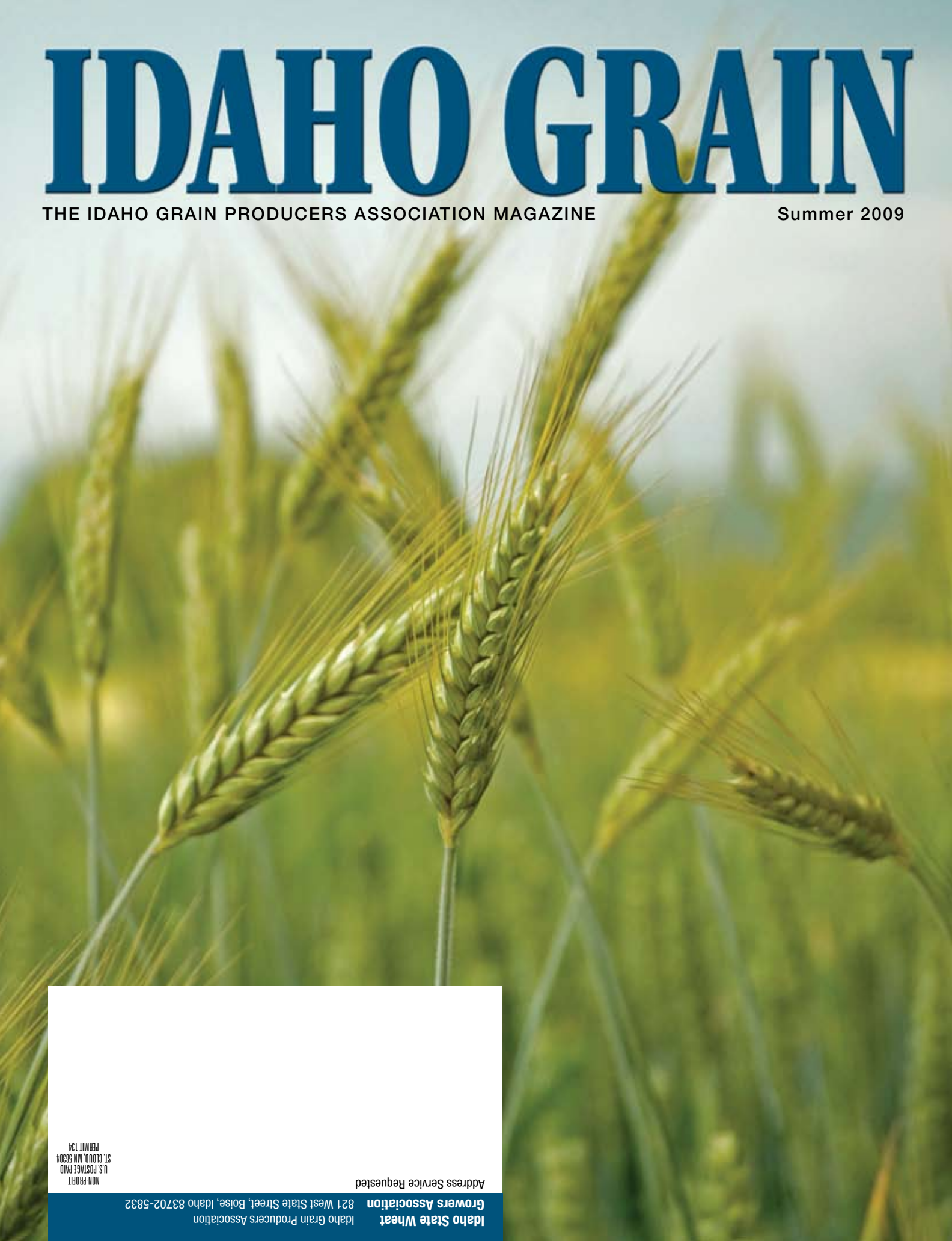


IDAHO GRAIN

THE IDAHO GRAIN PRODUCERS ASSOCIATION MAGAZINE

Summer 2009



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Idaho State Wheat
Growers Association
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Need Heading



By the time this article goes to print, spring planting will be well over. As of May 10th I have only been able to plant about 20-percent of my spring crop. I would estimate that about 40-percent of the Camas Prairie has been seeded with spring crops and the weather forecast is not promising.

The temperatures for April and the first week of May are well below normal and above normal in precipitation and it is not looking any better. This will put us close to the final planting date for the spring wheat in our area. It will be time for a lot of us to be making some difficult and

quick decisions.

Mother Nature's treatment makes me grateful that we as farmers have a way to curb her fury. For several years now I have been signing up for the CRC (Crop Revenue Coverage) crop insurance program. Some growers say that federal crop insurance isn't worth the stack of papers needing to be signed and the premium to be paid, but I'm not one of those folks.

In the area I farm, we have an average of 24 inches of rain fall at four thousand feet in elevation. It is not my first time riding this wheat merry-go-round and CRC has saved my farm more than once. The reason I mention this is not to get your sympathy, but to highlight another new program created in the 2008 Farm Bill called "ACRE" which stands for Average Crop Revenue Election.

There are a lot of farmers saying that it was solely designed for corn and bean growers in the Midwest and do not believe it could work for the grain grower in the Northwest. As your IGPA President, it is not my place to advise you on such a specific matter. But I challenge you to take a good hard look at this new program and how it could work on your farm.

I have read literature from agricultural experts and visited with farmers that have plugged the numbers into multiple spreadsheet calculators provided by various academics and it may work for some operations.

This first year may be the best time to utilize ACRE because the USDA plans to use the 2007-2008 pricing date to establish a national revenue guarantee for each eligible crop. As you and I know, those two cropping years saw some high prices. These prices translate into a national average revenue that triggers farm payments when state and farm revenue guarantees are not met. But as the abnormally high prices of recent years revert back to less market volatility, average revenues also follow suit.

The ACRE program is "not a one size fits all". No doubt everyone's operation will work differently with this program. Farmers should be aware that if they sign up, they commit to the program for the duration of the Farm Bill (through 2012) and are required to forfeit over 20-percent of their direct payment. I do think it is worth at least a visit to your county Farm Service Agency to crunch some numbers.

Farmers have until August 14, 2009 to sign up for ACRE or not. Unfortunately for those of us on the Camas Prairie, it may take that long just for our fields to dry out. I am wondering what happened to Global Warming? I could sure use some. ✱

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WHEAT



BARLEY



WHEAT & BARLEY

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Need Heading

As I write this editorial, lawmakers are (likely) slated to adjourn the 1st regular session of the 60th Idaho Legislature. Why is this action different to every other year in Idaho's 119-year state history? Because this session will go down in the record book as the second longest ever ringing in at 116 days of legislative business. Several difficult legislative issues and developments have lead to this stand-off at high noon.

This stand-off is not without recent precedent. The standing record of legislative days in session is set at 118 days, achieved in 2003 under then-Governor Dirk Kempthorne's administration. Then as now, the Governor and the majority of legislators could not reach a compromise to please these two branches of state government.

The irony? The issue at the heart of contention in 2003 is the same six years later: funding for Idaho's roads and bridges.

As your grassroots policy organization, the Idaho Grain Producers Association has kept a very close eye on the legislative proposals and general activity related to transportation, especially trucks that haul grain out of the field. Over a year ago, the majority of Idaho wheat and barley growers knew that the issue of increased fees and taxes to maintain and improve Idaho's transportation system would be addressed by the legislature.

Thanks to the hard work and expertise of the growers around the state, the IGPA stuck their head into meetings mostly attended by builders, contractors, long-haul truckers, and corporate business interests. In many meetings, the IGPA was the only group representing the agriculture industry. Even given our "minority status", we felt it imperative that our voice be heard on this important issue; not only with our ag-friendly elected officials, but with other stakeholders outside our world.

The IGPA believes strongly in the importance of maintaining and improving upon the transportation system in Idaho. Without that, Idaho grain production would be at a major disadvantage to neighboring states with quick and easy access to navigable waterways and thus vital export markets.

Our reliance on a functional state transportation system has prompted a flurry of recent activity by IGPA producers to develop and advocate for state and federal policies to this end. Besides the high value of our dams and rails in moving grain, the ability to access Idaho's highways with trucks is arguably just as critical.

The state legislative debate on transportation has not focused on whether there are infrastructure needs in our state, but has centered on how to fund those needs. As the IGPA accurately predicted, a large target was painted on the trucking industry as a potential revenue-raiser for any legislative effort. One proposal drafted by a legislator sought to increase all truck registrations in Idaho to a flat \$600 per vehicle. To sum up in a few words the IGPA's reaction to these kinds of ideas: we were ready.

After our 2008 annual convention in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho, the IGPA had solidified our 2009 legislative policies. I and our state lobbyist, Dar Olberding, used your policies to voice to the Governor, his staff, and key legislators the IGPA's positions on everything from removing a tax on the blending of ethanol into transportation fuel, increased penalties on the illegal use of dyed diesel, increased truck registration, decreased use of trip permits, and an increase in the state fuel tax.

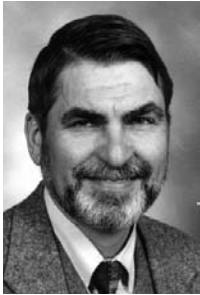
Here we are...116 days in to the legislative session and the debate over funding for transportation is the contentious issue that has acted like a yo-yo between Governor Otter, the legislature, and we stakeholders. I'll end as I began - as I write this article the legislature is scheduled to adjourn on the 116th day of activity. After countless changes, the final compromise package deal will provide additional funding for transportation parallel to the policies and positions of the IGPA.

By the way, the \$600 per truck registration increase was opposed by the IGPA and was never heard by a legislative committee. Is that worth your \$75 annual IGPA membership? *





IGPA Wraps Up A Long Legislative Session



By Darwin Olberding,
IGPA Lobbyist

The 1st session of the 60th Idaho Legislature adjourned “sine die” on Friday, May 8 clocking after 117 days, nearly tying the longest session in Idaho history of 118 days set in 2003. The deterioration of the state and national economy, coupled with an influx of federal stimulus dollars provided to each state, added to the challenges faced by legislators. However, arguably the most prominent issue was the debate regarding funding of Idaho’s transportation infrastructure.

A compromise transportation funding package was eventually reached between the House, Senate, and Governor Otter which lead to the final adjournment of the session. On top of monitoring these developments, the IGPA worked on several legislative priorities on behalf of Idaho’s wheat and barley farmers. Following is a short list of several items comprising the bulk of the IGPA’s efforts in the 2009 state legislative session.

Crop Depredation Fund Given Boost

On April 9, the Idaho Senate unanimously approved legislation (**SB 1177**) to fund the Idaho Department of Fish & Game (F&G) for 2010. The House followed suit on April 14, concurring on a 53-16 vote. Although Governor Otter vetoed this legislation over transportation funding, the legislature ultimately overruled the veto and approved of a new bill (**HB 333**) with identical funding.

The bill provides a significant boost in funding to a line-item account that compensates farmers and ranchers for damage sustained to personal property by either wildlife or predators. Specifically, the bill authorizes a transfer of \$200,000 to the depredation account from a lesser-used big game winter feeding program to the depredation account.

A record number of claims were filed by farmers in 2008 due to big game damage to crops. The additional funds will increase the depredation account from the \$406,000 previously authorized level to \$600,000 available for damage claims made in Fiscal Year 2010.

Beer Tax Increase Defeated

In February, a bill providing for increased state taxation on the wholesale price of beer was defeated by the Idaho House Committee on Revenue and Taxation.

House Bill 140 (**HB 140**) sought to triple the tax on beer products from the current rate of fifteen cents (15¢) per gallon to a percentage of the wholesale price equivalent to fifty-two

cents (52¢) per gallon to raise an additional \$19.2 million in revenues divided between the Idaho substance abuse treatment fund and the state general fund.

In collaboration with industry partners, the IGPA opposed the bill arguing that increased taxation of the magnitude proposed in HB 140 would severely decrease volumes and demand for beer translating to lower state sales tax collection. In addition, the bill would ultimately reduce the supply of barley grown by producers already faced with unprecedented market volatility and historically high production costs.

Commodity Indemnity Fund Changes Signed Into Law

House Bills 34 (as amended) and 37, meant to amend and improve upon existing law relating to the Commodity Indemnity Fund (CIF) program and regulation of Idaho grain dealers, easily passed all legislative and were signed by Governor Otter on March 23.

HB 34 will require that commodity dealers carry peril insurance on the full market price of commodities they have received and for which they still owe a producer. **HB 37** will reduce the financial risk to the CIF by limiting producer and CIF liability to no more than three years of annual assessments for claims exceeding the balance of the fund, and would exempt the CIF of liability for claims caused by uninsurable perils such as natural disasters.

The Idaho State Department of Agriculture-administered programs serve to protect growers in the event of a warehouse or commodity dealer failure.

Landmark Aquifer Management Bill Made Law

Arguably the single largest legislative reformation of Idaho water law known as “CAMP” was signed into law by Governor Otter on April 23. The “Comprehensive Aquifer Management Plan”, a three year effort by stakeholders, agencies, and consultants, will establish a long-term plan for managing the supply and demand for water in the Eastern Snake Plain Aquifer.

The plan anticipates improving the water budget by 300,000 to 600,000 acre feet. The new law will also establish an advisory implementation committee to assist the Idaho Water Resources Board in developing steps to implement this plan.

Transportation Funding Compromise Reached; Legislature Adjourns

The “go home” issue of this session of the Idaho Legislature proved to be whether or not to find new sources of revenue to



fund Idaho's transportation infrastructure. An independent audit completed in 2008 found that the state faced a \$240 million shortfall in funding to maintain and improve on Idaho's roads and bridges.

Over the four month legislative session - the second-longest in Idaho history - several attempts were made to find new revenue streams. Ideas included raising the state fuel tax, increasing the administrative fees for services of the Department of Motor Vehicles, increasing truck and vehicle registration fees, removing some exemptions from taxation, etc.

After several back-and-forth efforts between the Otter Administration and the Legislative Branch, a final agreement was reached this past week prompting the "sine die" adjournment of the 2009 session on Friday, May 8. A compromise package totaling \$54 million on new revenue sources was agreed to, including the establishment of two task forces on transportation. The new funding package is comprised of the following:

HB 334 – raises fees for services provided by the Idaho DMV on drivers licenses, vehicle title registrations, title transfers and other services (\$13.1 million);

HB 338 – eliminates the 10% (2.5¢/gallon) exemption on the blending of biodiesel and gasohol production in Idaho (\$16.4 million);

HB 376 – shifts funding of the Idaho State Police and Idaho Parks and Recreation from the highway account to the general fund by July 1, 2010 (\$21.2 million);

SB 1130 – caps truck trip permits to three annually, with full registrations required over the cap (\$1 million);

License Plates – would allow the sale of logo license plates will be provided to interstate truckers (\$2.5 million).

HCR 32 – creates a task force to find new dedicated funding sources for the ISP and Idaho Parks and Recreation;

HCR 34 – establishes a task force to explore long-term transportation funding issues.

Word on Wheat: 90 Miles Away But Out of Reach for Growers



Jerry McReynolds
NAWG First Vice President

Let me tell you about the height of absurdity.

Cuba, an island nation 90 miles from U.S. soil with a population of more than 11 million, is the largest importer of wheat and wheat products in the Caribbean. U.S. wheat growers are abundant producers of many types of wheat, and we export half the wheat we grow in a typical year. Yet, we have a less than 50 percent market share in Cuba, versus a more than 75 percent market share in other Caribbean areas, due to restrictions

on travel between the countries and overly burdensome financing rules that won't allow payments to go directly from Cuba to American banks.

Rather than coming to us for their wheat, Cuba frequently imports it from far-away suppliers like the European Union, Canada and Argentina, at increased shipping cost to them - and a cost to the U.S. wheat industry of more than \$40 million per year.

The U.S. wheat industry has long believed the best way to help U.S. wheat growers fully realize sales potential in Cuba is to overturn a change made in 2005 to financing requirements and to lift travel restrictions to allow for the freedom of reciprocal travel between the U.S. and Cuba for all citizens.

Fortunately for American growers and the Cuban people, there's more hope now that these changes will be made than perhaps ever before.

Many bills have been introduced to clarify the payment rules and ease travel restrictions hamstringing U.S.-Cuba wheat trade. One of them, Agricultural Export Facilitation Act of 2009 (H.R. 1737), focuses on mitigating the effects the agriculture community is feeling and was introduced by one

of my home-state guys, Rep. Jerry Moran, a longtime supporter of more open trade with Cuba.

Language on travel and financing was recently passed by Congress in the 2009 omnibus spending bill, which is a coup after many years of it being included and then removed before the bill was approved. While many were disappointed by a written statement from Treasury Secretary Geithner discounting the effect of this language, President Obama's announcement just this week that the Administration will ease travel and remittance restrictions for Cuban Americans gives us hope that there will ultimately be more changes in Cuba policy.

My daughter and I have been to Cuba and have seen the situation first-hand. We found the people very warm and open with us, eager to visit about life in the U.S. We also saw that Cuban producers lack the tools, equipment and supplies needed to produce food. Their planting and harvesting equipment is very old and in need of repair. Instead, they cultivate small gardens by hand and keep oxen for use in larger fields.

Traveling with a small group of Kansas wheat producers, we also met with Pedro Alvarez, the head of Cuba's food import company. He was ready and willing to sign an agreement to buy wheat, but our U.S. policy prevented that from happening.

U.S. wheat growers rely on the ability to open and expand international markets. And, from what I saw, the people of Cuba need our wheat and want an open relationship with the U.S. But without some significant policy changes, this relationship can't be properly nurtured.

They say crazy is doing the same thing over and over and hoping for a different result. The embargo is almost 50 years old and hasn't yet had the desired effect. In the meantime, we are losing sales and are keeping the Cuban people from being able to access our high-quality food supply, which I believe to be the opposite of humanitarian action.

The time for change on this policy has come.

* *McReynolds is a wheat producer in Woodston, Kan.*

IGPA Officers Address High Priorities at Wheat and Barley National Meetings

Representing Idaho's wheat and barley growers, the IGPA's executive officers spent the month of February participating in the winter board meetings of both the National Association of Wheat Growers (NBGA) and the National Barley Growers Association (NBGA).

The annual meetings of both organizations are beneficial in developing national policy on issues and opportunities facing the wheat and barley industry now and in the upcoming year. The IGPA holds two positions on the NAWG board of directors and one seat on the NBGA board in collaboration with a representative from the Idaho Barley Commission, currently Dwight Little of Newdale.

NAWG Winter Meeting Tackles Old and New Challenges

Kicking off the busy meeting schedule, Matt Gellings (Past President, Idaho Falls), Eric Hasselstrom (President, Winchester), and Joseph Anderson (Executive Officer, Genesee) traveled to Washington, DC for the NAWG winter meeting. Currently serving as Secretary/Treasurer of NAWG's executive officer team, IGPA Past President Wayne Hurst of Burley attended the three-day conference.

As Idaho's NAWG board members, Gellings and Hasselstrom quickly dove into committee meetings tackling high priority issues impacting the nation's wheat industry. Gellings, a member of NAWG's Domestic and Trade Policy committee, discussed Idaho's position on railroad access, implementation of Farm Bill programs, and improvement of the federal crop insurance products for wheat growers.

"Railroad competition continues to be a hot-button issue for the nation's grain producers, especially in Idaho where there is little competition and access is at a premium", said Gellings. *"Hearing similar concerns from wheat growers around the country made me realize we're not alone."*



Eric Hasselstrom, member of the NAWG's Environment and Renewable Resources committee, wrestled with yet another controversial subject facing grain producers — climate change. Media, the science community, and national leaders continue to advocate for new policy and increased regulation to stem the perceived environmental degradation due to changing weather patterns worldwide.

NAWG has positioned itself to play a significant role as a sequester of carbon providing offsets to emitters of green house gases seeking "credits" if a "cap and trade" or similar regulatory scheme were imposed in the United States. Hasselstrom's committee tackled the tenuous debate of what impact a cap and trade system might have on the nation's grain producers and if farmers could benefit from such a system if approved by Congress and President Obama.

"The climate change issue is one of the most complex ones I've dealt with as a farmer", Hasselstrom admitted. *"IGPA policy supports a climate change program that provides a net benefit to the producer and I think that's a common sense approach."*

Concluding the NAWG winter meet-

ing was a special address given by newly appointed U.S. Department of Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack. Barely a month on the job, Secretary Vilsack gave an eye-opening presentation centering on his vision of American agriculture embracing sustainable production practices and working to promote itself as a major renewable energy source.

National Barley Growers Address Production Issues; Market Opportunities

A week following the NAWG gathering, the NBGA board of directors also convened in Washington, DC. IGPA Vice President Scott Brown (Soda Springs) and Secretary/Treasurer Clark Kauffman (Filer) faced no less-daunting issues during the two-day session of barley leaders.

A small, tightly-knit organization, the NBGA addressed large economic challenges and important opportunities facing domestic and international barley markets. Farm Bill implementation, trade, transportation hurdles, and production cost dynamics were among other priority issues which drew similarities with wheat growers.

NBGA President Richard Groven of North Dakota led barley growers in identifying several specific action items to pursue in the upcoming year. High on the list include reversing the trend in declining barley acreage by boosting research, providing competitive crop insurance products that address barley's uniqueness, and expanding food and feed market opportunities through strengthened partnerships with industry and consumers.

Both the NAWG and NBGA meetings culminated in each member state's leaders meeting with their respective congressional delegation while in the nation's Capitol. IGPA met with newly elected Senator Jim Risch and Representative Walt Minnick, and paid visits to

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the offices of Representative Mike Simpson and Mike Crapo as well.

"It's always interesting to meet with Idaho's elected leaders," said IGPA Vice President Scott Brown. *"Each of them understand the value of the grain industry to Idaho's economy, and are genuinely interested in our position on critical matters facing growers."*

At the conclusion of the February 2009 NBGA meeting, IGPA Vice President Scott Brown of Soda Springs was elected Vice President of the national organization. Scott will serve two years in this position before being promoted to president in 2011. "I'm excited to serve the NBGA in a leadership position", said Brown. "Idaho's barley industry plays a major role in the U.S. and I look forward to elevating that profile while following in the footsteps of my neighbor Evan Hayes." Evan Hayes of American Falls recently completed a two-year term as NBGA president in 2008.

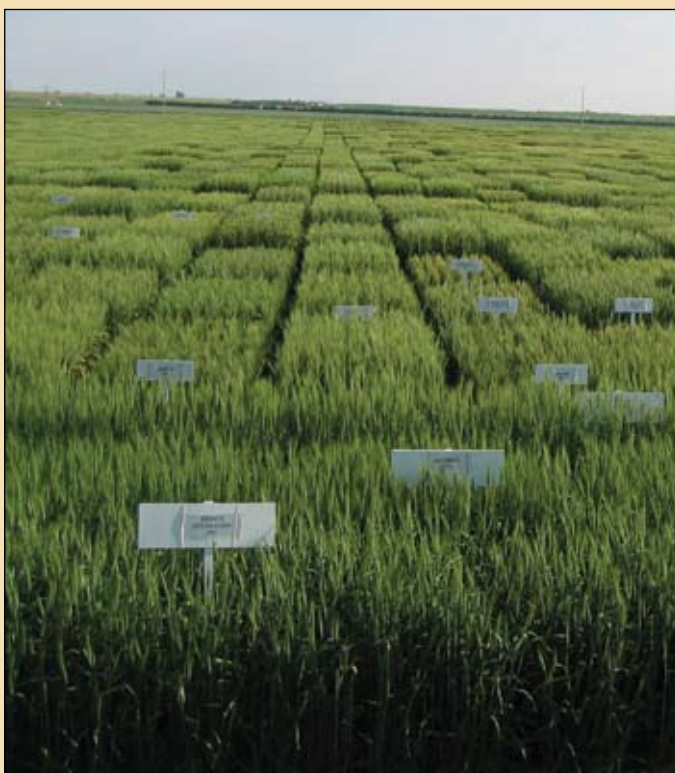
IGPA Upcoming Events, Summer 2009

While the summer months are busy for Idaho farmers, the IGPA and several county grower associations attend or host events with members, researchers, elected officials, industry representatives, and state and federal agency staff.

Below is a general list of upcoming events for the summer of 2009. We hope to see you at any and all events! Check the "calendar" link on our website, www.idahograin.org, for an updated list of events.

- May 27-28 ...IGPA Executive Board meeting, Boise.
- June 10Wheat Quality Workshop, Pullman, WA.
- June 23Nez Perce County Field Day.
- June 24-25 ...National Barley Growers Association board meeting, Milwaukee, WI.
- July 14Bonneville County Grain Producers BBQ, Ririe (tentative).
- July 28Caribou County Grain Producers Picnic, Soda Springs.
- Aug. 21-30...Food Producers of Idaho Ag Pavilion, Western Idaho Fair, Boise.
- Aug. 26-30...North Idaho Fair & Rodeo, Coeur d'Alene.
- Sept. 2-7Food Producers of Idaho Ag Pavilion, Twin Falls County Fair, Filer.
- Sept. 5-12Eastern Idaho State Fair, Blackfoot.

2009 WHEAT / BARLEY RESEARCH TOURS AND FIELD DAYS



DATE	TOUR	CONTACT INFORMATION	
June 17	Weed Tour, Kimberly	Don Morishita	208.736.3616
June 18	Weed Tour, Moscow	Donn Thill	208.885.6214
June 19	Parma	Brad Brown	208.722.6701
June 22	Rockland	Stan Gortsema	208.226.7621
June 22	Tammany	Larry Smith	208.799.3096
June 23	Arbon Valley	Stan Gortsema	208.226.7621
June 23	Palouse Direct Seeder Tour	Hans Kok	Hanskok@wsu.edu
June 29	Clearwater Direct Seeders	Dennis Roe	509.335.3491
June 24	AgriPro (Cheney)	Ed Driskill	208.301.0459
June 24	UI Parker Farm Day	Donn Thill	208.885.6214
June 29	Clearwater Direct Seeders	Dennis Roe	509.335.3491
June 30	Prairie Conser. Tour	Ken Hart	208.937.2311
July 8	Cavendish	Larry Smith	208.799.3096
July 9	BYU	Greg Blaser	208.496.2825
July 14	Ririe	Matt Gellings	208.524.4946
July 15 (am)	Aberdeen Wheat Breeding & Cereals Grower Tour	Juliet Windes Jianli Chen	208.529.8376 208.397.4162
July 15 (pm)	Aberdeen Twilight Tour	Lisa Pankau	208.397.4181
July 22	Franklin County	Stuart Parkinson	208.852.1097
July 28	Soda Springs	Steve Harrison	208.547.3205

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<input type="checkbox"/> \$75	Regular Membership	<input type="checkbox"/> \$250	Bushel Booster
<input type="checkbox"/> \$75	Associate Membership	<input type="checkbox"/> \$600	Golden Bushel
<input type="checkbox"/> \$150	Bonus Bushel	<input type="checkbox"/> \$1,250	Lifetime

Name: _____

Farm / Company: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ ST: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____

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Maintaining a Healthy Wheat Industry in Idaho



Wheat industry leaders in Idaho will be meeting with wheat growers this summer and fall to gauge their willingness to increase the assessment to cover increased costs. Idaho Wheat Commission board members and Idaho Grain Producer's Association leaders have determined that steps need to be taken to increase the assessment, or to begin cutting back on programs.

Growers currently contribute \$.02/bushel to invest in research, education, and market development projects. The authority for the assessment was increased to \$.02/bushel in 1992 and since that time the annual check-off has varied between \$.015/bushel and \$.01/bushel, depending on the size of the crop and research needs that year.

"The two pennies don't go as far as they once did," said Blaine Jacobson, Executive Director of the Idaho Wheat Commission. "Total inflation since 1992 is 49.5%. All of the programs cost more than they did in 1992."

Commission officials plan an advisory

poll during the fall of 2009 to determine whether to proceed with plans to ask the state legislature in 2010 for a higher assessment. "We want this to be a decision made by Idaho wheat growers. We'll provide information on where additional funding is needed, and identify programs that may be candidates for cut-backs if wheat growers prefer to hold at current funding levels."

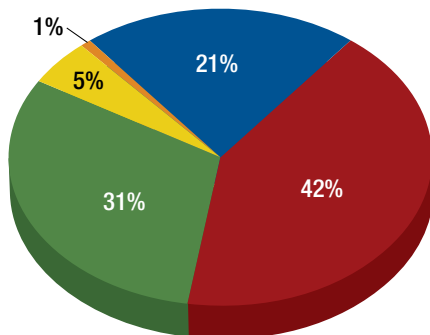
Besides inflation eroding the buying power of the wheat assessment, Jacobson identifies three areas driving the need for careful budgeting. Increased commodity

funds are needed for the University of Idaho research programs to offset loss of state and federal dollars.

Second, two wheat diseases have the potential to significantly reduce Idaho wheat yields, and increased resources need to be applied to developing resistant varieties of wheat. Ug99 is a stem rust that is slowly spreading throughout the world's wheat-growing areas. It has not yet been found in North America, but experts say it is just a matter of time. More than 80% of Idaho wheat varieties are susceptible to Ug99 stem rust. The other wheat disease

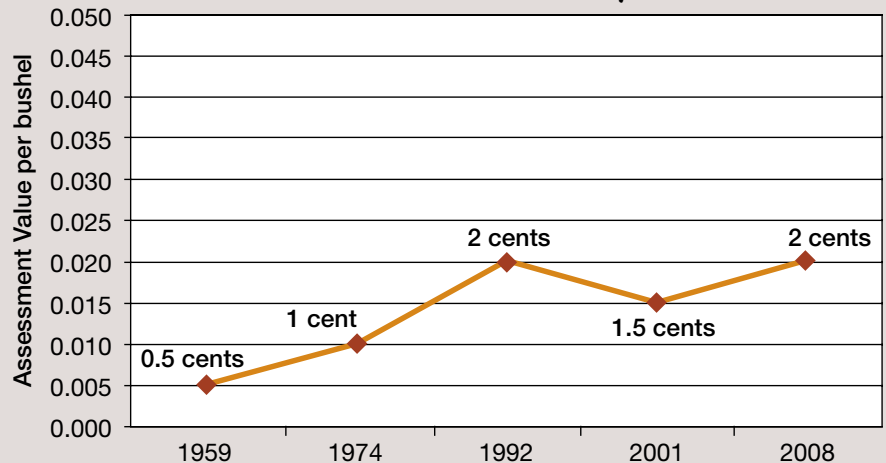
IWC FY 2009 Budget Allocation

Approved Fiscal Year 2008/2009
Budget Total: \$1,892,541

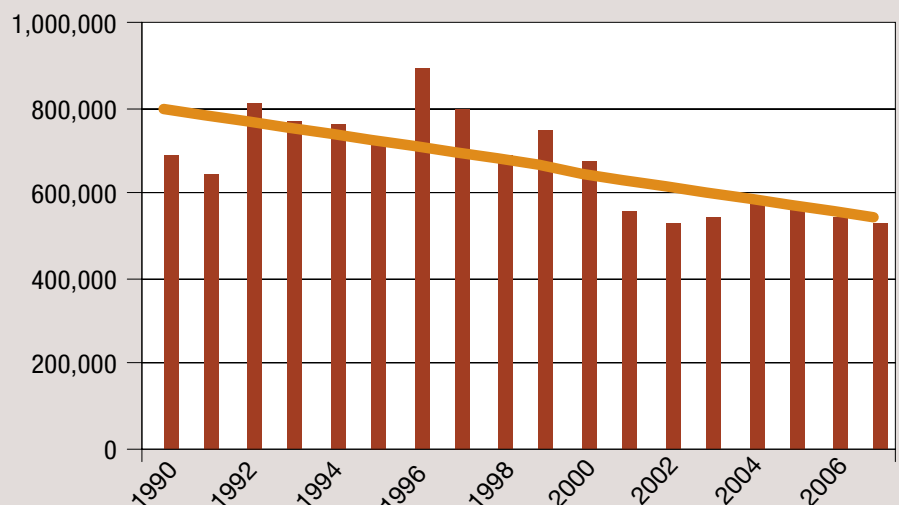


- Market Development - 21%
- Research - 42%
- Information & Education - 31%
- Office Operations - 5%
- Capital Outlay - 1%

IWC Assessment History



Idaho: Acres Irrigated Wheat with Trend Line: 1990-2007



is Fusarium Head Blight, which afflicts wheat when wheat and corn are grown in proximity. Fusarium Head Blight was detected in Idaho in the Magic Valley for the first time in 2008. As corn acreage for the dairy industry grows in Idaho, Fusarium Head Blight may become a greater scourge for the state's wheat growers.

The third factor causing a budget squeeze is the slow drift of higher-yielding wheat acres in the Magic Valley over into corn and hay. "We think it is terrific that southern Idaho growers have profitable options to their traditional sugarbeets-potatoes-wheat rotations, but wheat is still a primary crop in northern Idaho and on the dryfarms in eastern Idaho. It is still a vibrant part of the agricultural economy in those areas and we need to keep it healthy. Doing so will require continued investment," says Jacobson.

Wheat assessments in neighboring

Cost of Living 1959



Yearly inflation rate: 1.01%

Average cost of new house: \$12,400

Average yearly wages: \$5,010.00

Cost of a gallon of gas: 25 cents

Movie ticket: \$1.00

Loaf of bread: 20 cents

Ford T-Bird: \$3,250

Inflation since 1992: 49.5%

western states are higher than in Idaho. Oregon growers approved a referendum last year to allow collection of an assessment up to \$.05/bushel. Washington growers pay an assessment based on the selling price of the wheat, which lately pegs it at roughly \$.04/bushel. California growers pay \$.05/bushel.

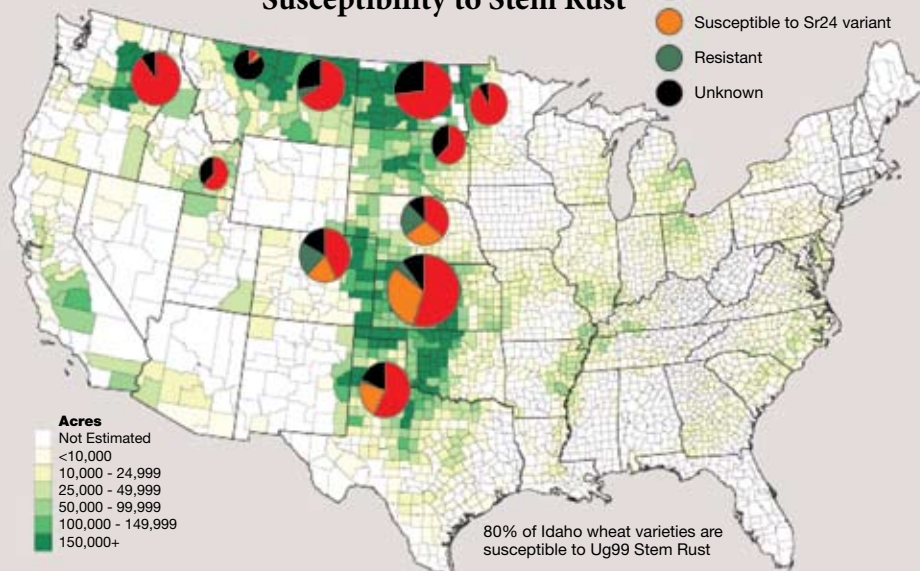
Idaho Wheat Commission officials have not yet decided how large of an assessment hike to request, according to Jacobson. "Much depends on our summer and fall discussions with growers and upon the fall advisory poll. The commissioners would like to have the flexibility to work within a range, depending on size of crop and research needs, similar to what was recently set-up in Oregon."

Commission officials note that nobody likes taxes, but we need to keep our industry healthy. They point to the rich, loose volcanic soils, the abundant supply of water, and a desert environment that reduces pests and diseases as real strategic benefits for Idaho's wheat industry. ♦



Susceptibility to Stem Rust

- Susceptible to Pgt-TTKS
- Susceptible to Sr24 variant
- Resistant
- Unknown



Idaho wheat facts: Wheat ranks as Idaho's second largest crop, behind potatoes. Wheat is grown in 42 of Idaho's 44 counties. Idaho has some of the highest yields per acre of any state. Cash receipts for Idaho wheat in 2008 were \$700 million (compared to \$800 million for potatoes). Wheat is a steady, consistent contributor to Idaho's economic well-being.

Soft White Wheat is the predominant class of wheat grown in Idaho. Hard White Wheat is the fastest-growing class. Millers have come to know that Idaho's desert environment results in less late-season sprouting and is ideal for Hard White. About half of Idaho's wheat is exported; the other half goes to domestic buyers for well-known products such as Wheaties, Goldfish snack crackers, Oreo and Chips Ahoy cookies, McDonald's hamburger buns, and Mission flour tortillas.



Since it was formed in 1959, the Idaho Wheat Commission has cultivated a mutually beneficial relationship with CALS (College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, University of Idaho) that has helped researchers, growers, and consumers alike.

50 candles on the cake...the



In Indonesia, the common person subsisting on \$2 a day is choosing the street vendors' wheat-based noodles over fried rice costing twice as much. So says Mark Samson, Singapore-based vice president for U.S. Wheat Associates, the wheat industry's checkoff-funded market development organization. In Vietnam, he notes, "There used to be zero outlets for bakery products in Ho Chi Minh City and now there's one on nearly every corner." Samson, who graduated from CALS in 1975 with a master's degree in agricultural economics, says wheat imports are up steeply in south Asia and Idaho's wheat growers are well positioned to benefit.

By all accounts, 50 years of collaboration between CALS and the Idaho Wheat Commission deserves a generous share of the credit. That partnership has focused intense efforts towards developing top-quality, Idaho-adapted wheats in a range of market classes—wheats for noodles, pastries, cakes, and breads that meet diverse needs both near and far. "Idaho wheats have done very well in the world market," says Samson. "We've been able to avoid wide swings in quality."

At the IWC, executive director Blaine Jacobson says wheat is supplanting rice in Asia and corn in Latin America. He calls

the CALS-IWC relationship a "win-win: the wheat growers are able to fund researchers through the wheat tax they pay, and the researchers are able to break new ground in a number of areas on behalf of the wheat growers."

Essential support for essential efforts

The IWC invests an average of \$400,000-plus annually in CALS research and Extension; over the past 15 years, it has contributed another \$1.1 million towards greenhouse improvement, Ag Biotech Wing construction, Idaho Wheat Quality Laboratory remodeling,

The IWC invests an average of \$400,000-plus annually in CALS research and Extension

and farm and laboratory equipment purchase. Beyond variety improvement, it supports production and pest management research, Extension field trials, cereal schools, and publications. The IWC is among CALS' top 10 funding sources.

In Moscow, weed scientist Donn Thill credits IWC support with his team's ability to respond briskly to emerging problems. "We don't write a proposal, we just go to work on it. That's been a huge benefit to Idaho's wheat growers."

"With the slow erosion of agricultural research funds from the state and federal government, the importance of the wheat commission's funds has increased over time," says Bob Zemetra, UI wheat breeder. More than 90% of his breeding program's operating expenses are paid by the IWC, including fuel to drive to his plots.

Payoff in ever-better varieties and crop management

At the IWC, Jacobson says the biggest payoff has been continually improving wheat genetics. Since 1959, Idaho wheat yields have nearly tripled. Jacobson attributes half of that progress to new varieties and the other half to new ways of managing them. CALS' extensive variety trials, he notes, enable Idaho growers at 600 feet or 6,000 feet, and in dryland or irrigated conditions, to identify those new releases from the Idaho Agricultural Experiment Station that are most likely to excel in their fields.

In Plummer, former IWC commissioner Sam Tyler remembers his frustration with severe lodging in tall, weak-stawed wheats before the three Pacific Northwest land-grant universities, including the University of Idaho, released Gaines soft white winter wheat in the early 1960s. "It was the breakthrough to the short-stawed, high-producing wheat that we now have and it ballooned the

production of wheat,” says Tyler.

According to Brad Brown, CALS Extension crop management specialist in Parma, the higher-yielding semi-dwarf winter wheats prompted other changes as well. “With the increased potential for yield, you had an increased need for nitrogen and that led to a more concerted effort to calibrate the soil test for nitrogen to wheat’s nitrogen requirements. The IWC was absolutely critical to that effort. We would never have done it without their support.”

When the potentially devastating Russian wheat aphid entered Idaho in

1988, IWC support helped develop pest-monitoring systems like suction traps and field sampling methods as well as effective insecticidal control. By expanding the tool box with genetic resistance, by 1996 the Russian wheat aphid was only a sporadic and localized pest.

IWC-funded efforts have led to wheats with resistance to stripe rust, dwarf bunt, snow mold and other cereal diseases. This has made such a difference that Zemetra says simply: “It allowed growers to have a crop rather than losing it.”

Zemetra considers Brundage and Brundage 96 among his career milestones,

along with Simon, his first strawbreaker foot rot-resistant line. The Brundage duo “combined high end-use quality with high yield potential, has helped expand domestic demand for Idaho wheat.

Former UI wheat breeder Ed Souza, who now leads the USDA Agricultural Research Service’s Soft Wheat Quality Laboratory in Wooster, Ohio, takes pride in the disease resistance of his Idaho varieties. “One of the things about working with the IWC is that the growers have to make use of what you’re doing. That keeps you focused: you get the big things done right first.”

bread...the pasta

Quality counts and the IWQL counts quality

Central to every new variety’s release is its end-use performance, painstakingly measured at the IWQL (Idaho Wheat Quality Lab). The Aberdeen facility was first built in 1962 with funding from the IWC and Idaho Legislature and was expanded to 2,280 feet in 2005. Zemetra calls it the primary contributor to varietal improvement. “It gave us a way to get our quality data in a more timely manner, which meant that we could make better selections for end-use quality.”

Each year, IWQL Manager Katherine O’Brien and her technicians evaluate 12,000 to 14,000 individual wheat samples from statewide variety trials, screening them for milling yields, protein levels and dough-mixing and baking qualities.

Helping growers manage crops and costs

County Extension educators are the first stop when growers have a question. To keep growers informed of research-based advances in wheat genetics and production, the IWC and Extension co-sponsor nine Cereal Schools throughout Idaho each winter. Today, Brown and Juliet Windes, Extension Crop Management Specialist, Aberdeen, are investigating fertility practices that boost proteins in hard whites to the market-rewarding 14% level and slow-release, coated nitrogen fertilizers that could reduce application frequency. Determining which new fertilizer technologies will lower costs is crucial, Windes says, because production inputs are a “huge expense.”



(Above left) UI Biotech Building.

(Above) Brundage is one of the many varieties of wheat released from the UI breeding program.

(Left) Japanese Flour Millers visit the University of Idaho Aberdeen to discuss wheat quality and end-use functionality.

UI wheat breeder Bob Zemetra considers Brundage and Brundage 96 among his career milestones, along with Simon, his first strawbreaker foot rot-resistant line. The Brundage duo “combined high end-use quality with high yield potential, has helped expand domestic demand for Idaho wheat.

Idaho wheat growers are also awaiting results of other studies with the potential to improve their bottom lines: among them Windes' seed treatment trials for soil-borne diseases of dryland wheat, Bosque-Pérez' and plant virologist Alex Karasev's statewide survey of plant viruses capable of attacking wheats, and

A partnership with the late Neil Meyer on a personal property tax survey led to the elimination of that tax on equipment. It's very seldom that growers get to lower their taxes, but that research did the job.

weed scientist Don Morishita's evaluations of new wild oat and broadleaf weed herbicides.

A partnership with the late Neil Meyer on a personal property tax survey led to the elimination of that tax on equipment. It's very seldom that growers get to lower their taxes, but that research did the job.

Hard whites and other 21st century priorities

At the IWC's request, Souza's successor Jianli Chen, wheat breeder Aberdeen, is focusing half of her efforts on hard white wheats. Before her arrival in 2007, Souza had already released three hard white springs—Idaho 377s, Lolo, and Lochsa—and two hard white winters—Gary and UI Darwin. "Because two-thirds of our wheat crop is planted in the fall, we could take production to the next level with a good hard white winter," Jacobson notes.

Long preferred for Asian noodles, hard whites also provide domestic and international consumers with whole-grain baked products free of the bitterness of hard reds. "You can mill the whole kernel and the flour has a white color



Brad Brown, CALS Extension crop management specialist addresses Idaho wheat farmers during Parma Field Days.



Former IWC Commissioner Jim McDonald, Grangeville, inspects equipment purchased by Idaho wheat growers for the UI breeding program.

and a little bit sweeter flavor, all of the big millers have fast-growing product lines that use hard white wheat," says Jacobson. An additional 4 to 5 million tons of wheat exports could be generated if U.S. growers produced more hard whites. Buyers prefer them because they can get a higher percentage of flour and a stronger protein level.

What's next? "We have not had a home-run hit in the genetics of wheat yield improvement since we went to Gaines and other semi-dwarf wheats in the 1960s," says Joe Anderson, IWC commissioner. "We may need to put in place some of the newer technologies, in terms of genetic modification, to make those kinds of significant gains."

Around the nation and around the world, wheat is competing for acreage with genetically modified corn, soybeans, and cotton, Anderson notes. "When you can grow 200 bushels of GM corn in southern Idaho and on that same land

you can grow 80-90 bushels of wheat, which one can you grow cheapest on a per-unit basis? You can sell corn for less money and still make a profit on it—just because of yield."

With IWC funding, Zemetra has maintained a small research program in genetic engineering. In the early 1990s, before the marketplace froze out biotech wheat, he was a pioneer in transforming soft white wheats with barley yellow dwarf virus resistance. Now, with signs of the marketplace thawing, work in this area is moving ahead.

A long-term relationship for long-term challenges

Fifty years and counting...it's been a good run so far. It takes breeders, agronomists, entomologists, virologists, weed scientists, economists, Extension educators and Idaho's wheat growers to make this effort successful.

Over time, the issues change—we can predict some of them but not all of them. This relationship allows us to be both proactive and reactive to emerging challenges. With that we can look forward to another 50 years. ♦

Edited from an article by Marlene Fritz, Peoples and Programs, CALS, May 2009

YDVs or SMVs

Virus Diseases of Wheat in Idaho



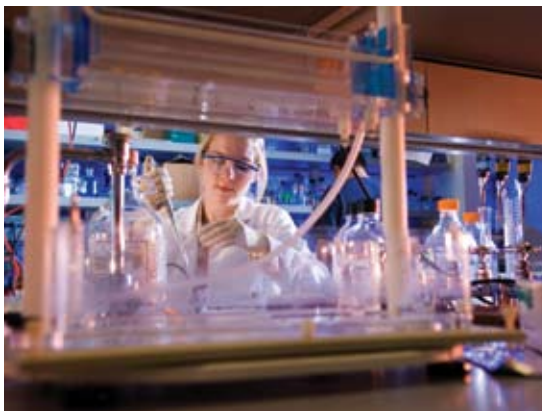
In the Pacific Northwest, Cereal and Barley yellow dwarf viruses (CYDV/BYDV) and Wheat streak mosaic virus (WSMV) are the most economically important group of wheat viruses. Each has the potential to significantly reduce the yield and quality of wheat, barley and oats. All three viruses have been present in Idaho for a long time, but their distribution in various parts of the state has not been well understood.

A project currently funded by IWC is seeking answers. Alexander Karasev and Nilsa Bosque-Pérez, virologist and entomologist, respectively, from the University of Idaho, are pursuing a project entitled, *Virus Diseases of Wheat in Idaho*.

Identify viruses present

Monitoring for cereal viruses in Idaho has not occurred on a regular basis. The first step for this project was to see what was here now, when the viruses first occur during the season, and where and how the wheat viruses spread within the state as the growing season progresses. Second, there is a need to monitor new viruses that may enter the state. The key is to develop a quick and inexpensive way to identify the viral pathogens.

Last year the researchers developed



an effective way to test for presence of viruses known to circulate in Idaho and the Pacific Northwest — BYDV and CYDV complexes and WSMV.

“It takes only a single aphid, mite or piece of plant tissue to detect which of these viruses are present,” says Bosque-Pérez. “But we also have to be prepared

for future invasion of pathogens”.

Mapping viruses and vectors

This year work is proceeding with the development of ways to test for viruses known to occur in the US but not yet found in Idaho, such as SBWMV (Soil-borne wheat mosaic virus), HPV (High plains virus) and WYHV (Wheat yellow head virus).

A good example of why this is important is the recent identification of SBWMV in Oregon and Washington (see related text box). It is also very important to develop a test for viruses not yet reported in the US.

Because the symptoms of many viruses are similar in the field, identifying through laboratory testing is the only way to secure appropriate management strategies.

By working closely with Idaho wheat breeders, entomologists and pathologists the researchers will begin to map the various viruses and their vectors.

“By knowing the epidemiology of viruses, their geographical distribution and arthropod vectors, growers will be able to make informed decisions on control options, as breeders put more emphasis on developing resistant varieties,” says Karasev. “Currently there is no screening of germplasm for virus resistance.” ♦

Virus Vectors

Mite transmitted: Wheat streak mosaic virus (WSMV)

Aphid transmitted: Barley yellow dwarf virus (BYDV) and Cereal yellow dwarf virus (CYDV) complexes.

Seed transmitted: Barley stripe mosaic virus (BSMV)

Fungus transmitted: Soil born wheat mosaic virus (SBWMV)



Have you seen symptoms like this?

This is a picture of the irrigated field of winter wheat with SBWMV infection in the Walla Walla area in Washington. If you see symptoms like this, please inform Alex Karasev, akarasev@uidaho.edu; 208.885.2350, so a sample can be tested for SBWMV infestation at the University of Idaho Virology Laboratory.

This fungus transmitted virus has long been known as a pathogen affecting cereals in the Midwest and has apparently spread to a new area in the past few years. Photo courtesy of Prof T. Murray, WSU.

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Wheat Groups Announce Goal of Synchronized Biotech Introduction in U.S., Canada, and Australia



Organizations representing the wheat industry in the United States, Canada, and Australia have announced they would work toward the goal of synchronized commercialization of biotech traits in the wheat crop. Noting that “none of us hold a veto over the actions of others,” they agreed it was in the best interest of all three producer communities to introduce biotechnology in a coordinated fashion to minimize market disruption.

The announcement came in a statement of joint principles on the issue of biotechnology in wheat highlighting the importance of wheat to the food supply and declining acres in all three countries due in part to competition from crops that

have the advantages of biotech traits. The statement also noted the slow growth trend of wheat yields compared to other crops and the lack of public and private investment in wheat research worldwide.

“I think the fact that the major wheat producer organizations of the three countries have worked together this closely is truly unprecedented,” said USW President Alan Tracy. “It has certainly not happened before in the wheat sector and I am unaware of any past joint statements on anything by producers of any agricultural products in competing export countries. I think that demonstrates how important we think biotechnology is to ensuring a reliable supply of wheat in the future.”

Joint Statement Issued May 14, 2009:

In the interest of expressing support for more efficient, sustainable and profitable production of wheat around the world, the undersigned organizations have approved the following joint statement concerning commercialization of biotechnology in wheat:

Wheat is a vital food to all peoples of the world and we believe that by developing higher yielding better quality wheat varieties we can better supply the world with wheat food products.

One important tool to help feed the world into the future is biotechnology. Basic agronomic improvements to wheat like strengthening disease and insect resistance, enhancing wheat’s use of soil nutrients and water, increasing its tolerance to weather extremes like drought and frost, are all possible with biotechnology. Another critical area for biotechnology is to improve the nutritional aspects of wheat to facilitate healthier living for people all over the world. Biotechnology is not the only answer to these questions, but it will be a significant component in solutions.

In many of our production areas, wheat production is under pressure from competing crops, which, through the application of biotechnology, have achieved higher productivity, reduced input use, and other benefits not available in wheat. As a result, the historic area of wheat production has declined in many areas and economics are driving producers away from wheat and into other crops if they have alternatives. If wheat continues on a non-biotech course, then farmers will continue to devote a greater share of their acreage to biotech crops, where profitability is relatively greater, resulting in lower world wheat production than would otherwise be the case.

In general, wheat yields are on a very slow growth trend in comparison with competing crops, and the longer it takes to increase the growth rate the bigger will be the hole from which the industry must climb.

Biotechnology is a proven technique to deploy traits of interest with a high degree of precision in agricultural crops. Crops derived through biotechnology are subjected to strict regulatory scrutiny before commercialization. Over 10 years of global experience with biotechnology has demonstrated a convincing record of safety and environmental benefits as well as quality and productivity gains.

Lack of private and public investment in wheat research has left wheat development behind the advances in competing commodity crops, and has also led to a shortage of scientific expertise in wheat research generally. By providing an opportunity for private companies, the level of activity in wheat research will expand and attract a new generation of scientists into the field.

In light of these resolutions, we will work toward the goal of synchronized commercialization of biotech traits in our wheat crops. We are also committed to working with other stakeholders to address their needs and concerns as we travel the road to commercialization.

Signed,



National Association of Wheat Growers
U.S. Wheat Associates
North American Millers’ Association



Grain Growers of Canada
Western Canadian Wheat Growers Association
Alberta Winter Wheat Producers Commission



Grains Council of Australia
Grain Growers Association
Pastoralists and Graziers Association of Western Australia (Inc.)

For more information, visit www.uswheat.org and click on Biotechnology.



WHEAT HIGHLIGHTS

Bitterroot Soft White Winter Wheat

This new soft white winter variety is adapted to both irrigated and intermediate to high rainfall production systems in Idaho and the Pacific Northwest. In 4 years of trials in Idaho (35 site years) Bitterroot equaled or exceeded Brundage 96 under both rainfed and irrigated conditions and equaled Tubbs 06 under irrigated conditions.

Bitterroot is a semi-dwarf wheat similar in heading date and height to Tubbs 06 and taller than Brundage 96 which is considered the current standard for soft white winter in the PNW. It is blue-green in color with semi-erect flag leaves. The name 'Bitterroot' is based off of the mountain theme started with the naming of Brundage.



Bitterroot is a soft white winter wheat developed by the Idaho Agricultural Experiment Station. It was released for its tolerance to Cephalosporium stripe, yield potential, straw strength and superior end use quality.

Quality wise, Bitterroot ranks among the best. It has moderate resistance to stripe rust and moderate to excellent tolerance to Cephalosporium stripe. It is moderately susceptible to dwarf bunt and would require use of a seed fungicide treatment if grown in a region where dwarf bunt can occur.

Seed of Bitterroot (PVP) will be maintained by the Idaho Foundation Seed Program and may be obtained by calling the Kimberly Extension Center 208.423.6655. E-mail: Williams@Kimberly.uidaho.edu.

Get to know Dr. Zhou.

Dr. Yibin Zhou (rhymes with Jo) is learning how to improve Asian noodle quality with PNW wheats at the Wheat Marketing Center in Portland. Employed at the Anhui Agricultural University in China, Dr. Zhou not only works with students but also flour mills and helps noodle manufactures as well.

He hopes his experience here will improve his research capacity and provide new knowledge to his students and industry representatives back home. While here Dr. Zhou has been interacting with visiting trade teams and domestic grain growers visiting the WMC.



How much is a trillion?

Such large numbers don't register with most of us. Try using some of these 'word' pictures to see how much \$1 contributes to \$1 trillion.

Parts Per Trillion

- 1 hairsbreadth on 1 trip around the world
- 1 flea on 360,000,000 elephants
- 1 pinch of salt in 10,000 tons of potato chips
- If you are 32 years old, the equivalent of a part per billion would be 1 second out of your 32 years. One part per trillion would be 1 second out of 320 centuries!
- 1 inch in 16 million miles (a six-inch leap on a journey to the Sun)

Fact Sheets of Interest

■ "Power benefits of the lower Snake River dams" – Bonneville Power Administration, Jan 2009. The four lower Snake River dams are an important part of the Northwest's power supply.

http://www.bpa.gov/corporate/pubs/fact_sheets/09fs/.

■ "Columbia Snake River System Navigation Fact Sheet" – A handy fact sheet showing the freight comparison of barges, trains and trucks on the Columbia Snake River system. Pacific Northwest Waterways Association: Action Agenda, <http://www.pnwa.net/new/Articles/CSRSFactSheet.pdf>.

■ "Idaho Wheat Facts" – The wheat industry plays an important role in Idaho's economy.

Learn some interesting facts about our wheat in this colorful brochure designed for kids and adults.





IBC seeks grower views on flexible barley assessment rate

For the past year and a half the IBC has conducted a series of grower meetings and townhall sessions across the state to gather feedback on strategic priorities that the IBC is pursuing to keep the Idaho barley industry competitive. We also discussed and sought input on the budget challenges facing the commission arising from a combination of declining acreage/income and rising costs of doing business.

Below you will see graphs presenting barley acreage and production trends in Idaho for the past 20 years. As you can see, 2006 and 2007 were the two lowest barley crops in Idaho in the past 30 years, down more than 50% from our peak in 1984. As a result of these wide fluctuations in production and assessment income, the **IBC has drawn down its operating reserves by more than \$109,575 in the past three years.** We have tightened the belt in many program areas, but we have tried to avoid cutting into the bone of our strategic initiatives. However, the board does not feel that the current path is sustainable. Therefore, they have voted to hold a producer referendum in the first two weeks of November 2009 on the following question:

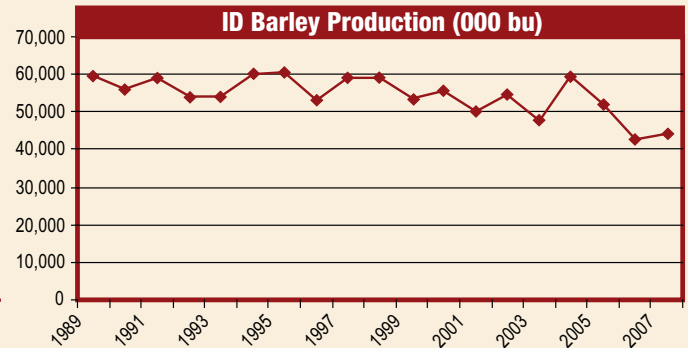
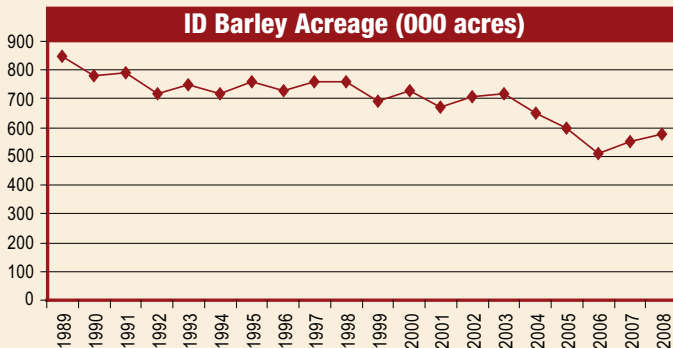
Do you favor giving the IBC authority to set the Idaho barley assessment at a rate not to exceed 4 cents per hundred (less than 2 cents per bushel)? The Idaho barley assessment has been fixed at 2 cents per hundredweight (less than 1 cents per bushel) since the commission was formed in 1988.

We want to be very clear with Idaho barley producers about our next steps...

1- You will have final say over this flexible assessment proposal through an official producer referendum that we have asked the Idaho State Department of Agriculture to conduct on our behalf.

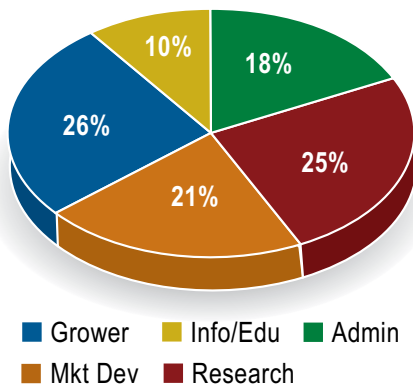
2- If the referendum passes in November 2009, legislation will be required to give the IBC authority to set the assessment rate in the new flexible range.

3 – If legislation passes in 2010, the **IBC will not consider any assessment changes until at least the 2012 budget year (July 2011) and will continue its grower outreach efforts to gather additional input on IBC programs.**



2009 STRATEGIC HIGHLIGHTS

FY 2008/09
Est. Actual \$448,519



MARKET EXPANSION

Understanding the new market dynamics resulting from recent brewing mergers — We continue to work closely with the malting and brewing companies that have contracted malting barley production in Idaho since the late 1960s. We believe the recent mergers in the brewing industry, particularly Anheuser-Busch InBev and MillerCoors LLC – two of Idaho’s leading customers - have created both challenges and opportunities for malt barley production in Idaho. The IBC is working diligently to understand these issues and to position the strengths that Idaho barley producers bring to the table.

Malting barley exports — We have

aggressively pursued new malting barley contracts with Mexico’s second largest brewing company, FEMSA CCM. This company has signed direct contracts with a handful of eastern Idaho growers for delivery of Legacy malting barley to Monterrey, Mexico this fall.

We continue to work closely with SABMiller, the world’s second largest brewing conglomerate, on potential contracting to meet future malting barley needs at their Colombian and Peruvian malt plants. SABMiller is evaluating new winter malting barley varieties that are being grown in Idaho (Magic Valley and north Idaho).

Food barley — We are leading a

three-pronged national campaign to expand food consumption of barley. First, we have stepped up funding for new variety development that will combine the higher levels of beneficial fiber as well as other desirable traits with better yields and overall agronomic performance. We are working with breeders at ARS Aberdeen, Oregon State University and WestBred LLC on these complex breeding challenges. Second, we are working with food manufacturers on evaluating specific traits that will meet their product development needs. Finally, we are educating consumers on the health benefits of incorporating barley into their diets and will launch a new campaign this year called "Make Every Bite Count."

As a result of these sustained efforts, at least two national food companies are contracting for food barley production in eastern Idaho this year. We also have facilitated production contracts of food barley in north Idaho with a leading Japanese food barley manufacturer.

RESEARCH

Due to budget constraints, we are focusing on fewer but more ambitious and collaborative research efforts. Current priorities include:

- Barley breeding at ARS Aberdeen (winter and spring malting and food)
- Winter food barley breeding at Oregon State University

- Breeding barley with resistance to selective herbicides at Washington State University

- University of Idaho Extension nurseries at 7 locations throughout the state

- Herbicide Soil Persistence & Herbicide Resistant Expert System

GROWER SERVICES

Federal and State Policies — Through our funding to the Idaho Grain Producers Association and National Barley Growers Association, we remain actively engaged in helping to shape state and federal policies that benefit Idaho barley producers. Recent highlights have included:

- Completion of the 2008 Farm Bill in May 2008 – achieved a more equitable barley target price and loan rate / recent implementation issues have included work on eligibility rules and supplemental revenue enhancement (new permanent disaster program).

- Funding for IGPA legal defense to restore field burning as a management tool in Idaho – accomplished in 2008.

- Support for ethanol, advanced bio-fuels and other renewable energies that can be generated on-farm or from agricultural feedstocks.

Barley crop insurance improvements — IBC has led a national effort to improve barley crop insurance.

- Worked to restore **Malt Barley Endorsement** in 1996.

- Worked continuously to improve coverage under Malting Option A, which applies to barley grown on the open market or under contract with elevators rather than malting and brewing companies. Because of Idaho's strong price history our growers have enjoyed better price coverage under Option A than growers in other major states. Typically, Option A coverage is not as attractive as Option B which is available to growers with malting barley contracted with a malting/brewing company.

- Worked directly with Farm Bureau Insurance to pioneer a new **Revenue Assurance policy for barley**. Idaho was the first state to have feed barley coverage in 2001; malting barley was added in 2003.

- Worked with Senator Crapo to include an amendment in the 2008 Farm Bill that fixes the disparities between industry contracts and the malt barley insurance quality specifications.

- Proposed a new innovative "**Enhanced Price**" policy that would insure specialty types of barley (malting and food) at more realistic market values. USDA is currently developing new coverage that will be available under existing feed barley insurance policies to insure specialty types of barley at actual contract price. We are hopeful that these additional price selection options will be available for specialty barley types in 2010.

Risk management / grain marketing education — We have sponsored educational workshops annually throughout the state since 2001 involving more than 1,300 producers. 2008-09 activities included:

- Collaboration with University of Idaho Extension on **Farm Business Management Schools** at Lewiston (Jan. 13) and Idaho Falls (Jan. 14).

- Developed expanded features of our **Mountain View Farms computer simulation game available by disk or online at www.agsurvivor.com**

Publish weekly **Idaho Grain Market Report** (available weekly since 1995). This report is available by email/mail or on-line at www.idahobarley.org.

Highlights of Barley Breeding at the USDA/ARS National Small Grains Germplasm Research Facility in Aberdeen, ID

- Advanced Grain Genetics Laboratory was dedicated in 2006 (\$5.1 million, 12,000 sq. ft addition).

- Commercial release of North America's only winter malting barley varieties - **Charles** was released in 2006 and **Endeavor** in 2008. **Charles** was approved for malting production in the United States by the American Malting Barley Association in late 2008.

- Release of better yielding feed barleys - **Lenatah** (2007), **Tetonia** (2006), **Creel** (2002), **Criton** (2002), **Bancroft** (2001), **Camas** 1998).

- Development of environmentally friendly, low phytic acid/high available phosphate barleys - released **Herald** in 2006 and **Clearwater** in 2007. These barleys improve phosphorous mineral nutrition in monogastric animals while reducing phosphorous run-off in rivers and streams.

- Evaluation and management of the world's collection of barley cultivars at the National Small Grains Collection.



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