



Chefs

Tour Idaho Farms



Idaho ag dean
to retire, 3

Election
information,
8 & 14

Paddock Fire,
18



Agricultural education: In the classroom, at home and on the farm

As a father and now a grandfather, one of the most bittersweet moments is watching your kids and grandkids climb onto the bus for the first day of school each year.

While it's easy to feel a bit sad that time is moving too fast, there is a swell of excitement for all they'll embark on in the new school year.

The start of a new school year is also a prime opportunity to sow the seed of agricultural education for the coming school year. These seeds will help our students grow a deeper understanding of and appreciation for the role agriculture plays in our lives.

As generations become further removed from the farm, the gap between agriculture

See **DUVALL**, page 6

The President's Desk

By Bryan Searle
President, Idaho Farm Bureau Federation



Idaho ag dean has earned his retirement

The news of Michael Parrella's pending retirement came as mixed news to me. Parrella, who has served as dean of University of Idaho's College of Agricultural and Life Sciences since February 2016, will retire next June.

On the one hand, the dean has helped transform CALS, through several big-ticket projects and initiatives, and set it on a path to a successful future.

On the other hand, the dean has worked

hard since taking over leadership of Idaho's important and premier agriculture college and has certainly earned his pending retirement and fly-fishing adventures.

Parrella is an avid fly fisherman and has said Idaho's world-class fly-fishing waters didn't hurt his decision to take over as dean of CALS.

But it's obvious he did not come to Idaho to fly fish. He came here to move the ag college forward and in a big way.

See **SEARLE** page 6

Inside Farm Bureau

By Zak Miller
CEO, Idaho Farm Bureau Federation



The law of the harvest

The law of the harvest is a timeless principle that teaches a powerful lesson: you reap what you sow.

This principle forces all to acknowledge and embrace the importance of intentional action, careful planning, and persistent work.

The efforts to reap a bountiful harvest begin almost at the same time as the previous harvest because it is impossible to have a good harvest without thoughtful planting.

A successful yield requires selecting the right seeds, preparing the soil, and planting at

the optimal time. Without these foundational steps, the possibility of a strong harvest diminishes significantly.

To expect success, we must first put in the work, investing time, energy, and resources.

Thus far, however, we have only discussed the obvious principles of the law of the harvest. Hard work, thought, and timing are principles that help a crop start with a good chance of abundant quality and yield.

See **MILLER**, page 7



Idaho Farm Bureau.

Volume 28, Issue 7
IFBF Officers

President.....Bryan Searle, Shelley
Vice President.....Richard Durrant, Meridian
Executive Vice President/CEOZak Miller

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Kyle Wade.....Downey
Austin Tubbs.....Malad
Jason Fellows.....Weston
Scott Steele.....Idaho Falls
Doug Barrie.....Idaho Falls
Travis McAfee.....Howe
Darren Taber.....Shoshone
Rick Pearson.....Hagerman
Rick Brune.....Hazelton
Cody Chandler.....Weiser
Galen Lee.....New Plymouth
Matt Dorsey.....Caldwell
Marjorie French.....Princeton
Tom Daniel.....Bonners Ferry
Tom Mosman.....Craigmont
Ray Searle.....Shelley
Lance & Tess Zollinger.....Preston

STAFF

Executive Assistant.....Cara Dyer
VP of Operations.....Justin Patten
Operations Assistant.....Elly MacDonald
Director of Finance & Systems.....Tyler Moore
Director of Member Benefits.....Betty Inskeep
Project Manager.....Ott Clark
VP of Member Relations & Commodities.....Brody Miller
Member relations assistant.....Kayla Myers
Dist. I Regional Manager.....Kylee Urie
Dist. II Regional Manager.....Camron Hammond
Dist. III Regional Manager.....Zack Lanier
Dist. IV Regional Manager.....James Gallacci
Dist. V Regional Manager.....Bob Smathers
Dist. V Regional Manager.....Megan Parnell
VP of Governmental Affairs.....Russ Hendricks
Governmental Affairs assistant.....Anna Rose Byers
Director of Government Affairs.....Braden Jensen
Governmental Affairs Representative.....Dexton Lake
VP of Information.....Joel Benson
Project Manager.....Kristy Lindauer
Director of Publications.....Sean Ellis
Videographer.....Jacob Christensen
Videographer.....Brian Morgan

Printed by: Adams Publishing Group, Pocatello, ID

GEM STATE PRODUCER

USPS #015-024, is published monthly except the four months the Quarterly runs 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) 239-4384
E-MAIL: seanellis@idahofb.org
ADS: advertising@idahofb.org
web: www.idahofb.org



University of Idaho photo

Michael Parrella, dean of University of Idaho's College of Agricultural and Life Sciences since February 2016, will retire next June. He is shown here speaking to ag industry representatives on U of I's Moscow campus.

Idaho's 'dean of agriculture' to retire

By Sean Ellis

Idaho Farm Bureau Federation

MOSCOW, Idaho – Michael Parrella, dean of University of Idaho's College of Agricultural and Life Sciences, will retire next June, it was officially announced Sept. 5.

Parrella said he made the announcement a little bit earlier than would have been expected to give the university time to find a replacement and not have to hire an interim dean.

"I'm just trying to do what's in the best interests of the college," said Parrella, who has served as dean of CALS since February 2016.

Agricultural industry leaders thanked Parrella for his service to the college and said he certainly has done what's in the best interests of the university during his time as dean.

"Dean Parrella is someone who dreams big dreams and works hard to accomplish them," said Rick Waitley, who has served as chairman of the Dean's Advisory Board during Parrella's tenure. "Dean Parrella will be missed for sure."

As far as the Idaho Dairymen's Association is concerned, "Dean Parrella is the best dean the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences has ever had," said IDA Executive Director Rick Naerebout.

Naerebout said Parrella has fully recognized that animal agriculture – specifically the dairy and beef cattle industries – represents 60 percent of the state's total farm revenue "and that the college's efforts should line up with what that means in the state."

Idaho's dairy industry credits Parrella with reviving the idea of creating a major research dairy in the Magic Valley, which is the center of the state's milk industry.

See PARRELLA, page 12

COVER: A couple dozen Treasure Valley chefs participated in the Idaho State Department of Agriculture's Culinary Harvest Tour Aug. 19. The event took chefs straight to the farm and introduced them to local farmers and ranchers. See story on page 4. Photo by Sean Ellis

Bus tour takes chefs straight to the farm

By Sean Ellis
Idaho Farm Bureau Federation

The Idaho State Department of Agriculture's Culinary Harvest Tour took local chefs straight to the farm and introduced them to local farmers and ranchers.

The chefs want to offer their customers more items produced locally and the agricultural producers they visited are eager to sell their locally produced products straight to local restaurants.

The Aug. 19 tour was hosted by Idaho Preferred, an ISDA program that exists to support producers of agricultural products grown or raised locally.

One way the program does that is by taking chefs straight to the farm and showing them what some of Idaho's 22,877 farms and ranches have to offer.

"We're bringing them directly to producers so that if a restaurant wants to work directly with a grower ... we're helping provide that opportunity to make those connections," said Idaho Preferred Program Manager Erica White.

"It's important to get to know where your food comes from," she added. "This is that direct connection to get a restaurant, a chef, more directly integrated with where food is coming from."

Sherry Gronkowski, one of the tour participants, said she was impressed with what she experienced on the tour.

"The local farmers and ranchers have created such an amazing agricultural environment for not only the community, but for restaurant owners and other people that buy produce," she said. "It's amazing what they have to offer."

Gronkowski and her husband own Brick 29 in Nampa. He's the chef. She's the operations manager.

Gronkowski said that while the establishment currently gets about 95 percent of its food items locally, it would purchase 100 percent if possible.

She said her restaurant customers are always asking questions such as, Where did you get this? How do I get this? How did you make it? What did you make it with?

"To be able to provide a progressive culinary experience to our guests, we need to have quality product," she said. "What better way to have quality product than to shop with local vendors? It's very, very important to us." According to a National Restaurant Association



survey in 2023, 62 percent of consumers surveyed said that locally sourced food would make them choose one restaurant over another.

The 2022 Census of Agriculture shows that 7 percent of Idaho's 22,877 farms and ranches sell directly to consumers.

Four participants were taken by bus to five agricultural operations where farm owners shared a little about the history of their operation and let them know what they grow or produce and how they do it.

The first stop was McIntyre Pastures in Caldwell, which offers a diverse range of products, such as pasture-raised pork, chicken, duck, turkey, grass-fed beef and fresh eggs.

"Our main focus is regenerative farming," said owner Maria McIntyre. "We got super excited about it and wanted to share it with everybody."

The second stop was at Wissel Farms in Nampa, which specializes in a diverse mix of vegetables and melons, including green beans, sweet corn, cabbage, winter squashes, watermelons and pumpkins.

"We've tried a lot of things for quite some time," said owner Matt Wissel.

The next stop was at Boise River Lamb in Caldwell, which raises premium lamb. It is run by sixth-generation farmers Brett and Liz Wilder.

The ranch was historically a cattle operation but has transitioned to a sheep ranch.

"We've been known for very high-quality animals," Brett Wilder told participants as he led them on a tour of the operation and answered questions. "My philosophy is, we do one thing and we better do it really, really well."

The fourth stop, where a lunch with all Idaho ingredients was served, was at 3100 Cellars in Garden City, the only winery in Idaho dedicated to making sparkling wines.

"We've really flown under the radar," said winemaker Hailey Minder. "We're excited to start introducing ourselves to people who know the Idaho landscape quite well."

Tour participants then headed to Fiddler's Green Farm, a certified organic operation nestled in the Dry Creek Valley near Boise.

The operation offers a wide selection of



Photos by Sean Ellis

TOP: Boise River Lamb owner Brett Wilder (hand raised) gave Harvest Tour participants a tour of his operation while answering questions.

ABOVE: Treasure Valley chefs visit McIntyre Pastures in Caldwell Aug. 19 during the Idaho State Department of Agriculture's Culinary Harvest Tour.

vegetables and cut flowers and its products are sold at the Boise Farmers Market, the Boise Co-Op and to several local restaurants.

The final stop was at Charlie's Produce, a wholesale produce company based in Boise that delivers a wide range of conventional and organic produce to foodservice and retail outlets.

White said Idaho Preferred wanted to show participants a little bit of everything and it was not an accident that the tour occurred during harvest season.

"We're trying to show off Idaho agriculture," she said. "We want to make sure we're showcasing everything, from the

ranchers to our farmers; as much of our agriculture community that we can show off."

Javier Marroquin, who owns and runs Fruitdmar, a catering and delivery business in the area, said the tour was definitely a plus for him and helped introduce him to a lot of potential food items that he would prefer to buy directly from local farmers.

"We want to get as much of our food as possible sourced locally," he said. "You get more fresh picking, flavor wise. You also want to help them grow as they help you grow as well." ■

Continued from page 2

and consumers widens. That's why agricultural education is so critical – it bridges that gap and shows our next generation everything agriculture has to offer.

At Farm Bureau, we're already working to fill this gap head-on through the American Farm Bureau Foundation for Agriculture.

Our Foundation is continually working to raise awareness and understanding of agriculture by providing resources for educators, tools for parents to use at home and opportunities for Farm Bureau members to volunteer in their local schools.

For educators and volunteers, the Foundation offers a wide array of resources designed to bring agriculture into the classroom in meaningful and engaging ways.

On the Foundation's website, you'll find lesson plans, games, activities and videos, all crafted to be accessible and applicable for a variety of grades and class sizes. Each resource is thoroughly researched, written by education specialists and reviewed by subject matter experts, so teachers can feel confident in their accuracy.

There are also scholarships and training programs such as On the Farm STEM training to help educators feel more equipped in their mission of agricultural education.

For parents, the Foundation provides numerous resources to help teach kids more about agriculture at home.

A great way for parents and kids to learn together is with ag-accurate children's books, published through the Foundation's Feeding Minds Press.

These books help share the world of farming in fun and unique ways, so whether you're reading about Chuck and his ice cream wish or learning about The Soil in Jackie's Garden, you can help your kids develop a stronger love for reading and a deeper understanding of agriculture.

For Farm Bureau members who are looking for a way to give back, there are numerous opportunities to promote agricultural education in your community. A great way to start is by reaching

As we enter this new school year, let's remember that the future of agriculture depends on today's students.'

out to your county or state Farm Bureau to see what opportunities may already be available.

And if there aren't any, I encourage you to start something new. Consider volunteering to do an accurate ag book reading at your local elementary school or library, organizing a farm tour or even setting up a booth at the county fair or another community event to talk about agriculture.

Another simple way to start is by donating books and resources to support local teachers or sending a message to your local library requesting Feeding Mind Press books.

The Foundation relies on generous supporters like you. And if you are looking for another meaningful way to contribute, then I also invite you to consider making a donation at <https://www.ag-foundation.org/donate> to continue our excellent ag literacy work.

Whatever way you choose to volunteer or donate, know that your efforts are truly making a difference to our young folks. On behalf of the Foundation board and staff, I want to say thank you to the thousands of volunteers and donors across the country working with us to advance agricultural education.

As we enter this new school year, let's remember that the future of agriculture depends on today's students.

Farm Bureau and our Foundation are committed to this mission, but it takes a collective effort to ensure that agricultural education remains a priority in our school and community.

Whether you're an educator, a parent or a Farm Bureau member looking to give back, there's a role for you to play. Let's take this "back to school" season as an opportunity to inspire young minds and work toward ensuring the legacy of agriculture is instilled in our next generation. ■

SEARLE

Continued from page 2

Oh, has he done that.

I remember that shortly after Parrella was appointed as dean, he visited our state board meeting. He came with his U of I ball cap on, a smile, and the passion and vision that was so needed for the research that would benefit Idaho agriculture.

He asked us if we would be advocates for the needed agricultural projects, including

supporting with some finances to help accomplish them.

During his entire tenure, that cap, smile, passion, and asks has never dwindled.

Parrella has started and moved forward so many major projects at CALS that it would be difficult to list all of them in this column. Here are a handful:

- The \$45 million "CAFE" project that will become the most advanced research dairy in the nation. This

research center will also perform cutting-edge research on a host of issues important to crop farmers, including water use and efficiency, soil health and fertility, crop rotations, forage cropping and agronomy, animal genetic improvement, labor management and precision agriculture. The idea of creating a major research dairy in Idaho had floundered around for many years before

Parrella took it by the lapel and willed it forward.

- A \$14 million meat science facility that will house U of I's meat science program and replace the current facility that is pushing six decades old and is four times smaller.
- A modern \$5.5 million seed potato germplasm facility on U of I's Moscow campus. This facility is where mini-tubers are grown and is where most of Idaho's famous spuds start.
- A \$25 million Deep Soil Ecotron being built right now will allow scientists to conduct research on deep soil, which is considered one of the last research frontiers. It is slated to be operational in 2026 and will be a unique facility in the United States.
- Parrella also started and oversaw a \$12 million revival of the university's Parma Research and Extension

Center. The Parma center, which has done research important to every part of agriculture for the past 100 years, was slated for closure during the recession in 2009 and was actually closed on paper at one point until industry rallied and saved it.

These are only a handful of projects started under Parrella's tenure as dean. [See page 3 for a story about his retirement.]

Parrella told lawmakers and others from the get-go that he did not become dean to accept the status quo. That would be an understatement.

Michael Parrella, with the help of a qualified staff, has truly transformed CALS and set it up to be able to succeed and flourish in the fast-changing modern world.

CALS is an important part of Idaho's agricultural landscape and does research that benefits the state's 22,000-plus farms and ranches. In addition, approximately 90

percent of the ag teachers in Idaho have a degree from the ag college.

University of Idaho Extension has offices in 42 of the state's 44 counties, and the work and outreach done by staff at those offices benefits farmers around the state, as well as the community at large.

CALS is a vital part of Idaho agriculture and the college, thanks in large part to the work that Parrella has put in while dean, is set to continue to do great things for the industry moving forward.

So, on behalf of the Idaho Farm Bureau Federation family, thank you Dean Parrella for your vision and hard work. Your cap, smile, passion, vision, and most importantly, your accomplishments, will be missed and never forgotten.

And here's to many successful days fly fishing. Enjoy your retirement. You have earned it. ■

MILLER

Continued from page 2

There is another aspect of the law of the harvest that is much more challenging and is also not respectful of effort or wisdom. A successful harvest requires more than just good planting and diligent care; it also requires a certain degree of good fortune.

Nature, in its unpredictability, can sometimes upend even the best-laid plans. This tension between human effort and natural forces highlights the delicate balance between what we control and what we cannot.

In Idaho, we experience cold springs, dry summers, hail, fire, and smoke (especially this year). None of these and many other factors can be controlled, but all of them can undo all of a good farmer or rancher's deliberate and thoughtful actions.

Some of the best farmers experience the worst harvests and many times through no fault of their own.

The law of the harvest is a true, but also unfair, principle.

It applies to ranchers who will wean light and fewer calves due to the massive fires around our state, dryland farmers who had a good planting but then received no rain, hay farmers who have experienced fires that destroyed beautiful crops, and probably all farmers whose crops have suffered due to the smoke this summer.

Ranchers and loggers are forced to reap the harvest of decades of poor land management on our federal lands, which has created the conditions for these massive fires throughout our state.

It is sad that some must reap the harvest of others' planting.

If the law of the harvest were truly fair, there would be little

'If the law of the harvest were truly fair, there would be little need for good men and women to leave their fields and pastures to work for better outcomes.'

need for good men and women to leave their fields and pastures to work for better outcomes.

However, because it is not, I appreciate and applaud all of the humble stewards of the land who, through grit, determination, innovation, and inspiration, find ways to bring in harvests and seek change in our counties, states, and nation so that they can continue to feed families and support communities now and into the future, even in spite of the plantings of others that are outside of their control.

Their resilience is truly inspiring and gives us hope for the future.

Thank you, farmers and ranchers, for who you are and for the hope that our agencies, neighbors, and leaders will do their part to plant in their areas outcomes that allow better harvests for all.

It is crucial that we recognize the challenges you face and provide the necessary support to ensure better outcomes for everyone. ■

Idaho Farm Bureau Federation PAC Announces Support for Legislative Candidates

The Idaho Farm Bureau Federation has a Political Action Committee named Idaho Farm Bureau Federation 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 in November!

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**



Lori McCann
House Seat A



Brandon Mitchell
House Seat B

District 7 **Adams, Idaho & Nez Perce Counties**



Cindy Carlson
Senate Seat



Charlie Shepherd
House Seat B

District 8 **Boise, Valley, Elmore & Custer Counties**



Christy Zito
Senate Seat

District 9 **Payette, Washington & Canyon Counties**



Brandon Shippy
Senate Seat



John Shirts
House Seat A



Judy Boyle
House Seat B

District 10 **Canyon County**



Tammy Nichols
Senate Seat



Mike Moyle
House Seat A



Bruce Skaug
House Seat B

District 11
Canyon County



Camille Blaylock
Senate Seat

District 12
Canyon County



Ben Adams
Senate Seat



Jeff Cornilles
House Seat A



Jaron Crane
House Seat B

District 13
Canyon County



Brent Crane
House Seat A

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



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



Idaho Farm Bureau Federation PAC
endorsed candidates continued

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



Chris Bruce
House Seat A



Shawn Dygert
House Seat B

District 24
Camas, Gooding & Twin Falls County



Steve Miller
House Seat B

District 25
Twin Falls County



Lance Clow
House Seat A

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



Clay Handy
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



Tanya Burgoyne
House Seat B

District 30
Bingham & Butte County



Julie VanOrden
Senate Seat



David Cannon
House Seat A

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

**BE SURE TO VOTE IN NOVEMBER FOR THE
GENERAL ELECTION**

Continued from page 3

He has spearheaded a \$45 million project known as CAFE that will be the nation's largest and most advanced research center targeting the dairy and associated industries.

In addition to having all the components of a working dairy, the CAFE project – officially the Idaho Center for Agriculture, Food and the Environment – will include a demonstration farm, food processing research, and workforce development training for the state's agricultural industry.

The 2,000-cow research dairy will be the largest of its kind in the United States and will help the dairy industry solve some of its biggest challenges, including environmental ones.

CAFE scientists will conduct cutting-edge research related to the dairy industry, including research on lagoons, nutrient management and surface and ground water contamination, and odor and emissions control.

They will also conduct a host of agronomic related research on crops at the demonstration farm, including on water use and efficiency, soil health and fertility, crop rotations, forage cropping and agronomy, animal genetic improvement, labor management and precision agriculture.

Naerebout pointed to some other big-ticket projects that will conduct research important to the state's livestock industry.

The college recently held a groundbreaking ceremony for a \$14 million meat science facility that will house U of I's meat science program and provide it the space it needs to grow.

The 12,750-square-foot meat science laboratory will be four times the size of the 1960s-era facility that currently houses the university's meat science program.

During Parrella's tenure, CALS also began management of the Rinker Rock Creek Ranch near Hailey in partnership with the university's College of Natural Resources.

UI officials describe it as a 10,400-acre living laboratory that conducts research that will help land managers across the



University of Idaho photo

University of Idaho College of Agricultural and Life Sciences Dean Michael Parrella, shown speaking here, will retire next June.

West make informed decisions about how people live, work and recreate on rangelands.

"We very much appreciate those efforts and the energy he brings to the job every day," Naerebout said.

CALS oversees nine agricultural research and extension centers around the state, where scientists study issues important to Idaho's farming and ranching community.

Through University of Idaho Extension, CALS serves all Idaho counties with physical offices in 42 of the state's 44 counties. Those offices conduct several hundred thousand face-to-face contacts each year.

The college is the only institution in the state to prepare ag teachers – most of the state's school districts have ag programs – and about 90 percent of ag teachers in Idaho have a degree from CALS.

Parrella has told legislators he didn't become dean of CALS to accept the status

quo. Based on what has happened at CALS during his tenure, that has proven true.

Besides CAFE, Rinker ranch and the new meat science building, the college also built a new, \$5.5 million seed potato germplasm facility on its Moscow campus.

The university's potato germplasm program produces plantlets, or mini-tubers, which are then used by growers to produce plants in the field. From a quality perspective, this facility is where Idaho's potato production starts.

"This facility will pay dividends for the state's iconic and important potato industry for decades to come," said Idaho Farm Bureau Federation President Bryan Searle, a spud farmer. "It represents just one of the ways that CALS has moved forward under Parrella's leadership."

The \$2.7 million classroom and office facility at the Nancy M. Cummings Research, Extension and Education Center, which opened in 2020, provides learning

“Michael Parrella has been a great dean for U of I’s College of Agricultural and Life Sciences. It will take a special person to step into his shoes to complete the goal of building a better and stronger Idaho agriculture industry.”

– Rick Waitley, chairman of the Dean’s Advisory Board

and research space for the university’s primary cow-calf and forage research station located near Salmon.

It provides continuing education for people involved in the livestock industry, as well as learning opportunities for U of I students and the local community.

The university’s \$25 million Deep Soil Ecotron, slated to be operational in 2026, will allow scientists to conduct research on deep soil, which is considered one of the last research frontiers.

“That is a unique facility in the United States,” Parrella said. “No one else in the U.S. has a deep soil ecotron.”

Parrella also started and oversaw a \$12 million revival of the university’s Parma Research and Extension Center.

A new 9,600-square-foot building at Parma, called the Idaho Center for Plant and Soil Health, replaces antiquated facilities that were more than 50 years old in some cases.

The Parma center has entomology, soils, horticulture, crop management, pomology, viticulture, nematology, and plant pathology programs.

In 2018, CALS acquired the Sandpoint Organic Agriculture Center in Bonner County.

The center includes an organic heirloom fruit orchard, the college’s only USDA-certified organic center, which produces 68 heritage varieties of apples, eight varieties of pears and eight types of other fruits.

The 66-acre facility also includes demonstration gardens, pollinator patches, u-pick raspberries, a cider house, meeting facilities and dormitories for visiting faculty and students.

While it’s an organic center, it provides benefits for both organic and conventional producers, Parrella said.

“Conventional and organic agriculture share many common themes such as soil health and sustainability; strategies that work for organic production often translate to conventional farming methods,” he said.

Beyond capital building initiatives, Parrella has also championed efforts to endow faculty positions in the college, including the \$2 million Idaho Wheat Commission Bill Flory Endowed Chair in Risk Management, the \$1 million Wayne Theissen Potato

Research Professorship and the recently announced \$3 million Saad Hafez Presidential Endowed Chair in Nematology, the first of its kind for U of I.

Parrella said these endowed positions benefit both the scientific community and the broader industry and allow U of I to recruit world-class faculty to the college.

In recognition of Parrella’s accomplishments, U of I president C. Scott Green last year announced that in addition to serving as CALS dean, Parrella would also serve as special assistant to the president for agricultural initiatives.

The CALS dean reports directly to the provost, so the new title provides more direct access to the U of I president.

As a result, industry also has a more direct line to the president now, Parrella told Idaho Farm Bureau Federation about the dual title announcement last year.

“It’s a recognition, I think, of the importance of agriculture and the college,” he said. “So, in a sense, it’s respect for the industry.”

“Michael Parrella has been a great dean for U of I’s College of Agricultural and Life Sciences,” Waitley said. “It will take a special person to step into his shoes to complete the goal of building a better and stronger Idaho agriculture industry.”

Parrella said if he is remembered for one thing, “I would like to be thought of as the dean who was responsible for moving the college forward in a dramatic way.”

He said partnerships, with industry and lawmakers, have enabled those projects to move forward.

“We can’t do those types of things without them,” Parrella said. “We listen to stakeholders and try to be responsive to them.”

Waitley said Parrella will be honored with a plaque, reception and video highlighting his accomplishments during next February’s Ag Summit, which is a major meeting of all types of ag industry leaders in the state.

Waitley said when Parrella was initially hired, he indicated that the job was intriguing since he loved to fly fish and heard Idaho had great waters for the hobby.

“To my knowledge, there has been limited fly fishing due to how busy he has been,” Waitley said.

Because he was so busy with the job, “I haven’t done as much fly fishing as I would have liked,” Parrella said. “That will certainly change after I retire.”

He said he and his wife, Debbie, love Idaho and will split their time during retirement between their place in north Idaho and visiting family and grandchildren in California and Virginia.

He said he has built a lot of strong relationships in Idaho and that is one of the things he will miss the most.

“It’s taken years to develop those relationships; one of the things I will clearly miss is leaving that all behind,” he said.

He said there’s a certain amount of excitement and intellectual stimulation that comes along with the various major projects and initiatives that CALS is undertaking.

“Suddenly being taken out of that environment, it will be a big change. I will miss that,” he said. ■

Idaho Farm Bureau

FRIEND OF AGRICULTURE

Award Recipients

The following legislators are on the ballot for the general election and have earned 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 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 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



**District 12
Representative
Jeff Cornilles**



**District 14
Senator
C. Scott Grow**



**District 14
Representative
Ted Hill**

FRIEND OF AG CONTINUED



**District 15
Representative
Dori Healey**



**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**



**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

FRIEND OF AG CONTINUED



**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 running for re-election in the general 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



I FARM
I VOTE



I EAT
I VOTE

The purpose of the I Farm, I Vote and the I Eat, I Vote campaign is to provide information to voters about candidates they will be voting for in the upcoming election. Agriculture is Idaho's largest economic sector and the lifeblood of rural communities. Elected officials impact all aspects of rural life and business, from taxes and environmental regulations to property rights and transportation.



For candidate information please visit IFarmIVoteIdaho.com or scan QR code

Statement of Ownership

UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE® - (All Periodicals Publications Except Requester Publications)

1. Publication Title: **GOV STATE PRODUCER**

2. Issue Date: **01/01/2024**

3. Issue Frequency: **Quarterly**

4. Issue Number for this Issue: **1**

5. Number of Issues Published Annually: **4**

6. Annual Subscription Price: **\$6.00**

7. Complete Mailing Address of Known Office of Publication (Not printer): **278 Teton Valley Drive Pocatello, ID 83201-5811**

8. Complete Mailing Address of Headquarters or General Business Office of Publisher (Not printer): **278 Teton Valley Drive Pocatello, ID 83201-5811**

9. Full Names and Complete Mailing Addresses of Publisher, Editor, and Managing Editor: **278 Teton Valley Drive Pocatello, ID 83201-5811**

10. Owner: **SEAN MCNEIL**

11. Known Bondholders, Mortgagees, and Other Security Holders Owning or Holding 1 Percent or More of Total Amount of Bonds, Mortgages, or Other Securities. If none, check box: None

12. Tax Status: For-profit Not-for-profit

13. Publication Title: **GOV STATE PRODUCER**

14. Issue Date: **01/01/2024**

15. Issue Frequency: **Quarterly**

16. Issue Number for this Issue: **1**

17. Number of Issues Published Annually: **4**

18. Annual Subscription Price: **\$6.00**

19. Complete Mailing Address of Known Office of Publication (Not printer): **278 Teton Valley Drive Pocatello, ID 83201-5811**

20. Complete Mailing Address of Headquarters or General Business Office of Publisher (Not printer): **278 Teton Valley Drive Pocatello, ID 83201-5811**

21. Full Names and Complete Mailing Addresses of Publisher, Editor, and Managing Editor: **278 Teton Valley Drive Pocatello, ID 83201-5811**

22. Owner: **SEAN MCNEIL**

23. Known Bondholders, Mortgagees, and Other Security Holders Owning or Holding 1 Percent or More of Total Amount of Bonds, Mortgages, or Other Securities. If none, check box: None

24. Tax Status: For-profit Not-for-profit

1. Publication Title: GOV STATE PRODUCER

2. Issue Date: 01/01/2024

3. Issue Frequency: Quarterly

4. Issue Number for this Issue: 1

5. Number of Issues Published Annually: 4

6. Annual Subscription Price: \$6.00

7. Complete Mailing Address of Known Office of Publication (Not printer): 278 Teton Valley Drive Pocatello, ID 83201-5811

8. Complete Mailing Address of Headquarters or General Business Office of Publisher (Not printer): 278 Teton Valley Drive Pocatello, ID 83201-5811

9. Full Names and Complete Mailing Addresses of Publisher, Editor, and Managing Editor: 278 Teton Valley Drive Pocatello, ID 83201-5811

10. Owner: SEAN MCNEIL

11. Known Bondholders, Mortgagees, and Other Security Holders Owning or Holding 1 Percent or More of Total Amount of Bonds, Mortgages, or Other Securities. If none, check box: None

12. Tax Status: For-profit Not-for-profit

13. Publication Title: GOV STATE PRODUCER

14. Issue Date: 01/01/2024

15. Issue Frequency: Quarterly

16. Issue Number for this Issue: 1

17. Number of Issues Published Annually: 4

18. Annual Subscription Price: \$6.00

19. Complete Mailing Address of Known Office of Publication (Not printer): 278 Teton Valley Drive Pocatello, ID 83201-5811

20. Complete Mailing Address of Headquarters or General Business Office of Publisher (Not printer): 278 Teton Valley Drive Pocatello, ID 83201-5811

21. Full Names and Complete Mailing Addresses of Publisher, Editor, and Managing Editor: 278 Teton Valley Drive Pocatello, ID 83201-5811

22. Owner: SEAN MCNEIL

23. Known Bondholders, Mortgagees, and Other Security Holders Owning or Holding 1 Percent or More of Total Amount of Bonds, Mortgages, or Other Securities. If none, check box: None

24. Tax Status: For-profit Not-for-profit

UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE® - (All Periodicals Publications Except Requester Publications)

1. Publication Title: **GOV STATE PRODUCER**

2. Issue Date: **01/01/2024**

3. Issue Frequency: **Quarterly**

4. Issue Number for this Issue: **1**

5. Number of Issues Published Annually: **4**

6. Annual Subscription Price: **\$6.00**

7. Complete Mailing Address of Known Office of Publication (Not printer): **278 Teton Valley Drive Pocatello, ID 83201-5811**

8. Complete Mailing Address of Headquarters or General Business Office of Publisher (Not printer): **278 Teton Valley Drive Pocatello, ID 83201-5811**

9. Full Names and Complete Mailing Addresses of Publisher, Editor, and Managing Editor: **278 Teton Valley Drive Pocatello, ID 83201-5811**

10. Owner: **SEAN MCNEIL**

11. Known Bondholders, Mortgagees, and Other Security Holders Owning or Holding 1 Percent or More of Total Amount of Bonds, Mortgages, or Other Securities. If none, check box: None

12. Tax Status: For-profit Not-for-profit

13. Publication Title: **GOV STATE PRODUCER**

14. Issue Date: **01/01/2024**

15. Issue Frequency: **Quarterly**

16. Issue Number for this Issue: **1**

17. Number of Issues Published Annually: **4**

18. Annual Subscription Price: **\$6.00**

19. Complete Mailing Address of Known Office of Publication (Not printer): **278 Teton Valley Drive Pocatello, ID 83201-5811**

20. Complete Mailing Address of Headquarters or General Business Office of Publisher (Not printer): **278 Teton Valley Drive Pocatello, ID 83201-5811**

21. Full Names and Complete Mailing Addresses of Publisher, Editor, and Managing Editor: **278 Teton Valley Drive Pocatello, ID 83201-5811**

22. Owner: **SEAN MCNEIL**

23. Known Bondholders, Mortgagees, and Other Security Holders Owning or Holding 1 Percent or More of Total Amount of Bonds, Mortgages, or Other Securities. If none, check box: None

24. Tax Status: For-profit Not-for-profit

Paddock wildfire causes harm to 100-plus cattle, many ranches and rangelands

By Steve Stuebner

Idaho Soil & Water Conservation Commission

On the evening of Aug. 5 (a Monday), a dry lightning storm passed through Southwest Idaho, sending hundreds of lightning bolts onto dry rangelands that had been cooked by 100-degree heat for nearly a month.

The lightning bolts ignited many wildfires. One of them ignited a major range fire near Paddock Reservoir, located about 20 air miles east of Midvale.

“We were on it Monday night,” said David Judy, a local rancher and newly elected president of the Black Canyon Rangeland Fire Protection Association (RFPA). “I was out there fighting the fire with a 4-wheeler and a 30-gallon water tank. We were out there for six hours trying to put it out, but it was really hot and the wind kept blowing at 20-30 mph at 2-3 a.m. in the morning.

“We had six different wind changes, and it just turned into a monster.”

The Midvale Volunteer Fire Department was on scene, as well as the Weiser River RFPA. The Bureau of Land Management was aware of the fire, but it had multiple starts



The Paddock wildfire has had a major impact on ranchers, cattle and range in Southwest Idaho. Photo by Steve Stuebner

to manage all over Southwest Idaho.

Fire weather officials counted 939 lightning strikes in that region. BLM resources were stretched thin by that situation, plus aerial firefighting resources were being used in the giant Durkee Fire in Eastern Oregon.

It was as if an angry Zeus was unleashing a fury of fire at planet earth. The Paddock wildfire zone was in the cross-hairs of that fury.

“It burned the whole North Crane Creek Valley in four hours,” Judy said. “It was insane.”

The Paddock Fire burned more than 50,000 acres of rangeland in the first day, 118,000 acres by day two, 153,000 by day four, and 187,000 acres by day five.

By then, it had scorched the middle country between the Crane Creek and Paddock Reservoir and points north of Emmett, and it burned over the top of Squaw Butte (now known as “Sehewoki’l Newenee’an Katete”) and threatened dozens of homes and ranches along the Ola-Sweet Highway.

A BLM Type 3 firefighting crew from Nevada arrived by day three with 93

The Paddock wildfire burns toward a herd of cattle, silhouetted by eerie flames behind them. Photo by David Judy

personnel, which grew to 205 by Aug. 9 and 359 by Aug. 12. Firefighters focused on backburns and structure protection on the east flank of the fire.

Seventy-one homes were evacuated for several days in the Ola-Sweet area; people were placed in emergency housing in Emmett. Fire department crews from Emmett, Gem County, Eagle, Star, Ada County and Boise also assisted in that effort.

Ranchers who lived out in the middle of the blaze or grazed cattle in that area stayed out there to save their homes and livestock. Amazingly, no one was killed.

Ranchers are still looking for lost cattle, but based on a number of interviews with ranchers, the Paddock Fire killed around 100 cattle – perhaps more – and burned an unknown number of outbuildings, barns, corrals and haystacks. Hundreds of miles of fence have also burned.

The BLM sent what resources they could by night one of the fire, joining the Black Canyon RFPA, Midvale Fire Department and Weiser River RFPA around the Paddock Reservoir area.

“We had a pretty good crew, but we needed 4-5 dozers and we only had one,” Judy said. “The resources were stretched too thin with all of the other fires going on elsewhere.”

“All range fires are frightening, but this one was particularly devastating to us,” says Aggie Little Brailsford, owner of AL Cattle. She is a descendant of the original sheep king, Andy Little.

“We lost corrals, cows and two horse barns that our grandfather built,” she said. “You come up Jake’s Creek, and there would be that big red barn that Andy Little built. The boys were out there trying to save things till 2-3 in the morning on the day that fire started, and when my foreman got to Crane Creek, the barn and corrals and everything were on fire. They saved the house, but that big red barn is gone. It just breaks my heart.”

Also heart-breaking: AL Cattle has lost 26 cows; they’re still searching for another 200 animals. David Judy is looking for 23 cows that may have been lost to the blaze or escaped somewhere into a safe zone. Robert Oxarango, owner of the Van Deusen Ranch, is still searching for 60-70 cow-calf pairs out of 350.

Judy Hinman said she’s lost two bulls and a calf, and her brother has lost at least 20 cows. Many others lost livestock in the fire or the cows were burned to the point where they had to be shot and shipped to the market, if they had any value at all.

“There was no time to get anything out when that fire blew

‘The Paddock Fire struck right in the heart of pioneer ranching country, causing heavy impacts to ranch families whose ancestors were among the first to settle this part of Idaho.’

through the North Crane Valley in four hours,” Hinman notes. “It would have been instant death.”

In one sliver of good news, 41 wild horses survived the blaze. The BLM plans to trap and move the wild horses to a place where they have forage to eat.

Perhaps the biggest impact of all is the loss of rangeland for many ranchers who still have two or three months before they would be shipping cattle to market.

The total amount of rangeland consumed by the Paddock Fire is 187,185 acres.

Range plants in the fire zone include healthy communities of native perennial grasses and forbs, sagebrush and bitterbrush, and invasive plants such as cheatgrass and medusa-head.

Steve Sutton, who lives by Paddock Reservoir, has lost about 10,000-12,000 acres of fall and winter range by his ranch.

“We were at ground zero,” he said. “We saved our house but we lost all of our range.”

Harry Soulen estimates he has lost 35,000 acres of rangeland to the Paddock Fire – land that is a mixture of private, state and BLM land. Oxarango estimates the loss of 15,000-20,000 acres of rangeland in the Sehewoki’l Newenee’an Katete area.

The list goes on. The Paddock Fire struck right in the heart of pioneer ranching country, causing heavy impacts to ranch families whose ancestors were among the first to settle this part of Idaho, including the extended Little family, Sutton family and Soulen family.

The importance of these private, state and BLM rangelands to ranchers for livestock grazing can not be

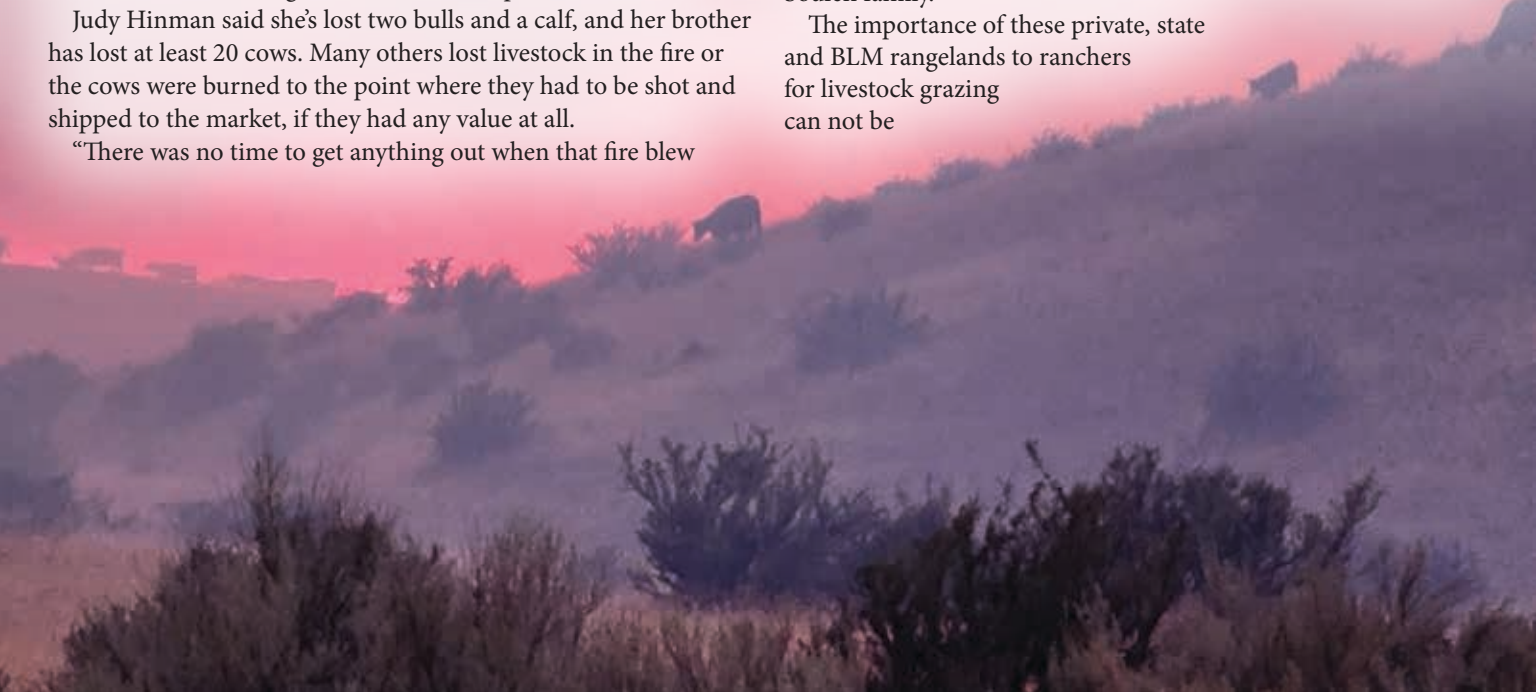




Photo by Steve Stuebner

Not much to eat: A small cattle herd hangs out in the Paddock Fire zone recently. There's a real shortage of grazing lands for the ranchers whose range got burned up by the fire.

overstated.

"A rancher is in the forage business," notes Dick Gardner, a Ph.D. economist. "They're in the business of growing grass, either on their own home place, or public lands, making sure there's plenty of grass, and it's converted into pounds for calves or lambs that are sold. That's where they get their revenue."

Without rangelands to finish the grazing season, ranchers affected by the Paddock wildfire are scrambling to find somewhere to graze their livestock. But the entire Paddock fire zone is almost completely blackened by the blaze. Just a few areas around water have live plants for livestock to eat.

David Judy has been grazing cattle around a reservoir in the North Crane area, but he's been supplementing that by trucking in hay. Steve Sutton trailed his cattle to some BLM ground on Harry Soulen's property that was missed by the fire.

Ranchers concerned about next year

With all of his winter range gone, Sutton is contemplating having to sell off two-thirds of his cattle herd this fall, something any rancher would hate to do.

"I've spent a whole lifetime building up my cattle herd," Sutton said. "It's just really hard to imagine losing all of that. But unfortunately, without someplace to graze my cattle this winter, I'm not sure what else I can do."

"We've lost nearly 100 percent of our spring, summer and fall grazing ground," Oxarango says. "The big question is, where will we go with our cows next year? We know we are not alone."

Indeed, the big question looms: How much time will the BLM want to rest the Paddock fire zone before grazing is allowed once again?

Often times, the BLM and the U.S. Forest Service require up to two years of rest, sometimes more, before they allow livestock grazing on burned-over lands. But there have been exceptions.

"Quite honestly, the biggest concern we have is the decision the BLM will make about when we can graze that country again," Soulen said. "If they put a two-year closure on this entire block of ground in the fire zone, you'll be putting hundreds of people out of business."

"We're going to limp through the rest of this year, but we're hoping we get some fall rain and a good winter to bring these rangelands back to life," Judy added.

After the BLM has time to develop burn-severity maps and soil impacts, the ranchers hope the BLM can be site-specific about what areas need to be closed versus a blanket, area-wide closure.

In the meantime, ranchers are hoping that the BLM will get busy with aerial seeding operations as soon as possible.

"Right now, the BLM should be putting seed out there before the cheatgrass and medusa-head move in," Soulen says.

Debbie Carlock-Newton, chair of the Squaw Creek Soil Conservation District, agrees. "A broadcast seeding would be great because it would bring things back so much faster," she said.

"If we get some fall rains, the grass will come back and it'll be like a golf course out there for the elk," added Sutton.

BLM post-fire rehabilitation plans

After the fire was contained and extinguished, BLM officials have been surveying the damage and determining what kinds of post-fire resources to request from BLM national headquarters for seeding grasslands, sagebrush and bitterbrush stands and range-rehabilitation in general.

Fire suppression costs are estimated to be \$6.3 million. How much money the BLM requests for range-rehabilitation measures remains to be seen, officials said.

Rob Bennett, a BLM natural resources specialist who is working on the post-fire rehabilitation plan with a team of experts, said they are worried about the impacts of the fire on wildlife, sage grouse habitat, Southern Idaho ground squirrel habitat, livestock grazing allotments, fencing and more.

“We’ve lost hundreds of miles of fence that will need to be replaced before livestock is returned to the range,” he said.

The BLM also will be working to re-seed dozer fire lines. Any fences that were torn out on BLM lands to make way for dozer fire lines will be replaced at no cost to ranchers, he said.

The BLM has preliminary information about the burn severity in the fire zone, Bennett said. “By and large, it was low to moderate burn intensity, with some parts being more severe,” he said.

How will that affect regrowth?

“We should have good response from native grasses and forbs,” he said. The fire burned so quickly across the landscape that “there may not be that much mortality with those plants.”

Sagebrush and bitterbrush took a major hit, and the BLM and its partner agencies will work on re-seeding the shrubs on the burned landscape.

“We plan to fly seed for sagebrush this winter,” Bennett said. “With the bitterbrush, we expect to see some re-sprouting, which will depend on fall and winter moisture.”

As for how long livestock permittees may have to wait before cattle can be returned to the BLM range, Bennett said, “We do need to allow the perennial grasses to recover. We are going to rest BLM lands from grazing, there will be some rest.”

The BLM will meet with permittees this fall to work out the details. But right now, Bennett said, the BLM may be looking at resting grazing lands for two grazing seasons or until recovery objectives have been met.

“We will make more determinations this fall,” he said.

The BLM plans to do some treatment of areas with invasive plants and noxious weeds to make sure they don’t expand, he said, and the agency also will do aerial grass seeding this fall or winter. ■

Steve Stuebner writes for Conservation the Idaho Way on a regular basis.

Resources available to assist with fire impacts



Farm Services Agency

Contact your local FSA office to learn more about emergency financial assistance for livestock killed by the wildfire, livestock forage and watering systems, and more. FSA has fact sheets about three specific programs that could provide relief for producers who have sustained losses due to the Paddock wildfire:

- **ELAP – Emergency Assistance for Livestock**
- **LIP – Livestock Indemnity Program**
- **LFP – Livestock Forage Disaster Program**



NRCS

Provides financial assistance for fencing, livestock water systems, and range improvements such as seeding and grazing through its Environmental Quality Incentives Program. NRCS officials say they will have a better idea about how much funding is available after the new federal fiscal year begins on Oct. 1.



Idaho Cattle Association Fire Relief Fund

The deadline for applications is Oct. 24.

“The impact of these fires on cattle producers will be felt for many years and some producers may not ever financially recover if they don’t have access to relief funding assistance,” said Jerry Wroten, board president of ICA. “The Idaho Cattle Association is here to support producers in a variety of ways and this is just one of the most relevant during this fire season.” In addition to accepting applications for relief, ICA is accepting donations to the fund. Contact ICA at (208) 343-1615 or <http://www.idahocattle.org>

Idaho hop production forecast to be way down this year

By Sean Ellis

Idaho Farm Bureau Federation

WILDER – From 2011 to 2022, Idaho hop acres soared, year after year, riding the craft beer craze.

Now, with the craft beer lovefest leveling off, Idaho hop acres are headed the other direction. They are forecast to fall by a third this year.

“The craft craziness has slowed,” said Wilder hop grower Oliver Schroeder, president of Hop Growers of America and chairman of the Idaho Hop Growers Commission.

Hops are used as a bittering and flavoring agent in beer production. Most of Idaho’s hop farms are located in southwestern Idaho.

Like other Idaho hop growers, Schroeder reduced acreage significantly this year.

“All of us are pretty much in the same boat,” he said.

In 2011, there were 2,265 acres of hops grow in Idaho and the state ranked third in the nation in total hop production, behind Washington and Oregon

As Idaho hop acres rose rapidly in coming years, the state passed Oregon to take over the No. 2 spot.

Idaho hop acres peaked at 9,694 in 2021 before declining to 9,561 in 2022, and now they are falling fast.

USDA’s National Agricultural Statistics Service estimates Idaho growers will harvest 5,833 acres of hops this year, down from 8,645 last year, a 33 percent drop.

NASS estimates Idaho hop production will total 12 million pounds in 2024, down from 16.9 million pounds in 2023. That’s a 29 percent drop in one year.

The reason it’s not more is because NASS is estimating average hop yields in Idaho to be up 6 percent this year compared with last year.

The total value of Idaho hop production reached \$105 million in 2021, but it will be significantly less this year.

Idaho still ranks No. 2 in hop production. NASS estimates that Oregon growers will produce 9.3 million pounds of hops this year off of 5,726 acres.

Washington is the nation’s unchallenged No. 1 hop producer and NASS estimates that state’s farmers will produce 66.5 million pounds of hops in 2024 off of 33,265 acres.

Idaho isn’t the only state losing hop acres rapidly. Both Washington and Oregon hop acres are forecast to be down close to 15 percent in 2024 compared with 2023.

The vast majority of U.S. hop production occurs in Washington, Idaho and Oregon.

NASS estimates U.S. hop production will total 88 million pounds this year, down from 104 million pounds last year, and that U.S. hop acres will total 44,824 in 2024, down from 54,318 in 2023.



Photo by Sean Ellis

Workers build a new hop yard near Homedale in this Idaho Farm Bureau Federation photo.

The rapid, double-digit growth in Idaho and Pacific Northwest hop production that occurred for a decade was not healthy, Schroeder said.

“If you look at historical trends, that’s not how things go,” he said. “You had to have a reduction and we’re going through that.”

He said Idaho’s acreage decline is mostly a result of less demand for certain hop varieties that were planted here in large numbers.

“The biggest driver in the reduction of acres are varieties that have been ... over-planted and are not being used in the industry as much,” he said.

Logistic challenges are another factor, he said, with more than 70 percent of Idaho hops heading to Washington to be processed.

In 2023, “the U.S. hop industry navigated currents of change,” according to a statistical report by HGOA. “Marking a divergence from recent trends, growers shifted to idling yards and replacing aroma and dual-purpose varieties with super high alpha cultivars.”

Last year, with demand for hops falling, “The season served as the first period in 12 years with a substantial decrease in acreage, accruing to a 10% total reduction in the Pacific Northwest,” the report added. ■

Meet your local
BIGIRON
SALES REPS



TOM ARLEDGE (602) 541-6000
tom.arledge@bigiron.com

CHAD ARLEDGE (208) 420-2452
chad.arledge@bigiron.com

Got unused farm or heavy equipment taking up space on your property?

As your dedicated BigIron Auctions representatives for Idaho, we're here to help you find a new home for your equipment and put extra cash in your pocket.

Give us a call today and let's get started!

AUCTIONS EVERY WEDNESDAY!

Rural Connections | Respected Values | Real Deals



Harvest and hunting season is here. Now might be a good time to update your truck, side by side, ATV or motorcycle. If so, then consider financing with Idaho Farm Bureau Financial Services. You'll enjoy low member-priced rates, easy application process with quick response, as well as:

- Flexible payment terms and plans
- No application fees
- Loans for sport and recreation vehicles including boats, motorcycles, RV's, and ATV's, snowmobiles & autos.

To learn more or to apply, please visit our website at www.idfbfs.com or contact your nearest Farm Bureau Finance office:

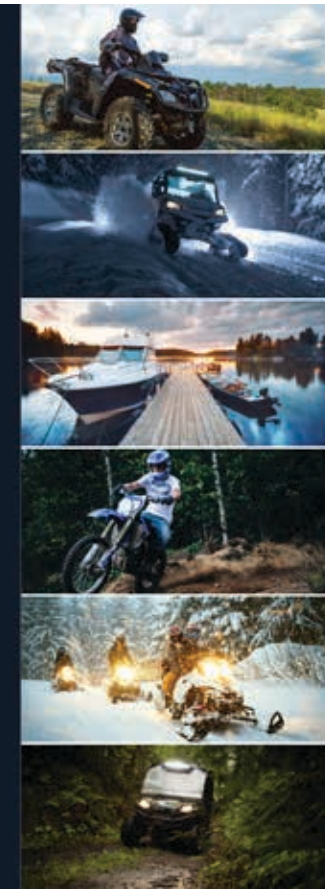
- Boise 208-947-2519
- Caldwell 208-455-1526
- Twin Falls 208-423-8808
- Post Falls 208-618-2200
- Pocatello 208-232-7914

We look forward to helping you on the path to financial freedom.



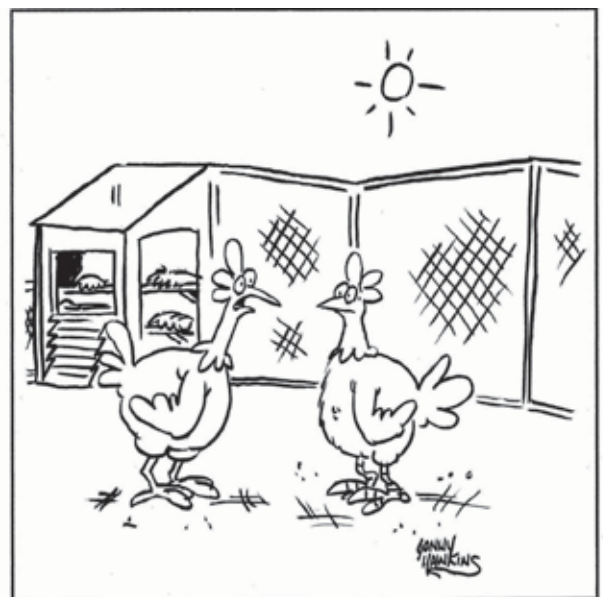
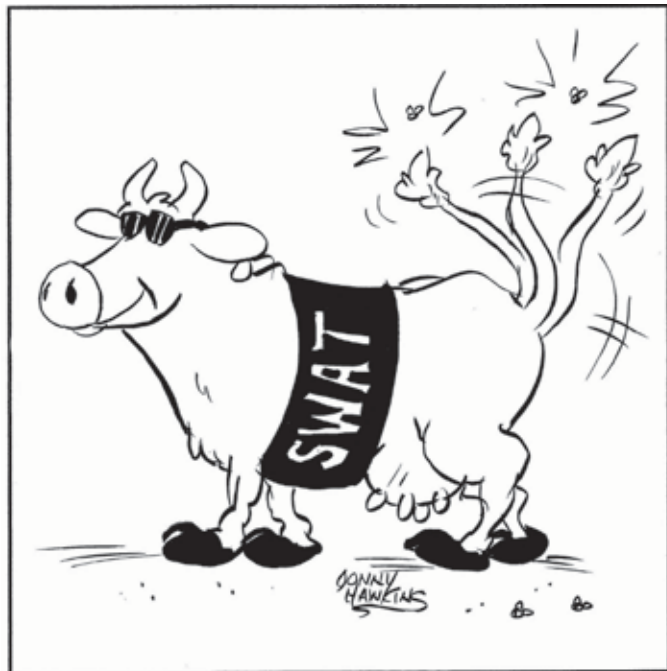
Apply Today!
Scan the QR code to go to our website to apply online.
www.idfbfs.com

Some restrictions apply based on the make and model of vehicle offered as collateral. Loans are subject to credit approval. Finance charges accrue from origination date of this loan.



Country Chuckles

By Jonny Hawkins



"If we don't think outside the fox, we'll be inside the fox."



Photos by Audra Cochran

It is important to structure slash piles in a way that ensures all fuels are fully combusted during the burn process. As the piles burn down, landowners may need to help push smaller materials back toward the center of the pile to ensure fuels are consumed.

Building and burning slash piles

By Audra Cochran
University of Idaho

It is common to see mountains dotted with puffs of smoke during the autumn season in the Pacific Northwest.

Though it often resembles an ancient form of communication, burning slash piles is actually a common practice to remove slash (i.e. woody debris) as part of modern forest management practices.

Per Idaho Forest Practices Act (rule 0.70 --.01-.03), slash from forest management activities must be managed to help mitigate fire risk and reduce erosion and runoff to maintain stream water quality. There are often concerns surrounding air quality during these burning periods. However, many contractors work closely with governing bodies to assure they are burning piles during appropriate burn windows.

Additionally, what you put in the slash pile and how it is arranged can help increase the consumption of fuels and reduce additional smoke output.

If you are piling and burning forest debris on your property, there

are best management practices to follow to facilitate the construction of piles that will burn safely and efficiently.

What to pile

Fire can be a valuable tool in forest and land management, and proper pile construction is crucial for a successful burn.

When constructing your slash piles, it is suitable to include woody debris that is less than 10 inches in diameter as well as grass, brush, leaves, and other woody or forage materials.

It is best to avoid including garbage, building waste, or large stumps in your piles. These materials can release harmful chemicals into the air, as well as create uneven burning of the fuels.

If you are mechanically piling your debris, avoid getting too much dirt in the pile. Ensuring the area around the pile is cleared to bare ground is crucial to prevent the spread of fire, but too much dirt in the pile can act as an extinguisher.

How to pile

There are several ways you can stack your debris to create an efficient burn. If you are working with mixed-sized materials, it is recommended to start with the smaller, finer fuels on the bottom and work your way up to larger debris on the outside.

These finer fuels combust at a faster rate and can help preheat the larger fuels. Regardless of fuel size, allowing your fuel materials to cure (dry out) for an extended period before burning will help the materials fully combust.

Factors like wet or green fuels can lead to increased smoke production and uneven combustion of fuels. Covering the pile with a tarp or other sort of covering and allowing it to dry can help the materials cure.

Where to pile

Slash piles should be located in open areas that are easily accessible but removed from powerlines, buildings, and areas with vegetation cover. If possible, it is a good idea to have a water source nearby.

Burning slash piles

When it comes to burning the pile, you should expect the flame height to be approximately three times the pile height.

Lighting the pile upslope or upwind can help reduce intensity. Starting with a small fire and gradually adding to the pile as it burns down can help manage the process effectively and minimize risk.

Monitoring the intensity and duration of the burn is a necessity.

During the burning process, expect high heat in the surrounding area, ranging anywhere from 3 to 15 feet. Larger fuels result in longer duration heat, lasting from hours to days.

It is essential to monitor the pile until it is completely cold, especially if there are high winds or dry weather conditions.

Smoke control is another critical aspect to consider when burning slash. Contact your local airshed monitoring agencies (e.g. Idaho Department of Environmental Quality, tribal offices, etc.) who can help you determine the best days to burn.

Low pressure systems with moderate winds provide the best lift for smoke and help prevent it from hanging low. Again, dry fuels



Fire can be an effective and efficient tool to help remove woody slash debris following forest management activities.

are also paramount to reducing the smoke output from piles.

As an aside, it is nice if you contact neighbors who might be impacted by the smoke. This is recommended to help them prepare in the instance they are smoke-sensitive.

As always, a safe burn is a successful burn. Having a plan in place, including access to water, tools such as hoses and buckets, and communication with local fire officials and neighbors, is essential for a safe burn.

Remember, safety is paramount. If the pile is too hot to touch, it's too hot to leave unattended. As a reminder, burn permits are required in Idaho from May 10 to Oct. 20.

Visit your local Idaho Department of Lands supervisory office for a burn permit if you plan to burn during this period.

Following these simple guidelines can help ensure a successful and controlled pile burning process.

Many organizations, such as the Idaho Prescribed Fire Council, UI Extension, Idaho Department of Lands, Idaho Firewise, have resources available to landowners looking to learn more about slash pile construction and burning.

By following these recommendations, individuals can create well-structured piles that are conducive to safe and controlled burning practices. ■

Audra Cochran is a University of Idaho Extension educator in Lewis County. She can be reached at audrac@uidaho.edu.

Plan for tomorrow. Live for today.



Your future starts now. Working together, we can create a financial plan and investment strategy for your future so you can achieve your dreams tomorrow while you enjoy life as it comes.

Contact your Farm Bureau agent or advisor to get started.



Financial Planning | Retirement Planning | Life Insurance | Annuities | Mutual Funds | College Funding

Securities & services offered through FBL Marketing Services, LLC, + 5400 University Ave., West Des Moines, IA 50266, 877/860-2904, Member SIPC. Advisory services offered through FBL Wealth Management, LLC. + Farm Bureau Life Insurance Company**/West Des Moines, IA. *Affiliates. *Company provider of Farm Bureau Financial Services. WM036 (9-24)



PRIVATE CROP INSURANCE
**THAT BREAKS
NEW GROUND.**

LOCALS KNOW.

Farm Bureau Insurance was born and raised right here in Idaho. As one of the locals, we've weathered it all, from unpredictable weather patterns to market fluctuations, right alongside Idaho's farmers. Our new crop insurance stems from this hard-won experience, and breaks new ground to offer customizable coverage that adapts to modern agriculture's ever-changing landscape. Contact your local agent today for details. **WE KNOW IDAHO AGRICULTURE.**



Scoular celebrates \$20 million expansion in Jerome

By Sean Ellis
Idaho Farm Bureau Federation

JEROME – Scoular, a global agribusiness company, on Sept. 5 celebrated a \$20 million celebration of its Jerome feed blending facility, which serves the region's dairy and livestock industries.

The facility provides feed blends for dairy and beef customers. The expansion project added two new key capabilities.

One includes a “steamflaking” process which processes corn into flakes and makes the feed more digestible for cattle. The corn is steamed, heated and then processed into a flake.

The other new capability is a pellet mill to make feed pellets. According to a company news release, pellets, which are typically used for feeding calves and beef cattle, are easy to transfer, handle and proportion for optimal nutrition.

Idaho ranks No. 3 in milk production in the United States and the bulk of the state's dairy production occurs in the Magic Valley area of southcentral Idaho, which includes Jerome.

The region also includes a sizable portion of the state's beef cattle industry.

Scoular is a \$10 billion agribusiness company that buys, sells, stores, handles and processes grain and other feed and food ingredients.

The Jerome expansion came as welcome news to the state's dairy and livestock industries.

Oakley rancher and Cassia County Farm



Local and Scoular officials on Sept. 5 celebrate a \$20 million expansion of Scoular's feed blending facility in Jerome. Photo by Sean Ellis

“There are few areas in the entire country that can compete with the productivity of southcentral Idaho's beef and dairy industries. The completion of the Scoular facility only enhances the incredible efficiency of this area's farmers and ranchers.”

– Paul Marchant, Rancher/Cassia County Farm Bureau president

Bureau President Paul Marchant said the completed expansion stands to be a welcome boon to the livestock feeding sector in the Magic Valley.

“There are few areas in the entire country that can compete with the productivity of southcentral Idaho's beef and dairy industries,” he said. “The completion of the Scoular facility only enhances the incredible efficiency of this area's farmers and ranchers.”

Idaho Dairymen's Association Executive Director Rick Naerebout said the expansion speaks to Scoular's commitment to the region's dairy and cattle industries.

Scoular put \$20 million into the facility “because they have confidence in the strength of the dairy industry and they believe the dairy industry is going to continue to grow,” he said.

According to a company news release, the expansion adds a 120-foot high

concrete feed mill, boosting the facility's production capacity by 35 percent. It also increases storage capacity by 40 percent.

During a ribbon cutting celebration at the Jerome facility, Andy Hohwieler, Scoular's regional manager, pointed out the expansion project is the company's latest investment in the area and one of several the company has made in recent years.

The company in December 2021 celebrated the opening of a facility in Jerome that produces a new barley product called Emerge that is sold to the aquaculture and pet food industries.

A high-energy liquid feed supplement for cattle feeders is also produced during the manufacturing process at that barley facility.

In August 2021, Scoular announced a new program called Barley MVP that seeks to promote food and feed barley varieties

“It’s not this friendly everywhere. It’s such a wonderful feeling to be supported and appreciated. We don’t take that for granted.”

– Paul Maass, Scoular CEO

as economically viable rotation crops for Idaho farmers.

Most of Idaho’s roughly 550,000 barley acres are malt varieties produced for the beer brewing industry.

The Barley MVP program will focus on helping Idaho growers expand the production of barley varieties that are produced for the animal feed or human food markets.

“We’re very excited about what this will do for our customers, the community and for Scoular,” Hohwieler said about the expansion of the feed blending facility. “We’re very grateful to have the support of the community as we continue to make investments here.”

The company operates more than 100 offices and facilities in North America and Asia, including in Jerome and Twin Falls.

Scoular CEO Paul Maass praised local officials for welcoming Scoular’s Idaho projects and helping to facilitate them. He noted that the company has been investing in the area for two decades.

Scoular has operations around the globe and “It’s not this friendly everywhere,” he said. “It’s such a wonderful feeling to be

supported and appreciated. We don’t take that for granted.”

The type of welcome that Scoular receives from Idaho officials is “important when you start making investment decisions,” he added. “We’re excited to continue to invest ... in the community and in growing this area.”

“I want to thank Scoular for this investment in Jerome,” Jerome city manager Mike Williams said during the ribbon cutting ceremony. “Their investments here began 20 years ago and they really haven’t stopped.”

Marchant said the overall economic health of the Magic Valley is bound to see many positive effects as a result of the capabilities of Scoular’s new pellet mill and steam flaking facilities.

“As a member of Idaho Farm Bureau, it’s my hope that the entire community can grasp the importance of agriculture processing facilities in helping maintain a vibrant and robust economy, for all sectors, not just farmers and ranchers and the industries directly related to agriculture,” he said.

Jeff Ackerman, chief operating officer for Idaho-based Betten-court Dairies, said “our relationship with the Scoular Co. has been a win-win relationship. The expertise that they bring in the areas in which we work with them has been a great benefit.”

“Scoular’s commitment to the dairy industry and the livestock industry as a whole is a benefit, not only to the Idaho dairy industry but to the cattle industry and our farming industry here in this area and throughout the Mountain West,” he added. ■



Photo by Scoular

This is an aerial view of Scoular’s feed blending facility in Jerome.

\$500 Exclusive Cash Reward*



Ford F-150

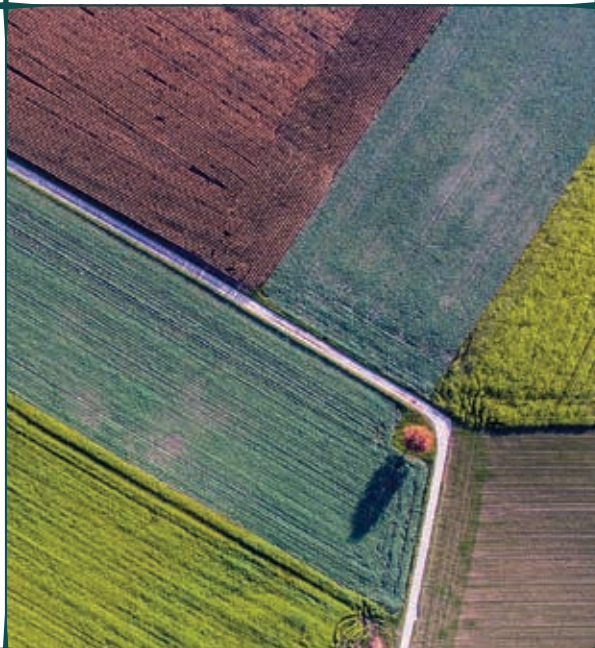
Farm Bureau Members receive \$500* toward an eligible new F-150® Lightning®, Super Duty®, F-150, Ranger® or Maverick®.



Visit FordRecognizesU.com/FarmBureau today for complete offer details!



*Farm Bureau Exclusive Cash Reward is exclusively for active Farm Bureau members who are residents of the United States. \$500 Exclusive Cash Reward on the purchase or lease of an eligible new 2023/2024/2025 Ford Maverick, Ranger, F-150, Super Duty or F-150 Lightning. This incentive is not available on Ranger Raptor®, F-150 Raptor, F-650® and F-750® Super Duty. This offer may not be used in conjunction with most other Ford Motor Company private incentives or AXZD-Plans. Some customer and purchase eligibility restrictions apply. Must be a Farm Bureau member for 30 consecutive days prior to purchase or lease and take new retail delivery from an authorized Ford Dealer's stock by January 2, 2025. See your authorized Ford Dealer for qualifications and complete details. Note to dealer: Claim in VINCENT using #32286.



New name. Same commitment to your success.

Northwest Farm Credit Services is now
AgWest Farm Credit.

Providing agricultural financial services, backed by a
century of experience—to help you grow your legacy.

Contact your local branch
or visit AgWestFC.com
to learn more.



Your referral, like Shay'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.
Scan the QR code for complete rules and restrictions. Above left: Shay from Kimberly, Idaho, the winner of our
2nd quarter 2024 Refer A Friend, Get A Gift \$500 drawing, with his agent Cindy Packard.

New U of I Extension educator of risk management

By John O'Connell
University of Idaho

MOSCOW, Idaho – A recent graduate of University of Idaho's master's program in applied economics has joined the faculty as an area Extension educator of risk management.

Colby Field started working within the university's Department of Agricultural Economics and Rural Sociology as an assistant professor in late May, just a couple of weeks after receiving his degree.

He will be based in Moscow and will also serve a statewide Extension appointment, helping food producers manage their risks.

Field has an extensive background in agriculture, which he believes will help him relate to the needs and concerns of Idaho farmers.

"I come from a long family line of people who were either farmers, or teachers or both," he said.

Field earned bachelor's degrees from Montana State University, double majoring in agricultural business and economics. He then went to work at Columbia Grain in Lewiston, Wash., where he trained to manage a crop elevator.

After gaining valuable experience in the grain transportation industry, he accepted another job as assistant manager of a farm on the Palouse in June 2019. He worked full time on the farm until the fall of 2022 when he enrolled in graduate school at U of I, wanting to share his skills with farmers throughout the state.

"I have a background from the other side of

Colby Field, shown here in a wheat field, has joined the University of Idaho as an area Extension educator of risk management. He will also serve a statewide Extension appointment, helping food producers manage their risks.
Submitted photo



“One of the assets I bring is knowing what day-to-day operations are – knowing about the seasonality of farm work and what farmers are concerned about with the costs of things and the challenges in agriculture.”

–Colby Field, UI Extension Educator of risk management

what farmers are looking for. What are the resources they need?” Field said. “One of the assets I bring is knowing what day-to-day operations are – knowing about the seasonality of farm work and what farmers are concerned about with the costs of things and the challenges in agriculture.”

As a master’s student, Field was involved in research analyzing markets and consumer sentiments regarding plastics made from dairy manure.

He and his colleagues found no significant difference in consumer acceptance of biodegradable plastics made from dairy manure compared with other biological sources such as wood waste or crops.

“There seems to be a willingness to pay there that was not insignificant,” Field said. “We found that people are concerned about plastic’s impacts on the environment.”

While at U of I, Field also studied using the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) as an alternative to rainfall insurance.

Ranchers may protect themselves from lost forage due to drought by purchasing rainfall insurance, but enrolling acres in CRP, which pays growers to plant marginal farmland to benefit wildlife rather than for harvest, may also offer protection under certain circumstances.

During drought declarations, restrictions on grazing or haying CRP land may be eased or waived, providing ranchers an emergency feed source.

“Most people when they look at risk management think of traditional crop insurance,” Field said. “I have more interest in non-traditional risk management.”

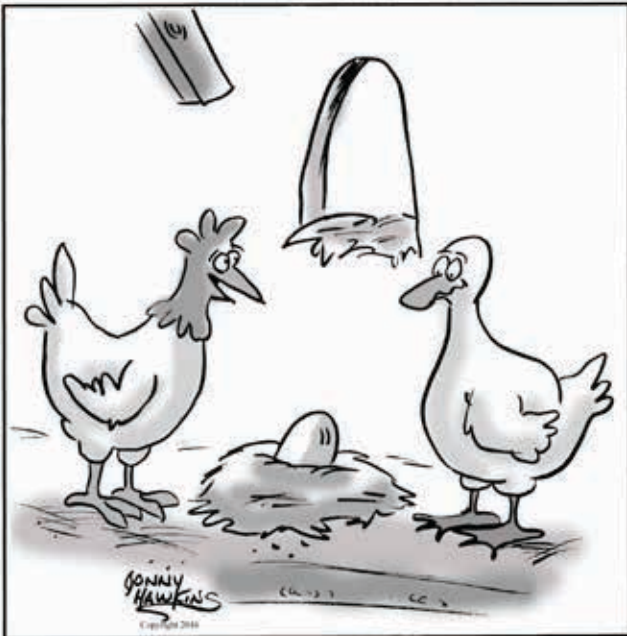
As an undergraduate, Field researched how the expansion of pulse elevators and rail shipping in Montana affected markets for farmers. He also evaluated how a port strike in Portland affected wheat prices in Montana, as well as elsewhere in the region.

Generally, producers can reduce their risk level by diversifying their operations. However, they can increase their profit margins by specializing in one commodity, achieving greater economies of scale and spreading their fixed costs over more acres.

Other areas of emphasis for Field will include helping to revitalize Extension farm succession programs, helping to prepare enterprise budgets on production costs of major Idaho commodities and exploring the economics of various production practices and farm-management decisions. ■

Country Chuckles

By Jonny Hawkins



“The sonogram says it’s a double-yolk.”



Aqua Ducks

Classifieds

FARMING/EQUIPMENT

International 656H, early 70s. Runs great, lots of power, new adjustable scraper on back, front loader bucket, good rubber all around. Needs seat & Throttle cable. \$7,000 obo Mike 402-270-2426 St. Anthony, ID.

AUTO/ATV

2006-500 CC HONDA RUBICON 4x4 ATV. Very good condition, 3,275 miles, accessorized with heated thumb and handle bars, trailer hitch, dirt or snow blade that angles, winch, spare tire, mirrors, cargo bags sides and rear, garaged when not used. \$5575. Dale-208-884-2121

2012 Honda Rubicon ATV, 500cc, 4 WD, power steering, 91 actual miles, excellent condition \$6,000. 208-983-9395 (Leave message)

2001 Ford Excursion FWD. V-10. 145K miles. Lifted. 35-inch tires. Rugged vehicle. Located in Antelope Creek south of Mackay. Pictures upon request. \$8500. 208-731-7331.

FOR SALE

LUXURY 40 Ft RED-

Free Classified ads for Idaho Farm Bureau Members
Send to knlindauer@idahofb.org

WOOD 5th-wheel RV or AFFORDABLE HOUSING. Four Slide-outs, Full set stabilizers, 6-point automatic hydraulic leveler, 2 super-efficient-roof-top Air Conditioners, Roof-top Solar panels, Couch, 2 Recliners, 3 TVs, Fireplace, Dishwasher, Commercial-size Refrigerator-Freezer w/Ice Cube Dispenser, Queen Bed, new, never-used Mattress. Hook-ups Washer & Dryer, Central Vacuum Cleaner System, Tinted Windows + 2 sets Shades, 2 Huge Electronic Awnings. 2016 Used Only 9 months, Located in Boise Original Owners, \$60,000. Call Dawn 208-376-7662 or 208-275-9201

Copystar printer CS 4550ci. Works great, \$300. Nampa 208-899-7715.

PERFECT RV FOR MOUNTAIN CAMPING. 2002 Sportsman 25 ft. 5th wheel RV. Very well cared for. One slide-out w/ a couch! Door opens into efficient kitchen. Stove, Oven, Microwave, refrigerator. Bathroom has shower and Tub. Queen bed. Nice awning on side. \$10,000. OBO Dawn 208-376-7662 or 208-275-9201

Irrigation business, 2006 Chevy truck, pipe press and complete inventory. Salmon, ID 208-303-0842

WANTED

Wanted old Idaho Patches! Farm Bureau, Farming, Hunting, Idaho Cattlemen Assoc, Idaho Fish and Game. Top Dollar Paid! Call, email, or text pics. Rusty Kramer idahotrappguy@hotmail.com 208-870-3217

I pay top dollar for any type antique advertising signs or promotional items. Will also buy complete estates or complete collections. Let me know what you have. I also do Classic Car appraisals and Antique appraisals. Call or Text Tom 208-867-9357 I'm in Southern Idaho

SERVICES

4S Welding- Mobile welding for Bingham County and surrounding areas. Fencing, pipe, equipment repair, etc. Carbon and stainless, 20 years of experience. Call Mike 208-680-7372.

E&E Electric- Local Electrical Business in Post Falls Idaho. We do Residential Commercial and Service work. Please call Eduard for free Estimates. 208-809-6612

'Rock Chuck Rick' at your service. An accomplished and safe marksman, I've shot 1,400 this season. Call now to reserve a spot in 2025. I'm retired and responsible. References available. 986-888-7051

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 is 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. Proofread your ad. Ads must be received by October 22 for the November Quarterly.

Mail ad copy to:
FARM BUREAU PRODUCER
P.O. Box 4848, Pocatello, ID 83205-4848
or email Kristy at knlindauer@idahofb.org



IDAHO FOUNDATION **FFA**

Do you believe in the future of agriculture?

GIVE THE GIFT OF BLUE!

The Idaho FFA Foundation Gift of Blue program supports students who may not have the means to purchase a blue jacket, a symbol of American tradition and leadership. However, not everyone can wear the jacket. Not because they're undeserving, but due to financial constraints. With generous donors, we provide these jackets to deserving students, enabling them to be part of a larger legacy and forge their unique path.



**132 jackets
gifted in
2023!**

**\$125 donation per Gift
of Blue Jacket award**

Will you help a student start their journey in FFA?

Name _____

Address, City, State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Email address _____

Payment: All information will be kept confidential. Card or check accepted.

Card Number _____

Expiration Date _____ Security Code (Back of Card) _____

Donation Amount \$125 (One jacket) \$250 (Two jackets) \$375 (Three jackets)

\$500 (Four jackets) Other Amount _____ OR Check enclosed _____

Mail form to:
Idaho FFA Foundation
P.O. Box 827
Star, ID 83669

**Rather pay online?
Scan QR code with
your smart phone!
Select "Gift of Blue"**



Donate by Nov. 18
Questions?
Contact Carly Weaver at
Carly@growidahoffa.org

**NEW EPISODES
EVERY OTHER
TUESDAY!**

**Idaho
Farm Bureau**

P.O. Box 4848
Pocatello, ID 83205-4848

LOOKING FOR A NEW PODCAST? DIRT ROAD DISCUSSIONS

Episode 65: Mining's Link To Common Products and Agriculture

They say we live in an information era, but you can't wear or eat information. Those who manufacture goods and products are dependent on those who mine and produce the elements that give us those products. Mike Veile, Site Operational Excellence Lead with Bayer Crop Science, shares how mining in Soda Springs, Idaho, is playing a vital role in producing phosphorus for many common products we use each day. Mike also explains the mine's environmental priorities, commitment to the community, and its role in helping farmers grow food into the future.

