441	● Total Wages \$20.57 Billion	● Total Output \$86.27 Billion
● Direct Jobs 171,100	● Direct Wages \$7.44 Billion	● Direct Output \$38.45 Billion
● Business Taxes \$9.50 Billion	● Exports \$1.10 Billion	

United States

● Total Jobs 48,665,609	● Total Wages \$2.77 Trillion	● Total Output \$9.63 Trillion
● Direct Jobs 23,873,247	● Direct Wages \$990.75 Billion	● Direct Output \$3.82 Trillion
● Business Taxes \$1.25 Trillion	● Exports \$181.36 Billion	

To measure the total economic impact of the food and ag industries, the analysis includes the direct and indirect economic activity surrounding these industries, capturing both upstream and downstream activity. For example, when a farm equipment retailer hires new employees because farmers are buying more tractors, experts consider the new salaries an indirect impact. Similarly, when a retail associate spends her paycheck, an induced economic impact occurs.

FEEDING THE ECONOMY

U.S. FOOD AND AG INDUSTRIES

Economic Impact in Idaho

Direct Economic Impact	Jobs	Wages	Output
Agriculture	40,806	\$1,860,603,100	\$12,168,648,800
Manufacturing	25,090	\$1,832,455,200	\$15,224,239,600
Wholesaling	7,408	\$586,963,400	\$2,036,601,800
On-Premise Retailing	80,967	\$2,341,306,500	\$7,344,628,800
Off-Premise Retailing	16,829	\$816,519,300	\$1,679,306,800
Total	171,100	\$7,439,847,500	\$38,453,395,800

Supplier Economic Impact	Jobs	Wages	Output
Agriculture	30,617	\$1,256,182,100	\$2,018,736,000
Mining	448	\$34,981,600	\$204,385,900
Construction	1,172	\$71,592,200	\$812,573,200
Manufacturing	5,389	\$510,971,400	\$4,583,777,300
Wholesale	12,763	\$1,133,567,100	\$4,703,707,300
Retail	1,947	\$107,954,500	\$311,020,900
Transportation & Communication	16,084	\$1,177,247,900	\$5,437,765,400
Finance, Insurance & Real Estate	19,279	\$816,644,000	\$4,367,429,300
Business & Personal Services	27,782	\$2,087,058,100	\$5,032,678,600
Travel & Entertainment	3,233	\$106,950,600	\$376,216,000
Government	1,548	\$148,498,300	\$414,000,200
Other	0	\$0	\$0
Total	120,262	\$7,451,697,800	\$27,762,290,300

Induced Economic Impact	Jobs	Wages	Output
Agriculture	1,710	\$59,168,500	\$137,660,200
Mining	80	\$4,971,600	\$45,310,300
Construction	802	\$50,700,200	\$216,798,000
Manufacturing	1,986	\$162,103,600	\$955,116,000
Wholesale	2,918	\$311,696,100	\$1,487,627,600
Retail	12,239	\$581,843,800	\$1,787,839,700
Transportation & Communication	7,204	\$606,991,600	\$3,022,796,700
Finance, Insurance & Real Estate	11,869	\$577,863,700	\$4,640,460,600
Business & Personal Services	41,418	\$2,861,152,700	\$6,393,156,000
Travel & Entertainment	6,992	\$263,459,000	\$847,808,500
Government	1,012	\$97,509,100	\$349,628,600
Other	2,269	\$101,751,700	\$172,625,500
Total	90,079	\$5,678,911,600	\$20,056,829,700

	Jobs	Wages	Output
Total Economic Output	381,441	\$20,570,406,900	\$86,272,915,800

Tax Impact	Business Taxes	Exports	Export Value
Federal Taxes	\$5,946,594,400	Customs Value at Point of Shipment	\$1,103,182,900
State Taxes	\$3,557,769,400	Total Exports	\$1,103,182,900
Total Taxes	\$9,504,363,800		

2024 Sponsors

American Bakers Association, American Beverage Association, American Farm Bureau Federation, American Feed Industry Association, American Frozen Food Institute, American Peanut Council, American Soybean Association, Association of Equipment Manufacturers, Consumer Brands Association, Corn Refiners Association, CropLife America, Edible Oil Producers Association, FMI - The Food Industry Association, Global Cold Chain Alliance, International Fresh Produce Association, Meat Institute, National Association of State Departments of Agriculture, National Association of Wheat Growers, National Corn Growers Association, National Grain and Feed Association, National Grocers Association, National Milk Producers Federation, National Oilseed Processors Association, National Pork Producers Council, National Restaurant Association, Peanut and Tree Nut Processors Association, Plant Based Products Council, SNAC International, The Sugar Association, U.S. Dairy Export Council, U.S. Grains Council, United Soybean Board

FEEDING THE ECONOMY

feedingtheeconomy.com

Continued from page 2

What's more—agriculture supports more than 48 million jobs in the U.S. From manufacturing of farm equipment to stocking food on grocery shelves, there are millions of Americans heading to work today who can trace how their job in some way connects to or is impacted by agriculture. These jobs up and down the supply chain—food scientists, veterinarians, restaurant workers, truck drivers, and the list goes on—are on the rise too, up 20% since 2020.

What's exciting to me is that farms and ranches of all sizes and all commodities play a role here. You may not always be able to see the broader impact your farm has beyond your fencerows, but you are part of a larger story. Whether you farm five acres or five hundred, you are making our country stronger. You are part of the noble profession of farming, as you do your part to safely and sustainably grow

'You may not always be able to see the broader impact your farm has beyond your fencerows, but you are part of a larger story. Whether you farm five acres or five hundred, you are making our country stronger.'

the food, fiber and fuel we all rely on, products that fuel our economy.

At Farm Bureau, we're doing our part to share your story and have your back. Millions of Americans are counting on you, and we know that you need the resources, programs and policies to keep your farms going strong in all seasons. That's why we are making it a top priority to get a new, modernized farm bill passed, to find a solution to agricultural labor reform, and to protect tax benefits that help family farms stay in business. That's why we push back on burdensome, non-science-based or economically unsound regulations that would squeeze farms out of business. And

that's why we have advocated for voluntary, incentive-based programs to advance sustainability.

But all of that is just a sample of the seeds we are planting to yield a strong harvest for American agriculture. We believe that what matters to you and your farm, matters to all Americans, to the security of our food supply, and to the health of our nation's economy. As farmers go out to plant this spring, I hope you all will take great pride in the work you are doing for your families, your communities, and our country. ■

SEARLE

Continued from page 2

challenges and needs and hold them accountable.

Incumbents have their votes recorded. Go online and see how those who represent your district have voted. legislature.idaho.gov/sessioninfo/2024/legislation.

Many years ago, the Idaho Farm Bureau Federation started a campaign called "I Farm, I Vote." This campaign also included "I Eat, I Vote," which includes every one of us. Please help your neighbors become educated and encourage them to get out and vote. We must all take it seriously as to who we elect to represent the challenges and needs of our state.

"I Farm, I Vote" is not just a call for those who work on our 25,000 Idaho farms to vote but an invitation for farmers, ranchers, and neighbors to engage with policymakers.

We have hosted farm tours for many decades, allowing legislators to visit Idaho farms to see how they work and what it takes to stay in business.

These host farms often have little to no script when these legis-

lators arrive. They show them what they do and let the legislators or candidates ask questions, even hard questions.

Elections are best when people know something about the

names facing them on the ballot. It is equally important to do "healthy" homework when issues are on the ballot. Social media may raise questions surrounding ballot issues, but rarely does social media have any accountability to be fully truthful.

In 2022, approximately 57 percent of Idahoans voted in the general election, but only 32 percent voted in the primary. Perhaps one reason for low primary turnout is that citizens feel that they don't know any of

'I ask that everyone get out and vote, but even more importantly, I hope preparing to vote will make us all better citizens to select those who will make policy for our future.'

the candidates.

Most people running for office today have websites with contact information. Feel free to click on a candidate site and ask them questions that are important to you. Reach out to your local county Farm Bureau at Idahofb.org to find information on those running for office.

I ask that everyone get out and vote, but even more importantly, I hope preparing to vote will make us all better citizens to select those who will make policy for our future. ■

Continued from page 2

speeding tickets within two days, which led to a less-than-exciting visit with my insurance agent at my next renewal.

No two life lessons carry the same weight. Still, the greatest lesson I learned about driving that summer was that it was my responsibility to be aware of traffic signs and that I was responsible for the adverse consequences of not following the warnings.

As I've learned from my driving experience, being aware and accountable also applies to each citizen. This is especially true as we approach the upcoming election on May 21.

As citizens, we are responsible for voting and understanding why we vote for particular candidates. Like the speed limit in Parma, it is not a suggestion but rather an important choice. The adverse consequences we all face when the best candidates are not selected can last for years or even generations.

Researching candidates before investing in them is crucial. The list of candidates in this magazine is highly recommended and chosen by local Farm Bureau members as the best representatives for Agriculture and Idaho.

Here are a few reasons why an endorsement from the Idaho Farm Bureau Federation is crucial for any voter to consider.

1. Effective Advocacy: Endorsed candidates are likely to work closely with the agriculture industry to develop policies supporting agriculture and rural communities.

‘As citizens, we are responsible for voting and understanding why we vote for particular candidates.’

2. Community Support: The Idaho Farm Bureau Federation is a grassroots organization with strong support within the agriculture community. By voting for endorsed candidates, citizens can show their support for the agriculture industry and issues that affect our rural neighbors who share the greatest responsibility to raise our food and fiber.

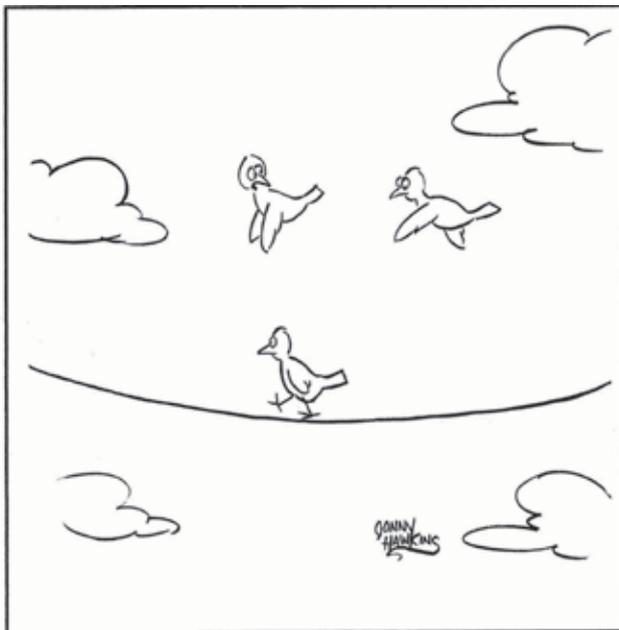
3. Economic Impact: Agriculture significantly drives Idaho's economy, contributing billions annually. Supporting candidates endorsed by the Idaho Farm Bureau can help ensure the continued success of the agriculture industry and its positive economic impact on the state.

The right to vote is one of our most significant and sacred rights and responsibilities as citizens of this great country and state.

Citizens who vote and know why they vote are among the most powerful forces in our country. Please study your candidates and vote! ■

Country Chuckles

By Jonny Hawkins



“He doesn't like to fly.”



The Making of Muscle Milk

Idaho Farm Bureau

FRIEND OF AGRICULTURE

Award Recipients

The following legislators have received the Idaho Farm Bureau Friend of Agriculture Award.

The Friend of Agriculture Award recognizes legislators who have consistently supported or opposed bills in harmony with Farm Bureau member positions over the 2023 and 2024 legislative sessions. The following individuals voted in alignment with Farm Bureau positions 100% of the time on the selected bills over the past two legislative sessions.



**District 1
Representative
Sage Dixon**
also received in
15-16, 17-18,
19-20 **(Retiring this year)**



**District 5
Representative
Ron Mendive**
also received in
15-16, 17-18,
19-20



**District 6
Representative
Brandon Mitchell**



**District 7
Representative
Charlie Shepherd**
Has received the award each
of his two terms



**District 8
Senator
Geoff Schroeder**



**District 8
Representative
Megan Blanksma**
Has received the
award each of her
four terms



**District 9
Representative
Judy Boyle**
also received in
13-14, 15-16,
17-18, 19-20



**District 10
Representative
Mike Moyle**
also received in
15-16, 17-18, 19-20

FRIEND OF AG CONTINUED



**District 12
Representative
Jeff Cornilles**



**District 14
Senator
C. Scott Grow**



**District 14
Representative
Ted Hill**



**District 15
Representative
Dori Healey**



**District 20
Senator
Chuck Winder**
also received in 13-14



**District 20
Representative
Joe Palmer**
also received in
15-16, 17-18, 19-20



**District 20
Representative
James Holtzclaw**
also received in
15-16, 17-18, 19-20



**District 21
Representative
Jeff Ehlers**



**District 22
Senator
Lori Den Hartog**
also received in
15-16, 17-18, 21-22



**District 22
Representative
John Vander Woude**
also received in
13-14, 15-16,
17-18, 19-20



**District 22
Representative
Jason Monks**
Has received the award
each of his six terms



**District 23
Senator
Todd Lakey**

FRIEND OF AG CONTINUED



**District 23
Representative
Melissa Durrant**



**District 25
Senator
Linda Wright Hartgen**



**District 27
Senator
Kelly Arthur Anthon**
also received in
19-20



**District 29
Representative
Dustin Manwaring**



**District 30
Senator
Julie VanOrden**
also received in
13-14, 15-16, 17-18



**District 30
Representative
David Cannon**
Has received
the award each
of his two terms



**District 30
Representative
Julianne Young**
Has received the award
each of her three terms



**District 31
Senator
Van Burtenshaw**



**District 31
Representative
Rod Furniss**



**District 32
Senator
Kevin Cook**
Has received
the award each
of his two terms



**District 32
Representative
Wendy Horman**
also received in
15-16, 17-18, 21-22



**District 33
Senator
Dave Lent**



**District 33
Representative
Barbara Ehardt**
also received in
17-18, 19-20



**District 35
Senator
Mark Harris**
Has received the
award each of his
five terms



**District 28
Representative
Kevin Andrus**
Has received the award
each of his three terms

**We encourage you to support
these legislators who are
running for re-election!**

20 bills were used for our Legislative scorecard during the 2023 and 2024 sessions. Bill subjects included property taxes, state grazing permits, Agricultural Protection Areas, property rights, immigration, wolf depredation, water rights and other important issues.

"We sincerely appreciate those Legislators who take the time to learn about the issues and make informed decisions, especially when it concerns agriculture. We express our gratitude to each of these Legislators for their outstanding support of Idaho agriculture and Idaho Farm Bureau policies."

- Bryan Searle, President of the Idaho Farm Bureau



WHAT MAKES A CHAMPION? CHAMPION CHAMPION CHAMPION

PREPARATION.

From life insurance that will **protect your family** to investments that can **build your future**, talk to your Farm Bureau agent about how we can build a **winning game plan**.



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Slow drive. Take it easy.

Sun's out. Windows down. Soak in that wide-open-road feeling. Enjoy the drive. And remember, back road cruisin' is best when you're buckled up.



SHIFT is a movement to make Idaho roads safer. Learn more about what we do and how you can get involved at shift-idaho.org.



Idaho Farm Bureau announces support for legislative candidates

The Idaho Farm Bureau Federation has a Political Action Committee named Idaho Farm Bureau Federation PAC (Agra-PAC). The purpose of Idaho Farm Bureau Federation PAC is to assist state legislative candidates who are philosophically aligned with Farm Bureau policies and positions to win their election. Based upon recommendations from county Farm Bureaus, the following legislative candidates have demonstrated a commitment to Idaho agriculture, limited government, less regulations and lower taxes and have been endorsed by Idaho Farm Bureau Federation PAC.

We encourage you to support them at the polls on May 21!

District 3 Kootenai County



Doug Okuniewicz
Senate Seat



Vito Barbieri
House Seat A



Jordan Redman
House Seat B

District 5 Kootenai County



Carl Bjerke
Senate Seat



Ron Mendive
House Seat A

District 6 Latah, Lewis & Nez Perce Counties



Robert Blair
Senate Seat



Lori McCann
House Seat A



Brandon Mitchell
House Seat B

District 7 Adams, Idaho & Nez Perce Counties



Cindy Carlson
Senate Seat



Jim Chmelik
House Seat A



Charlie Shepherd
House Seat B

District 8 Boise, Valley, Elmore & Custer Counties



Matthew Bundy
House Seat A



Megan Blanksma
House Seat B

District 9 Payette, Washington & Canyon Counties



Brandon Shippy
Senate Seat



John Shirts
House Seat A



Judy Boyle
House Seat B

**District 10
Canyon County**



Mike Moyle
House Seat A



Bruce Skaug
House Seat B

**District 11
Canyon County**



Camille Blaylock
Senate Seat



Julie Yamamoto
House Seat A



Sarah Chaney
House Seat B

**District 12
Canyon County**



Ben Adams
Senate Seat



Jeff Cornilles
House Seat A



Jaron Crane
House Seat B

**District 13
Canyon County**



Jeff Agenbroad
Senate Seat



Brent Crane
House Seat A



Kenny Wroten
House Seat B

**District 14
Gem & Ada Counties**



C. Scott Grow
Senate Seat



Ted Hill
House Seat A

**District 15
Ada County**



Codi Galloway
Senate Seat



Dori Healey
House Seat B

**District 16
Ada County**



Sonia Galaviz
House Seat A



Todd Achilles
House Seat B

**District 17
Ada County**



Carrie Semmelroth
Senate Seat

**District 18
Ada County**



Janie Ward-Engelking
Senate Seat

**District 19
Ada County**



Chris Mathias
House Seat B

**District 20
Ada County**



Chuck Winder
Senate Seat



Joe Palmer
House Seat A



James Holtzclaw
House Seat B

**District 21
Ada County**



Treg Bernt
Senate Seat



James Petzke
House Seat A



Jeff Ehlers
House Seat B

**District 22
Ada County**



Lori Den Hartog
Senate Seat



John Vander Woude
House Seat A



Jason Monks
House Seat B

**District 23
Ada, Canyon & Owyhee County**



Todd Lakey
Senate Seat



Melissa Durrant
House Seat A



Shawn Dygert
House Seat B

**District 24
Camas, Gooding &
Twin Falls County**



Alex Caval
Senate Seat



Chenele Dixon
House Seat A



Steve Miller
House Seat B

**District 25
Twin Falls County**



Linda Wright Hartgen
Senate Seat



Lance Clow
House Seat A



Gregory Lanting
House Seat B

**District 26
Blaine, Jerome
& Lincoln County**



Laurie Lickley
Senate Seat



Michael Pohanka
House Seat A



Jack Nelsen
House Seat B

District 27
Cassia, Minidoka,
& Oneida County



Kelly Anthon
Senate Seat



Douglas Pickett
House Seat A



Patrick Field
House Seat B

District 28
Bannock, Franklin
& Power County



Jim Guthrie
Senate Seat



Dan Garner
House Seat B

District 29
Bannock



James Ruchti
Senate Seat



Dustin Manwaring
House Seat A

District 30
Bingham & Butte County



Julie VanOrden
Senate Seat



David Cannon
House Seat A



Julianne Young
House Seat B

District 31
Clark, Fremont, Jefferson
& Lemhi County



Van Burtenshaw
Senate Seat



Jerald Raymond
House Seat A



Rod Furniss
House Seat B

District 32
Bonneville County



Kevin Cook
Senate Seat



Stephanie Mickelsen
House Seat A



Wendy Horman
House Seat B

District 33
Bonneville County



Dave Lent
Senate Seat



Barbara Ehardt
House Seat A



Marco Erickson
House Seat B

District 34
Madison County



Doug Ricks
Senate Seat



Jon Weber
House Seat A



Britt Raybould
House Seat B

District 35
Bonneville, Bear Lake,
Caribou & Teton County



Mark Harris
Senate Seat



Kevin Andrus
House Seat A



Josh Wheeler
House Seat B



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Precision agriculture, fertilizer & seed

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Your referral, like Carmen's, could be worth \$525.



Get \$25
WHEN A FRIEND YOU REFER PURCHASES A POLICY FROM US



Get \$500
IF YOU WIN OUR QUARTERLY DRAWING*



*You're automatically entered into our \$500 drawing when you refer a friend, even if they don't purchase a policy. Visit: www.idahofarmbureauinsurance.com/about-us/refer-a-friend/ for complete rules and restrictions. Above left: Carmen Izaguirre from Gannett, Idaho, the winner of our 3rd quarter 2023 Refer A Friend, Get A Gift \$500 drawing.

Country Chuckles

By Jonny Hawkins



"Our ancestors were also potato farmers. They came over on a gravy boat."

LOW INTEREST LOANS FOR IDAHO SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION



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



SWC.idaho.gov (208) 332-1790

IDAHO VALUES FARMER AND RANCHER WELLNESS

Caring for the health and wellness of our Idaho agricultural community has never been more important. If you or someone you know is struggling, reach out and find help.



farm.idaho.gov



Word Search

Summer Fun

Answer key on page 31

E S K S O C Q I G L E M O N A D E
Y G P R U B G N C O B D N A S F Z
N O I T A N I T S E D B E L S G P
U M C F V P G K S P C T F X E A J
H E N B M K R L I U O R O W M R T
C B I A D O E E A N C L E H N D P
A C C S W X G M T S G A F A Z E G
E V E E O W R S E A S K V P M N R
B A R B E Q U E P J W E U O I U P
N I B A C N B G Q E I J S H T L U
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K Z I L I R A I N L U I D U O U H
W M O R E E H T A I F P U W F O T
B C F D V A C A T I O N X N E S L
K L A A I H E O N A C I G Q R O B
W H O B C V A B U J W P L Y A M Y
S E N O C W O N S H O R T S B T Y

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CANOE
CLIMB
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FIREWORKS
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GARDEN

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HIKE
HOT
HOTDOG
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LEMONADE

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MOSQUITO
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Forest carbon markets

By **Chris Schnepf**
University of Idaho

Photos by Chris Schnepf

Some harvesting and fuel treatments are often needed to keep western forests from becoming carbon sources rather than stores.

Family forest owners have long provided a variety of benefits to the general public. In addition to logs that are usually manufactured into boards at local Idaho sawmills, family forest owners provide clean water, wildlife habitat, and beautiful vistas that people see every day. Most family forest owners are happy to manage for these values whether they get reimbursed for them or not. But in recent years, there has been more discussion of landowners getting paid for these benefits, which are sometimes collectively referred to as “ecosystem services”. There has been some success with this, notably fee hunting commonly sold by forest owners in the southeastern United States. You could also make the case that family forest owners get tax benefits for ecosystem services (e.g., reduced property tax rates), and sometimes payments when they sign up for a conservation easement on their forest land.

One of the most-discussed ecosystem services in recent years is sequestered carbon. Ten years ago, a colleague and I conducted 24 focus groups across the Pacific Northwest with family forest

owners to get input from them about what kinds of extension programming they would like to see from Pacific Northwest Land Grant Universities related to climate change. Those discussions were quite varied, but one of the themes that popped up most commonly was that if someone wanted to pay forest owners to sequester more carbon, they were very interested in it.

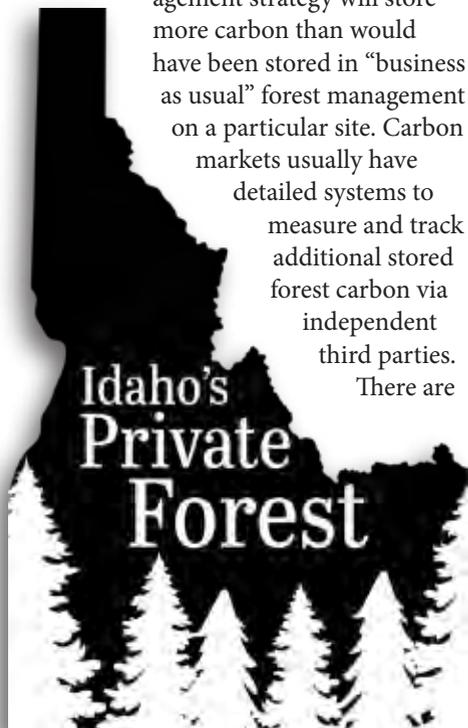
Concurrently to those focus groups, there was a lot of discussion about a carbon cap-and-trade bill that was being debated in the U.S. Congress. When that effort failed, many of us thought the prospects for carbon markets for U.S. forest owners were dead. But interestingly since then, some states (notably California) started their own carbon programs, and a number of private firms popped up to make carbon credits available to companies who wanted to voluntarily offset carbon emissions associated with their business to demonstrate their environmental responsibility to their customers and partners.

The basic idea with carbon markets is that a firm which generates carbon dioxide in the process of conducting their business

has two options to reduce their impact on the environment: 1) alter their processes to decrease the amount of greenhouse gasses they produce, and/or 2) pay someone else to capture extra carbon to mitigate the gasses they produce. The approach worked very effectively at reducing pollutants that generated acid rain in the eastern United States and Europe – it is a flexible, market-based approach to reducing pollution.

Most people understand that forests sequester carbon. Roughly 50% of the dry weight of wood is carbon. Forests also store carbon in other places: below ground in the roots of trees and other plants, in shrubs and other understory plants, in snags and coarse woody debris on the forest floor, in organic matter in forest soils, in fungal communities, and in the many vertebrate and invertebrate animals that reside in forests. The amount of carbon a forest stores varies by the forest type and management practices. Forest carbon is also stored in wood products, especially cross laminated timbers and similar mass timbers, which are not a part of forest carbon markets, but should always be part of the discussion of forests' contribution to sequestering carbon.

One of the most discussed issues with forest carbon markets is “additionality” - whether a given forest management strategy will store more carbon than would have been stored in “business as usual” forest management on a particular site. Carbon markets usually have detailed systems to measure and track additional stored forest carbon via independent third parties. There are



Biochar reduces carbon dioxide emissions and sequesters more forest carbon than business as usual.

many methods to sequester more forest carbon than business as usual (what is “business as usual” can also be legitimately debated). Examples include lengthening rotations (the length of time trees are grown on a site before starting another regeneration cycle) or converting shrub fields to fully stocked stands of conifers. Biochar clearly provides additionality, leaving more carbon in a forest than complete combustion of slash piles – and biochar can last decades or even hundreds of years longer than the slash used to make it would have if slash had been left to decompose. The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) has cost sharing available for biochar applications through the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP). For more information, check with your local NRCS office.

Efforts to sequester more carbon in forests do not necessarily mean no management or no wood production. For example, in western forests you do not want to store so much carbon that you unduly risk losing it all through fire, (sometimes referred to as “leakage”) so thinning and fuel treatments can be very consistent with sustainably sequestering more carbon.

In the past, family forest owners did not participate in forest carbon programs because the costs to participate relative to the return were high, especially on smaller acreages. In recent years, there have been a variety of creative approaches to make carbon markets more available to all family forest owners. We have a helpful new 18-page PNW Extension publication that provides a solid, detailed orientation to the concepts and terms associated with forest carbon markets and the procedures to participate in them, titled “Introduction to Forest Carbon, Offsets and Markets” (PNW 775) available at <https://extension.oregonstate.edu/catalog/pub/pnw-775-introduction-forest-carbon-offsets-markets>.

Among other things, the publication provides a checklist forest owners can use to assess whether a given carbon program is a good fit for them. Vigorous discussion about carbon markets continues in the forestry community and beyond. These systems are very fluid, as different firms come up with myriad ways to responsibly run and document these systems, but this publication should give you a fundamental grounding in how the various systems work and the terms that are used. ■

Chasing your dreams

Robin Brown loves her life as a professional stock dog trainer in Indian Valley

By **Steve Steubner**
Life on the Range



Photos courtesy of Robin Brown

Robin Brown on her farm next to Little Weiser River.

Robin and Rocky Brown live in their own slice of paradise in Indian Valley, Idaho, where they raise and train border collies for ranchers across the nation.

The Broken Circle Ranch is surrounded by majestic mountains. The Little Weiser River flows by their home pasture in a sinewy grove of cottonwood trees.

With over 35 years of experience, Robin Brown has built a national reputation for raising well-trained border collies for herding cattle or sheep on a real working ranch.

She's got a cattle herd and a band of sheep for real-world dog training.

"She's been doing this for most of her life. You can't do it that long without really knowing your stuff," says her husband, Rocky Brown.

Watch her border collie "Lass" herd sheep across a field. With whistle commands, Brown instructs "Lass" to run clockwise or counterclockwise to move the sheep.

Brown says she has unique whistle calls for all of her dogs.

"This whistle is essential to what I do," she says. "Because No. 1, when you're

'I've been a trailblazer being a woman in the cow dog industry. I was one of only two women way back when.'

whistling, there's no emotion in the whistle. The dog doesn't know whether you're in a good mood or a bad mood, it's always black and white, it's always consistently the same. The other thing, the dogs can hear that whistle a mile out. I don't have to yell, I don't have to scream, I can just whistle."

Training dogs for herding livestock came naturally to Brown. She grew up on a working ranch, participating in cattle drives with her family as a kid.

"The ranch was in Cascade, a beautiful ranch next to Cabarton Road, along the Payette River, absolutely gorgeous," Brown says. "We ran cattle on West Mountain and all of that area up there. The greatest part was the early cattle drives we did every year in late May/early June, where we would take the cattle from Emmett and trail them all the way to Cascade."

"We had a camp cook, we had cowboys,

we had dogs. And that's where my love of the dogs started was watching them do all of that work! I had my own horse. I had my own dogs even at a young age."

In college, Brown went to her first dog trails.

"I watched these dogs do this work, it was like poetry in motion," she says. "I want my cow dogs to do that. Is it possible? Maybe. And it was."

She credits cowboy Jack Handley with inspiring her about the proper use of dogs when herding cattle. Handley worked with her family's cattle operations, Jim Little's cattle operations and others.

"Those cowboys were my mentors. I'd sit there on my pony and watch them do all of this stuff. Those dogs were important to him. It was his horse, his dog and him," Brown says.

Handley taught her that cow dogs

weren't just a tool. They needed to bond with their master.

"From the very beginning, when those puppies are little, they've gotta want to be with you, they've got to love you, they've got to be your friend," she says.

When she first started out, it was a man's world.

"I've been a trailblazer being a woman in the cow dog industry. I was one of only two women way back when," she says.

And now, more than 30 years later, Brown is highly respected as a dog-trainer and handler on a national scale.

"I love what I do, I feel very fortunate and blessed to have the upbringing that I did that brought me to this journey in life," Brown says. "I can come out, I have my own hours, just me and my dog, every dog is different. So it's always changing, forever changing."

She's a three-time national cow dog champion. In the Art of the Cow Girl competition in Phoenix recently, she received the prestigious honor of the "Master Dog Trainer" award.

And now she's giving back by offering retreats and apprenticeships to women who want to learn the ropes.

"People will come here from all over the country, stay with me for a week on an apprenticeship or an internship, they'll learn how to use cow dogs and sheep dogs. I also do a 6-week program called master of training, where for six weeks in a row they come out for a few hours."

Walking through the Broken Circle kennels, Brown explains where the dogs are going to various ranches across the nation. This one is going to Texas, this one to Oklahoma, this one to Baker, Oregon, and so forth.

What's the value of a trained cow dog?

From a monetary standpoint, trained border collies sell for several thousand dollars each.

For herding cattle or sheep, they're invaluable, experts say.

"OK, this is my opinion. A dog will take the place of three men," Brown says. "The dog can go places they can't go. The dog always shows up for work. The dog is always happy when he's working. But the dog can take the place of three men because of where it can travel and what it can do."

"They're invaluable," adds Rocky Brown. "Working with livestock, I'd never think of doing it without a dog, and people who try to do it without a dog, will take all day, when we can do it in 5 minutes."

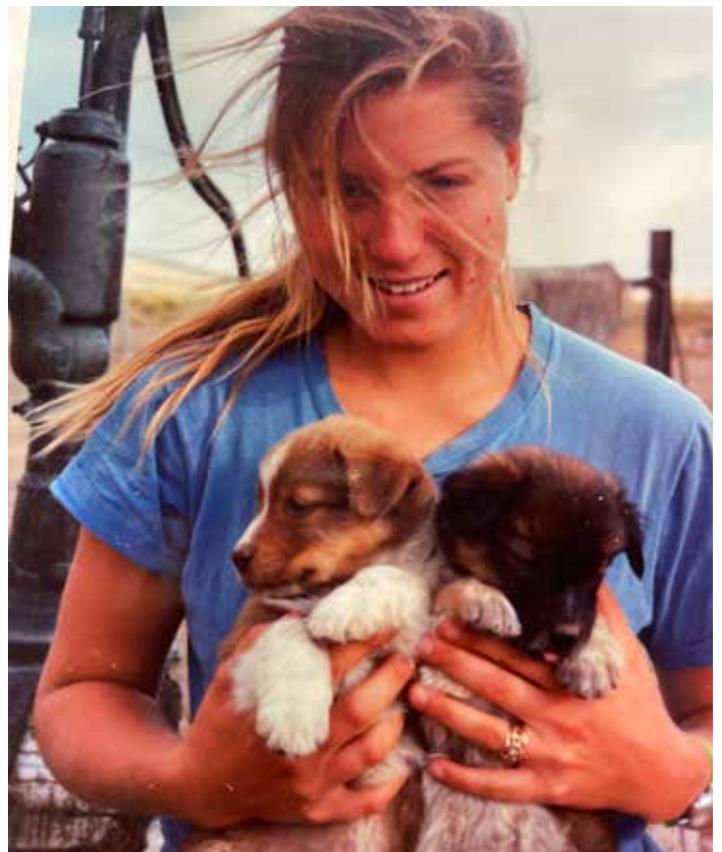
Rocky Brown says one well-trained dog is worth six cowboys.

"They cover so much country, they look for cattle, they know their job, you're not waiting on them to show up in the morning. You don't have to pay them anything. Most of the time, they're in the right place," he says.

Plus, it's hard to find cowboys available to ride cattle these days ... making the dogs even more valuable.

Well-trained dogs help with range management as well.

"A guy will ride by a creek bottom and leave cows in it, they don't see it," Brown says. "The dogs hunt, they know they're in



RIGHT TOP: Robin, age 14, at her family's cattle ranch in Cascade.

RIGHT: An early photo of Robin bonding with new pups.



LEFT: Robin's daughter, Quincee, with one of their working dogs. Adult male border collies get to up 31-44 lbs. RIGHT: Pups are prepared to be part of the family.



there, you can depend on a dog so much more than you can depend on a person without a dog. So yeah, pretty invaluable.”

Herding dogs are essential for moving cattle from one pasture to another, too, for rest-rotation grazing, Brown says.

Robin Brown teaches proper stockmanship in her clinics, too.

“Stockmanship is taking care of your animals,” she says. “For instance, if you’re moving cattle up a hill, and it’s hot, and you’ve got your dog with you, you want to let the cattle rest. You don’t want to keep pushing them, pushing them, pushing them.”

“For instance, this morning, with the little baby lambs, they can only go so fast, so you have to take your time. It’s treating your animals right, with the least amount of stress possible.”

Brown feels that women have a natural touch when raising dogs because of their nurturing instincts. Many more women are getting involved in training stock dogs and competing at dog trials, she says. “Yes, it’s gotten to be huge. People all over the country want to be involved in training dogs.”

She’s seeing that potential come through with her daughter, Quincee.

“She’s very good at it,” Robin says. “She’s got a really good eye for it. She’s intelligent. She’s really great with the dogs. The dogs have to trust you or it doesn’t work. She’s got that kindness and thoughtfulness about her, to be able to do something like this and bring it forward.”

Quincee remembers being surrounded by dogs growing up. Now that she’s out of college, she appreciates her mother’s talents.

“Coming back from college, I was never really involved in the training until I was an adult, there was much more of a brilliance to it than I felt growing up,” says Quincee Nuffer, one of three

daughters that Brown had with her first husband. “There’s this dog and this mastery of intuitive communication that’s happening, often on the fly. After training happens, you really bond with the dog, and the dog has a sense of itself, and its duty and instinct.”

In essence, the master seeks harmony between the dog and the livestock.

“The best moments are when they’re in tune together,” Quincee says.

Robin is thankful to have her husband Rocky helping out full-time at Broken Circle Ranch.

“He’s very good with dogs because that’s all he’s done his whole life,” she says. “He gives lessons, he helps people, he makes it all possible. He makes things easy for me. He builds kennels ... “

Robin Brown is hopeful that Quincee may stay interested in their business.

“She helps raise puppies, she’s started her own dogs, it’d be great if my Broken Circle Border Collies could keep going,” she says. “It’d be great if one of my kids could do that. I’m throwing that out there in the wind.”

In the meantime, Brown is ready to spend more time at home. “I’ve traveled all over the country doing the dog trials, but now I want to stay home more and eat apple pie,” she says.

For more information, go to: <https://www.brokencirclebordercollies.com>. ■

Steve Stuebner is the writer and producer of Life on the Range, a public education project sponsored by the Idaho Rangeland Resources Commission.

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University of Idaho photo

University of Idaho area Extension educator Matt Fisher and Robin Baumgartner, UI Extension 4-H Youth Development science programs coordinator, show off robots for a new LEGO AgRobotics youth program during a recent event in Sun Valley.

Extension 4-H launching new ag-themed LEGO robotics program

By **John O'Connell**
University of Idaho

A new University of Idaho Extension 4-H Youth Development program takes precision agriculture to new heights with robots designed, built and programmed by child engineers.

Even the sky isn't the limit for the young engineers who will compete in the forthcoming AgRobotics program. One AgRobotics scenario, called Lunar Base Harvest, entails delivering farming inputs and testing soils with remote-controlled robots on the surface of the moon.

Program organizers Matt Fisher, a UI Extension educator specializing in agriculture and STEM, and Robin Baumgartner, 4-H science programs coordinator, are recruiting Idaho counties interested in participating.

About 20 Idaho counties received LEGO robotics kits last year with federal American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding, and the new AgRobotics program could provide counties a good use for those kits.

Additional ARPA funding is currently available for counties that would like kits to start or expand upon a LEGO robotics program.

AgRobotics aims to teach children STEM skills while also demonstrating the important roles science and technology play in food production.

“We thought this would be great for Idaho because Idaho is so agriculture based,” Fisher said. “This would be a way to get those kids who don’t normally show animals or go the traditional route to learn about agriculture, too.”

UI Extension often fields requests to teach the fundamentals of LEGO robotics at community day camps, events and after-school programs. Idaho 4-H youth have also participated in the FIRST LEGO League robotics challenge.

AgRobotics, however, is Idaho’s first robotics program sponsored and branded by Extension.

AgRobotics was created by Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service. Baumgartner and Teresa Balderrama, an associate Extension educator specializing in 4-H youth development in Kootenai County, discovered the program when Texas 4-H staff presented it at a professional conference.

They liked the Texas program as an option to involve Idaho youth in a competition that would be less intensive and time demanding than FIRST LEGO League.

“We wanted to bring additional robotics opportunities to the state,” Baumgartner said. “We were both like, ‘Ok, this is what we’ve been looking for.’”

Initially, the program will be offered on a pilot basis, with counties coming up with their own practice schedules and hosting their own competitions for teams of up to four participants.

Eventually, the program could grow to pit counties against each

other in state or regional competitions.

Teams will build their own robots, using LEGO Education SPIKE kits. Some robots may resemble a tractor or other actual farm machines, while others may be more unique — with automated implements on both ends, for example.

Team members will design and program their robots to perform specified tasks, such as docking, delivering farming modules and placing fertilizer inside of modules.

Teams will be awarded points based on how well their robots perform and how many tasks they complete within a specified timeframe.

More complicated tasks receive more points. Tasks are performed on mats with different themes, such as farming on the moon.

AgRobotics also contributes to positive youth development, part of the 4-H Thriving Model. Each team decides which tasks are most important, working collaboratively to ensure success.

Teams must also be prepared to make the necessary modifications to their robots during competitions to complete certain surprise challenges.

“One of the things I love about this is it’s all about the kids’ imagination,” Baumgartner said.

The following counties are upgrading their LEGO kits and have expressed interest in AgRobotics: Bannock, Benewah, Butte, Camas, Cassia, Franklin, Gem, Boise, Jefferson, Latah, Lewis, Lincoln, Power and Washington.

For more information, contact Matt Fisher at (208) 736-3627. ■

Country Chuckles

By Jonny Hawkins



“How long have you been hoofin’ it?”



“Oh, look - a balanced diet!”

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