

IDAHO GRAIN

THE IDAHO GRAIN PRODUCERS ASSOCIATION MAGAZINE

Fall 2012

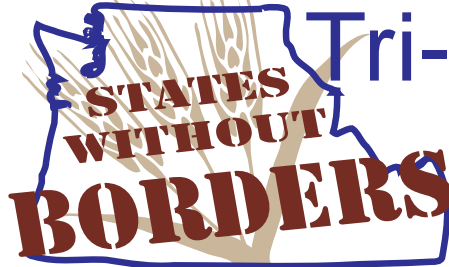
Farm Bill Update
page 6

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See you
in Idaho!

November 12, 13 & 14, 2012



Greetings!
By the time most of you read this, I suspect grain harvest in Idaho will be mostly complete. We have been going a little over a week now (since August 5), and it looks like yields in Latah and Nez Perce counties will be slightly above average yet not a record for most.

Some fields have been touched or smacked by hail, but most around North Idaho received above average rainfall this season and are looking good. I'm sorry to hear IGPA members and other farmers in throughout the state may not be as fortunate.

Besides hearing by calls and e-mails from some of you, federal disaster declarations are being considered for some counties hit by heat and drought. Rest assured that IGPA and our affiliate the National Association of Wheat Growers (NAWG) are working for disaster assistance where needed. The authorization and subsequent funds for the SURE program expired in 2011, but some leaders in Congress are seeking an extension or other remedy in lieu of passage of a new Farm Bill.

So I wonder, when Congress leaves for a five week break with so much unfinished business on the docket, does it seem to anyone else that it would be like the combine driver abandoning the harvest crew two days into harvest to go work on his line of credit?

Frustrating business getting re-elected every two years I'm sure, but going home with good legislation to your name should make is easier. Wouldn't it be nice to do their job rather than kicking the can down the road? Kudos to the Senate for their work thus far.

Since the last letter to you all, IGPA has been represented at several crop tours and field days. Signed by President Abraham Lincoln in 1862, the 150th anniversary of the Morrill Act was celebrated this year. The Act established the nationwide system of land-grant colleges, including the University of Idaho.

We all need to do our part in supporting agricultural research. It is the future of our business, and there are many ways to contribute. Donating a small tract for variety trials, weed or entomology research, or doing your own fertility comparisons are just a few ways to reinvest and build our knowledge base.

Whether it's from the U of I College of Agriculture, your local agronomy or seed dealer, or just you and some neighbors sharing information and searching for solutions, future profitability depends on the ability to adapt to new challenges with good information.

Time to get back to work feeding America and the rest of the world! ■

| | |
|---|----|
| Views | |
| Joseph Anderson, IGPA President | 3 |
| Editor's Note | |
| Travis Jones | 4 |
| Don't Call it the Farm Bill | 5 |
| IGPA Launches Facebook Page to Engage Idaho Farmers | 5 |
| Farm Bill Update | 6 |
| Union Pacific Celebrating 150 Years | 10 |
| Variety Performance and Planting Dates | 12 |
| Goldfish: From Preston to the Moon in Three Days | 13 |
| Idaho Commodity and Seed Producers Can Be Paid for Every Sale | 14 |
| Idaho Wheat Commission Annual Report | 16 |
| 2010-2011 Idaho Winter Wheat Variety Performance Tests and 2009-2011 Yield Summaries | 19 |
| Round-Up of Idaho Barley Commission Programs | 22 |

Look for these symbols in headlines throughout the magazine to see at a glance whether an article pertains to wheat issues, barley issues, or both.



WHEAT



BARLEY



WHEAT & BARLEY

Published quarterly by
Idaho Grain Producers Association
821 W. State St. • Boise, Idaho 83702-5832
(208) 345-0706

Travis Jones Editor-in-Chief
Christie Bauscher Assistant Editor

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Printing Production Coordinated by
Farm Progress Companies
255 38th Avenue, Suite P • St. Charles, IL 60174-5410
(630) 462-2272

For Advertising Information Call:
Sandy Creighton **Advertising Sales Manager**
Phone: (559) 201-9225
Michelle Schlehofer **Advertising Sales Representative**
Phone: (630) 462-2872

For subscription corrections, please call Idaho Grain Producers Association: (208) 345-0706

Sharon Beaver **Production Manager**
Carol Locker **Graphic Design**

Printed in the USA.

Back to School



For me, it's the calm before the storm. For farmers, it's the storm before the calm.

Summer is the time of year where I get a little breathing room from travel, meetings, and shenanigans at the State Legislature to focus on getting ahead of the game and working on projects for Idaho's grain farmers.

While Idaho's wheat and barley farmers are busting their hump to reap a crop they have nursed along through frost, hail, drought and disease/pest invasion, I am preparing for a busy fall and winter season where I "reap" my own crop - gathering grower input and producing policy and organizational results. Maybe I'm biased, but I feel the IGPA has some tasty morsels on its proverbial cookie sheet.

Ever heard of Facebook? Don't feign ignorance, I know you have. Whether you are a "facebooker" yourself your kids are. Started by some college kids, the gargantuan social networking service boasts an estimated 900 million accounts worldwide.

The IGPA targeted the creation of its own Facebook "page" as a priority of the IGPA. On July 17, 2012 the IGPA launched its inaugural site. The goal of the IGPA's presence in the social media world is to engage in a real-time format Idaho growers and related industry with the news, activity, issues and other hot topics impacting their livelihoods. Additionally, the page serves as a forum for growers to interact, express thoughts and opinions, and to post pictures, video, and other media about grain farming and their everyday lives.

Perhaps of greatest importance is the educational component - the ability to reach out to consumers, legislators, regulators and the world at large to provide insight and perspective into American agriculture. A recurring complaint I hear is, "the general public is disconnected from the source of their food". Well Idaho grain farmers, the IGPA Facebook page is a perfect launch pad for you to reach almost a billion people.

Sticking to the topic of education, we are focused on our next generation of grain farmers. IGPA's leadership knows that an effective organization should always be grooming new leaders. Agriculture struggles mightily with this challenge as the average age of American farmers increases while the pool of potential beginning farmers shrivels. Cultural dynamics in Idaho are no different.

To retaliate, the IGPA is creating a mentor program. Somewhat similar to a school tutor, the mentor program will pair experienced Idaho grain industry leaders with prospective new leaders from around the state. While the IGPA has always worked to identify successors, this program will intensify those efforts. Our strong partnership with the Idaho Wheat Commission will provide a major boost to not only invest in the development of new leaders, but to maintain their involvement for years to come.

And finally, more education! (but a slightly different tweak) Roughly a year ago after learning about the IGPA's academic scholarship available at the University of Idaho, Vice President Clark Hamilton of Ririe wondered aloud why a similar opportunity was not available at Rexburg, Idaho-based BYU-Idaho.

Clark painted a convincing picture that BYU-Idaho's surging student population of over 14,000 and its growing agriculture program should merit industry attention and support.

Clark's impassioned pitch to his fellow executive committee members worked. The IGPA has begun discussions with the "Y" to establish an endowed academic scholarship for undergraduates seeking a degree in a field supporting production agriculture. The Idaho Wheat Commission has jumped on board to partner. Both organizations are excited about this endeavor and feel that it is our duty and responsibility to support the people that will support the future of Idaho's grain industry.

Education is vital to the growth and success of any individual or organization. Heck, it's one of the biggest themes permeating the upcoming presidential election. (sorry, had to slip that in) The IGPA feels strongly about increasing its educational role in as many ways as possible. It is not only essential for our current leaders who work hard on your behalf, but for future ones who may decide to throw their hat into the ring.

It's time for not only students to go back to school, but farmers as well. ■



IDAHO GRAIN PRODUCERS ASSOCIATION

821 West State Street
Boise, Idaho 83702-5832
(208) 345-0706

e-mail: tjones@idahograin.org
e-mail: cbauscher@idahograin.org
<http://www.idahograin.org>

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Don't Call it the Farm Bill

Editorial co-signed by major national farm commodity groups and submitted to national media outlets

We probably shouldn't call it the farm bill. We shouldn't call it the farm bill because that name suggests its impact is limited to the farm. It's really a jobs bill. An energy bill. A food bill. A conservation bill. A research bill. A trade bill. In other words, it's a bill that affects every American.

It affects our nation's ability to provide food, fuel and fiber for a global population projected to pass 9 billion by 2050. Here at home, it affects an industry that provides 23 million—or 1 in every 12—American jobs. By reducing spending significantly compared to prior farm bills, it addresses the need to get our nation's fiscal house in order.

It encourages the development of new sources of energy and innovative, bio-based products. It provides healthy foods to millions of schoolchildren and nutritious options to families in need. It develops and expands trade with valuable foreign markets.

And yes, it benefits American farms—98 percent of which are owned and operated by families. It helps big farms and small farms, major crops and specialty crops, organic farmers and conventional farmers, cattle ranchers and cotton ginneries, farmers markets and national suppliers, and the vast range of other pursuits that make up American agriculture.

This year, it helps farmers tackle the challenges posed by the worst drought in a generation.

It also brings together the varied interests of the nation's

farmers to represent the depth and breadth of American agriculture. We are a diverse group, with equally diverse priorities. We are united, however, in our need for a farm bill.

Not a disaster bill. Not an extension. A new, comprehensive, five-year farm bill.

Unfortunately, the farm bill that we need currently sits in a dark room on Capitol Hill, where it has been awaiting action by the House of Representatives for weeks. While the bill waits, your member of Congress is coming home for a series of public appearances, town hall meetings and speeches, each intended to explain how he or she has represented and advanced your interests in Washington.

So, it's okay to ask your representative why the House hasn't acted on the farm bill. In fact, we encourage you to. After all, it's your bill too.



NBGA President and Soda Springs, Idaho farmer Scott Brown testifies in front of a May 2012 meeting of the House Agriculture Committee.

IGPA Launches Facebook Page to Engage Idaho Farmers

July marked a new frontier for the Idaho Grain Producers Association – its entrance into the world of social media.

On Tuesday, July 17th the IGPA launched its own page on Facebook, the social networking service that engages nearly a billion people around the world. Facebook users can create profiles with photos, lists of personal interests, contact information, and other personal information. Users can communicate with friends and other users through private or public

messages and a chat feature. They can also create and join interest groups and "like pages," some of which are maintained by organizations like the IGPA.

"The IGPA's presence on Facebook is a great way to keep Idaho's wheat and barley farmers engaged with the issues impacting their livelihoods," said IGPA President Joseph Anderson of Genesee. "Nowadays gathering information at the local coffee shop doesn't cut it. Being active in social media like Facebook allows

producers an easy way to engage with other farmers and to be immediately informed about events impacting their farm," added Anderson.

The goal of the IGPA's Facebook page is to provide instant outreach on hot topics and activities the IGPA is involved in on behalf of Idaho grain farmers. The page also allows producers to connect, interact and communicate through written and visual tools.

To join the IGPA's Facebook page, use the following link: <https://www.facebook.com/IdahoGrain> and click the "like" button, or via the IGPA's website at www.idahograin.org.



Farm Bill Update

More Drama than Daytime Television



By Dale Thorenson,
lobbyist, Gordley &
Associates

When the Senate passed its version of the 2012 farm bill on June 21st by a strong 64-35 vote, all eyes turned to the House. In response, House Agriculture Committee Chairman Frank Lucas (R-Oklahoma) announced his intentions to mark up his farm bill the following week, right before the 4th of July break, to enable staff adequate time to prepare a bill for floor action in July.

But within a few hours of Lucas's remarks, the Republican House Leadership – Speaker of the House John Boehner (R-Ohio) and Majority Leader Eric Cantor (R-Virginia) – released a floor schedule for the following week that included consideration of the FY2013 Agriculture Appropriations bill.

This effectively knocked the June farm bill mark-up off the calendar because Agriculture Committee members would have to be available to fight off scurrilous amendments during the appropriations debate. As a result, Chairman Lucas postponed until July 11th his committee's work on the bill.

At press time, the annual agriculture spending bill has yet to be considered on the House floor.

Chairman Lucas and his Ranking Member, Collin Peterson (D-Minnesota), did hold their mark-up on July 11th – a marathon session – finishing in the early morning hours the following day. Their partnership and diligent work paid off garnering a strong bipartisan and favorable vote of 35-11.

The pair then promptly began lobbying the House Republican Leadership for floor time as there were only three weeks left before the House would adjourn for the

August congressional recess and not return until September 10th.

About this time, it became apparent that Mother Nature had also decided to play a role in this Capitol Hill drama. She began pushing daily temperature readings into the triple digits all across the Heartland, and setting some all-time record highs to emphasize the point. As a result, the growing drought reached a severity and scope not been seen in fifty years.

Cue the national news media, always eager to push a new tragedy, and soon tales of the “Dirty Thirties” were being told by old-timers during evening newscasts. Each week the red “severe drought” zone on the U.S. Drought Monitor Map mushroomed in size. Farm state Congressmen began demanding that the Committee-passed farm bill be brought to the House floor primarily to access its livestock disaster provisions.

However an open floor debate on the farm bill meant other issues might also be fair game, coupled with potentially tough votes prior to an election. The most contentious and politically dangerous of these other issues would be the level of cuts inflicted upon the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), aka “food stamps”.

The Senate farm bill contains \$4 billion in cuts to SNAP over ten years. Comparatively, the House Committee passed farm bill provides a \$14 billion reduction. Looming over the House floor were rumors of Members seeking to cut up to \$35 billion.

As the drought worsened with each passing day, the House Republican Leadership concluded the political price for not voting on an agriculture disaster package prior to a five week recess was just too steep. Rather than bringing the Committee passed farm bill to the floor, which already included disaster aid, it was announced that a one-year extension of current farm bill law would be cobbled together, with consideration scheduled right

before leaving for the August recess.

The details of the extension and plan were released on Friday, July 27th: \$621 million in disaster assistance would be offset with \$759 million in conservation cuts over the next ten years and \$261 million in Direct Payment cuts over nine years. *Direct Payments would be paid in full next year, and SNAP benefits would not be cut.*

To appease conservatives upset about direct payments and SNAP escaping the knife, a host of mandatory spending authorizations would be terminated, including renewable energy, rural economic development, organic agriculture, local farmer markets, and beginning and minority farmer programs. Assurances that this extension could not be used as a vehicle to conference with the earlier passed Senate bill were given to skeptical House members.

With all that baggage – full Direct Payments and SNAP benefits for 2013, conservation cuts, program terminations, *no farm bill conference*, and close to \$400 million more in cuts than needed – by Tuesday afternoon, July 31st, the extension suffocated and died under its own weight due to opposition from just about every constituency involved.

One notable “Dear Colleague” letter from Congressman Jeff Flake (R-AZ) asked “What do Direct Payments and Disco Have in Common?” The answer provided: “They Both Should Be Allowed to Fade into the Past! Vote “No” on Farm Bill Extension & Continued Direct Payments.”

Amazingly, the House Republican Leadership managed to unite almost everyone in opposition to their plan.

Plan B – a stand-alone disaster bill – was revealed that would be brought up for a vote under suspension of the rules – meaning no amendments and a two-thirds majority would be required for passage – with the vote taking place on Thursday, August 2nd. The cost for the disaster assistance was

continued on page 8

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IGPA ISSUES

continued from page 6

\$383 million with offsets of \$639 million from the Conservation Security Program and Environmental Quality Incentives Program. The remaining \$256 million would go towards deficit reduction.

Although not in opposition, major farm groups panned the stand alone disaster bill, lecturing that a much better option would be for the House to consider the Committee passed farm bill because the assistance was already paid for and was more comprehensive in scope.

Just prior to a floor vote on the disaster bill, the House Republican Leadership team determined they did not have the two-thirds majority to pass the bill under a suspension of the rules, and had to revert to Plan C – a closed rule for the same legislation. This meant that just a simple majority would be required to pass both the rule (a resolution deeming it in order to consider the legislation) and the disaster assistance legislation.

Very few House members appeared to be very enthused about the situation. Indeed, Congressman Steve King (R-Iowa) was quoted as saying, "It's hard to get excited about a disaster measure that's more political than relief."

However the rule did pass on Thursday, August 2 by a 236-182 vote. The stand-alone disaster bill followed gaining a vote of 223-197. The House then adjourned and Members flocked to the airport to head home until September 10th, just twenty days prior to the September 30th expiration date of the 2008 farm bill.

Farmers are now faced with a certainty ... that their financial future is uncertain.

My message to farmer is simple. I implore you to make time to step away from the tractor and/or combine to seek out your Representative and Senator. Find where your elected officials will be making a public appearance. Let them know of the importance of passing a farm bill ASAP.

An election is close at hand. The power of the people – and farmers particularly – is still the biggest leverage we have in our society today.



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Union Pacific Celebrating 150 Years



The Pacific Railway Act of 1862 signed by President Abraham Lincoln helped establish the Union Pacific Railroad Company. In 1863, ground was broken by the Central Pacific in Sacramento, Calif., and by Union Pacific in Omaha, Neb. Land was graded, snow sheds built, rock blasted and tunnels constructed. Union Pacific crossed vast plains, deep ravines and the Continental Divide in the race to connect the nation from east to west.

On May 10, 1869, years of effort converged with the two lines meeting at Promontory Summit in Utah. With the transcontinental route complete, the West was open as never before. Water stops marked the route every 25 miles – the distance a steam locomotive could travel before needing to refill. Each station held the opportunity for a new community to grow, for immigrant families to settle and for commerce to flourish. Cheyenne, Wyo. and Reno, Nev. are just a couple of examples of towns whose

roots are tied to the original route.

Over the years, Union Pacific has purchased a large number of other railroads, notably the Missouri Pacific, Chicago and North Western, Western Pacific, Missouri-Kansas-Texas, and the Southern Pacific (including the Rio Grande). Currently, Union Pacific owns 26% of Ferromex while Grupo México owns the remaining 74%. Union Pacific's leading railroad competitor is the BNSF Railway, which covers much of the same territory in the United States.

The Union Pacific Railroad, headquartered in Omaha, Nebraska, is the largest railroad network in the United States. Union Pacific has more than 44,000 employees and operates more than 8,000 locomotives on 31,900 miles of track across 23 states in the central and western United States, west of Chicago and New Orleans.

The Union Pacific Railroad and Idaho

The U.P. has approximately 849 miles of track throughout Idaho with 945

employees with major hubs in Nampa and Pocatello. Southern Idaho is home to Union Pacific's main artery to the Pacific Northwest. Heavy amounts of transcontinental traffic travel the track that follows the Snake River. In addition, Southern Idaho is laced with a network of railroad feeder lines serving Idaho's richly varied agricultural industry. Potatoes, sugar beets, beans, grain, fertilizer, phosphate and forest products are moved by rail.

Union Pacific serves extreme northern Idaho with its line connecting Spokane, Washington, to the Canadian rail system in Eastport. Another Union Pacific route runs between Pocatello and Silver Bow, Montana, where connections are made with other carriers. Pocatello and Nampa are important terminals for Union Pacific in Idaho. Both cities are hubs of branch line activities and serve as crew change points.

In eastern Idaho, The Eastern Idaho Rail Road (EIRR) is a collection of two disconnected portions of former Union Pacific branches and is one of the largest single short line spin offs in UP

Union Pacific Railroad in Idaho

Fast Facts

- 849 Miles of Track
- 945 Employees
- \$77.6 M Payroll
- \$58.4 M Capital Spend
- \$130,000 Community Giving
- 47 Non-Profit Organizations

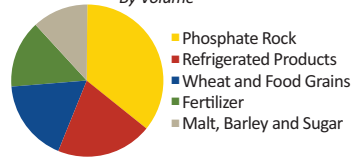
Historical Significance

- Sun Valley
- Rails to Trails Program

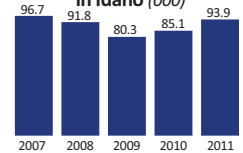


Union Pacific Railroad in Idaho

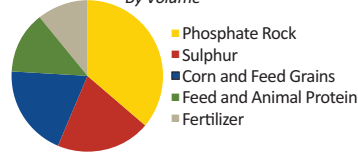
Top 5 Commodities Shipped in 2011 By Volume



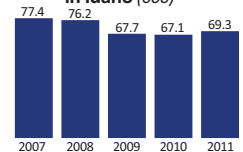
Total Cars Originated in Idaho (000)



Top 5 Commodities Received in 2011 By Volume

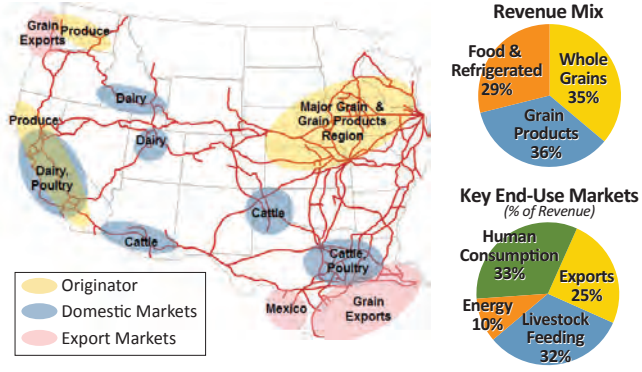


Total Cars Terminated in Idaho (000)

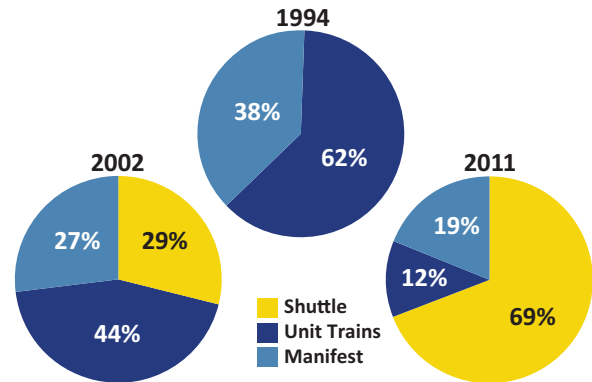


Agricultural Products

\$3.4 Billion Revenue in 2011

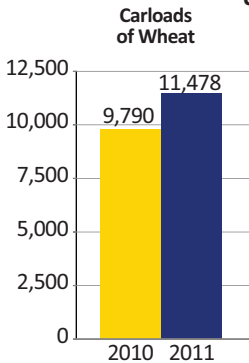


Union Pacific Grain Volume by Train Type

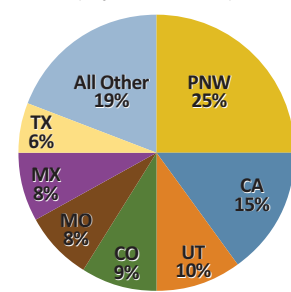


Idaho Wheat Volume

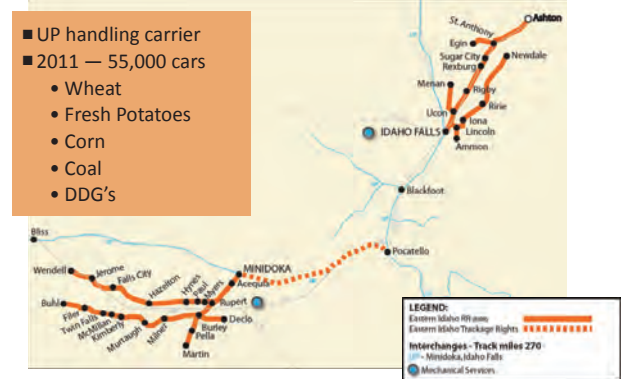
Calendar Year



Destinations (\$ of total units, 2011)



Eastern Idaho Railroad (EIRR)



history. EIRR operates two Sub Divisions that move more than 45,000 carloads a year to the Union Pacific interchanges at Minidoka and Idaho Falls.

Union Pacific's Idaho heritage

The first rails in Idaho were built by John Young, son of Mormon president of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Brigham Young. Originally intended to serve Mormon farmers in Northern Utah's

Cache Valley, Utah Northern Railroad reached Franklin, Idaho, from Ogden, Utah, in 1874.

Investor Jay Gould felt the line's future was reaching the mines in Montana. He took it over and reorganized it as the Utah & Northern Railway in 1878. Union Pacific acquired ownership and extended the line north to Montana, reaching Silver Bow in 1881.

UP subsidiary Oregon Short Line

entered Idaho in 1882. Seven years later, OSL was consolidated with Utah & Northern and Utah Central. The Idaho lines were then operated as part of the Union Pacific system, but retained a separate legal identity as Oregon Short Line until they were merged into UP in 1987.

UP also founded the Sun Valley resort in Idaho in 1936, the UP engineering department in Omaha designed the first ski chairlift that summer.

Variety Performance and Planting Dates

By Dr. Brad Brown, Extension Soil and Crop Management Specialist, Parma R&E Center

Variety selection is an important management decision for maximizing wheat production and quality. Considerations typically include pest resistance, height and straw strength, grain quality, and yield potential for the environment. Yield performance in most variety trials typically represents variety performance with nearly optimum planting dates for the region of interest. Yet, in many areas late plantings may be as prevalent as more optimal plantings. Late harvested crops such as potatoes, sugarbeets, and grain corn can delay wheat plantings well beyond the optimum for maximum yield expression. For southwestern Idaho, yield declined as much as 6.4% for each week delay in planting beyond October 1 to 15. More typically the yield loss ranged from 1 to 4% for each week delay.

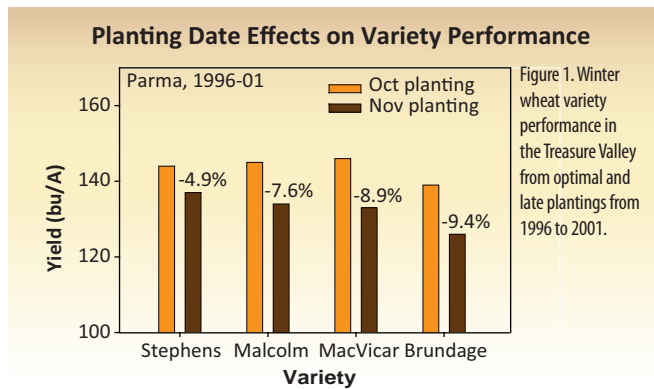


Figure 1. Winter wheat variety performance in the Treasure Valley from optimal and late plantings from 1996 to 2001.

Seldom are varieties examined and chosen based on their performance under later than optimum conditions. Perhaps they should be. Because of the large portion of wheat late planted in western Idaho, as much as half by some estimates, variety performance in both optimum and late plantings has routinely been measured in the area since 1996. As it turns out, varieties which do well in optimal plantings is no guarantee that they will maintain their yield advantage or ranking in late plantings. While all varieties tend to be less productive in late plantings, they differ in their loss of yield potential.

The soft white winter wheat variety Stephens, released in 1978 from OSU, is still one of the most popular varieties grown in western Idaho, despite several subsequent releases from public and private breeding programs. One of the reasons Stephens continues to be popular is that it maintains its yield potential better than many when plantings are delayed into November. Figure 1 shows the yield of Stephens and three subsequently released varieties with optimal (mid-October) and late (mid-November) seedings during the period 1996 through 2001. While Stephens yield declined almost 5% in late plantings, yield of other varieties decreased from 7.6 to 9.4%. Malcolm (released 1987) and Macvicar (released 1992) were as productive as Stephens in early plantings but not so when late planted. Similar results were found when Stephens was compared with Hubbard, ORCF 102, Goetze, Tubbs, WB Mohler, and Daws.

Fortunately this situation is changing. Some more recent releases have matched the capacity of Stephens for maintaining yield in late seedings. For example, Figure 2 shows Tubbs 06 and Bruneau lose no more of their yield potential than Stephens with mid-November plantings. WB 528 also matched Stephens yield in both early and late plantings (data not shown).

More extensive information on relative winter wheat variety performance as affected by planting dates is available in the Cereal Sentinel newsletter for Treasure Valley producers and sponsored by the Idaho Wheat Commission. The results are summarized in issues 52, 55, and 58, all of which are available from the newsletter button on the website at <http://www.cals.uidaho.edu/swidaho>.

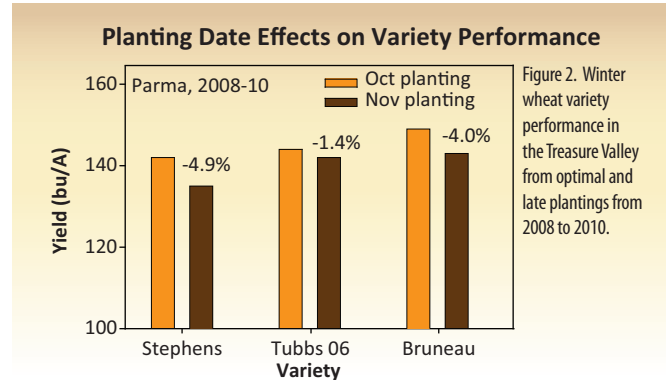


Figure 2. Winter wheat variety performance in the Treasure Valley from optimal and late plantings from 2008 to 2010.

It is not clear whether current winter wheat breeding programs have purposely developed new varieties with better tolerance to late plantings or it has been serendipitous. Suffice it to say that at least three breeding programs in the Pacific Northwest can boast of such traits in recent releases.

Nor is it clear why some varieties are more tolerant of late plantings than others. All varieties tend to tiller less when late planted and produce fewer heads. All varieties also tend to compensate for fewer tillers and heads by increasing seed numbers per head or producing larger seeds. Which of these mechanisms is associated with better tolerance to late seeding is unknown and may differ for each variety.

Planting dates are critically important to maximizing grain yields and quality. Planting dates can't always be controlled for a variety of reasons related to weather, rotation, financing, soil conditions, vacations, and others. When late plantings can't be avoided, look for varieties with proven advantages for those conditions.

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