

IDAHO GRAIN

THE IDAHO GRAIN PRODUCERS ASSOCIATION MAGAZINE

WINTER 2014



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ICAN'T believe that a year as IGPA president is coming to an end. I have started writing this on my trip from the National Association of Wheat Growers fall meeting to the IGPA fall meeting in Boise.

Farmers will always have issues that affect their farms and families and being an active participant over the years to help find solutions and represent you, the Idaho wheat and barley grower, has definitely been a privilege.

I started my journey with IGPA in 2001 and what a year that was for me. My father had an operation leaving me to run harvest by myself. The World Trade Center was hit and thousands of Americans were killed. I attended my first Nez Perce County Grain Growers meeting and was chosen as their representative to the IGPA board.

That year I also lost my friend and mentor, my father passed away. However, I gained many great friends and mentors through IGPA. These farmer leaders and advocates helped to not only shape me as a person, but

helped to shape all of our farming operations through their leadership and dedication.

My first IGPA meeting was in Boise where past Executive Director Steve Johnson and past IGPA president Tom Zenner made me feel welcomed. I learned some good lessons from past president Duane Grant at that meeting as well.

Past presidents Bill Flory, Wayne Hurst, Gordon Gallup, and Scott Brown have been true mentors in every sense of the word. Their professionalism and leadership at the state and national levels is something each dues paying IGPA member should be proud of and have benefited from tremendously.

My friendship with the two Joe Anderson's, Potlatch and Genesee, have been special. Potlatch, from his wealth of knowledge and Genesee with our conversations traveling to and from Boise and other destinations. And my friendship with Past President Eric Hasselstrom. We watched our families grow up together and watched our kids play against each other in sports when mine weren't hurt.

Finally, this position would be harder without great staff. Congratulations needs to go out to Christie Prescott for the birth of her first child Gus and farmers are getting a real benefit from our lobbyists Kate Haas and John Foster.

And there is our executive director, Travis Jones. Travis and I had classes together at the U of I and worked with each other while he was a staffer in D.C. Travis is a true professional and his knowledge on how D.C. works provides great benefit to each and every wheat and barley grower in Idaho.

The ending year of my IGPA journey has been similar to my start in 2001. The Farm Bill was finally passed. I served as chairman of NAWG's Research & Tech committee, and I am currently chairman of the U.S. Wheat/NAWG Joint Biotech committee. Russia invaded Ukraine and global terrorism is on the rise again. My oldest son graduated high school and is now enrolled at the University of Idaho while my youngest son broke his foot and missed harvest.

Along with those things I had a scare with my best friend and partner, my wife Rhonda was diagnosed with breast cancer. The day before I was leaving to Washington, D.C. representing Idaho and national wheat research, Rhonda asked me to feel a lump.

Things moved quickly from the time of actual diagnosis to surgery. In between I was juggling duties as a father, husband, farmer, and IGPA volunteer. Rhonda's surgery was two days before Dillon's graduation, but with the help of friends the ceremony was streamed live to her. Man I love technology.

We have been truly blessed that she is now cancer free after a double mastectomy without needing chemo or radiation. The support from not only the Kendrick community, but my wheat and farming community domestically and internationally was tremendous. And I can't say enough about the support from my friends from IGPA and the Idaho wheat and barley commissioners.

The farmer and agriculture community in Idaho is truly a family. We may have squabbles from time to time but when push comes to shove we stand with each other in times of need.

We need to stand even closer and more firmly together today than ever before.

There are many forces trying to divide us and working against us such as media and activists to name a few. Even though the IWC and IBC have different areas of responsibility than IGPA, we need to work even harder at continuing our great relationships to be even more effective. As the saying goes: "United we stand, divided we fall."

I know I didn't talk about specific issues or what has taken place which is typical protocol, you as farmers live that every day. But we need you to stand firm with us as well. Without your membership IGPA is not an organization. Remember, we are just volunteers trying our best to represent all of Idaho's wheat and barley growers.

So thank you for this opportunity to serve you, the Idaho grain producer. It has truly been an honor and privilege to work for you and your family for the betterment of all of us and Idaho. Just remember, IGPA cannot exist without you and it is you who my predecessors, current officers, staff and I are working for.

Take care, God Bless, and may your bins overflow with grain! ■

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Annual Inspiration

EVERY fall season I spend two weeks traveling the state meeting with our 22 county grower organizations. It's an exhausting, but invigorating annual ritual. Interacting directly with our membership base – listening to and learning from them – is not only invaluable to my effectiveness on their behalf, but inspiring as well. I thought I would share a sampling of my experience from my fall travels.

The annual county meeting tour began on October 24 in Cottonwood, Idaho. Idaho County's leadership team had just got a whole lot younger after years of stable "senior" oversight. The new county director (age less than 30) is the son of the previous director. His efforts to do the dirty detail work to create a relevant and effective meeting were outstanding. The result? The largest attendance in recent memory.

Two days later, I cruised into Bonners Ferry, Idaho. An area I refer to as the "Garden of Eden" for its tendency to be free from problems plaguing most other parts of Idaho. This year was different. On top of significant crop damage sustained from untimely rains, a respected young farmer had recently lost his spouse to a rare medical incident. The farm community in the area had rallied to support him and his family.

That morning as folks slowly filed into the backroom of the local diner, I was stunned when this particular farmer appeared. I had assumed that he would not attend given the circumstances, but there he was. After the meeting's adjournment, we talked. This normally outspoken grower was understandably subdued, and I was humbled. Somehow he made a choice to attend a somewhat routine grain grower meeting. He had the courage to face the public during what must be one of the most difficult times of his life.

October 25th was a crisp, clear Palouse morning. Hall's Corner Bar in Genesee was the site of the Latah County Grain Growers breakfast meeting. Two local political candidates from opposing parties spoke to the farmers assembled about their reasons for running for the Idaho State Legislature. Both individuals had solid farm backgrounds and they, admittedly, differed little on most policy issues. The amicable atmosphere in the room that morning stood in stark contrast to the stifling political gridlock 3,000 miles away in Washington, DC. We are fortunate to live in Idaho.

The Fairview Inn is a dated, yet elegant location on the banks of the American Falls reservoir. Owned and operated by an elderly couple, the turnout for the Power County Grain Growers meeting is always good. The homemade meal never disappoints.

This year's October 27 gathering featured a representative of an area wheat milling company. The field man faced an audience of farmers already on edge from the untimely, "once-in-a-lifetime" rains that devastated this year's harvest. The field man did a commendable job carefully weaving his way through the barrage of questions from growers lobbed at him like Molotov cocktails.

When the meeting ended, a grower approached me and privately informed me that if the IGPA is not able to secure federal disaster money for weather-related disaster, he will be forced to sell his farm. His cool, even words were remarkable given the gravity of their content. The conversation made more real the extent of the problem, and fortified my resolve to do what was necessary.

The next morning I hit the road early to high country of Caribou County. No county more strongly supports the IGPA's state legislative Political Action Committee (PAC) than Caribou. Created in 2010, the Idaho Wheat & Barley PAC uses grower dollars to elect candidates supportive of Idaho wheat and barley farmers.

At the October 28 county meeting, the tight-knit groups donated big bucks to the PAC in exchange for raffle tickets to win 50 hours use of a new John Deere tractor. Large donors received an additional shot at a 12-gauge shotgun donated anonymously. Their consistent generosity is always thrilling and a big boost to the IGPA's efforts within the state legislature.

Not far down Interstate 15 from the Caribou County line is the Dude Ranch Café in Malad City. Clearly a local dining hotspot, the Café is one of my favorite places to return to each year for the Oneida County Grain Grower meeting. While the food is always fantastic, this year palpable frustration hung over the dinner table when I reported on the contentious open range issue. Farmer frustration with local cattle operators has boiled. Growers want accountability from ranchers to make fence repairs and take responsibility for damage to crops from hungry herds.

It was this scene a year prior that led to a new IGPA policy to pursue a solution seeking fairness over the open range law. From our policy directive, the IGPA appointed a key group of grain leaders and met with the cattle association's leadership in February. The meeting was amicable and staff was directed to develop a draft plan over the summer that could be further discussed. To the group assembled at the Café that night, I presented the plan. Some balked, some seemed encouraged. I emphasized that it was just a start to a long process, but that the IGPA will finish what we started.

You know, IGPA past president and Ririe farmer Clark Hamilton sure can be a persuasive guy. He tries hard not to be – his attempts at remaining humble are genuine. He works reliably to pick his words and battles carefully. The last five years of his life as an IGPA officer has made him arguably one of the most effective leaders the IGPA has ever had.

On October 30 Clark and I were eating lunch with two Jefferson County growers who we hoped would be willing to form and lead a new county grower affiliate to the IGPA. The lunch was easy and productive. The two Jefferson County growers agreed to kickstart a new county grain group. With Clark's effort and guidance at that simple lunch, the IGPA added 1,106 square miles and an important grain growing area to its resume.

After two weeks of experiencing these stories and many others, I returned home to a happy pregnant wife, my stepson and my French bulldog. Nearly 3,000 miles driven and another annual county meeting tour was completed. I was exhausted...but inspired. ■



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IGPA Officers Attend National Wheat Fall Meeting

THE 2014 Joint Fall Wheat Conference of the National Association of Wheat Growers (NAWG) and U.S. Wheat Associates (USW) was held October 29-November 1 in Santa Ana, New Mexico.

President Robert Blair, vice president Sid Cellan, and executive committee member “Potlatch” Joe Anderson represented the IGPA at the event which brought together wheat growers from around the country to discuss high priority issues and to plan for the year ahead.

The meeting broke out into several committee sessions attended by the trio.

NAWG/US Wheat Joint Biotech Committee

The NAWG and USW Joint Biotech Committee discuss a wide range of biotechnology facing the wheat industry today. Chaired by IGPA president Robert Blair, the committee discussed a USDA report on its investigation into the discovery of genetically modified wheat on an eastern Oregon farm in 2013. Other topics included biotech initiatives, initiatives to require labeling of foods containing genetically modified materials, and a report from the Wheat Innovation Alliance (WIA).

Chairman Blair led a focused discussion on efforts from the agriculture industry to gain a Low Level Presence (LLP) for genetically modified traits in shipments of grain, both domestically and internationally, and how the wheat industry can be involved going forward.

“I felt it was past time for U.S. wheat farmers and industry to focus on the LLP issue,” said Blair. “We export over half of our wheat crop every year and we need to be proactive.”

The discussion led to a motion by the committee authorizing Chairman Blair and staff to collaborate with other grain groups to recommend a threshold level at the NAWG winter board meeting in January.

Research & Technology Committee

Blair also represented Idaho as a committee member of the NAWG Research and Technology Committee. Matt Erickson of the American Farm Bureau Federation (AFBF) gave an overview of commodity group discussions related to farmer data privacy. Erickson stressed that the guiding principles of technology providers be consistent and transparent in their policies concerning agricultural data generated from farms.

Blair, a former chair of the committee, gave an update on current Federal Aviation Administration rules regarding Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs) and discussed the challenges the rules posed to farmers wishing to use the technology and manage data collected. He emphasized the need for farmer representation on the FAA advisory committee.

The Committee passed a resolution in support of grower representation on the Federal Aviation Administration small commercial Unmanned Air Systems rulemaking committee.

Domestic and Trade Policy Committee

Soda Springs farmer Sid Cellan represented Idaho at the meeting of NAWG’s Domestic and Trade Policy Committee. Cellan’s committee received a presentation focused on rail capacity issues faced by northern plains farmers and industry. Tara Smith and Michael Torrey spoke about the future of federal crop insurance on behalf of the Crop Insurance Reinsurance

Bureau. Smith said that crop insurance is now a target of many organizations and agriculture must band together in the coming years to defend the program if it is to be sustained in future Farm Bill’s.

The DTPC heard presentations from Texas A&M professor Dr. Joe Outlaw and Dr. Gary Schnitkey of the University of Illinois. The economists helped develop the Farm Bill program decision tools, and walked committee members through the process that many farmers will experience in the upcoming months. Both professors stressed that farmer education is of the utmost importance to ensure that growers make an informed decision that will last until 2018.

“I got a lot out of the committee’s discussion of the Farm Bill programs and direction crop insurance is going,” said Cellan. “The IGPA and our two commissions are working right now to solve a major problem with insurance due to the heavy rains in August.”

Other Idaho farmers attending the joint meeting were commissioners and staff of the Idaho Wheat Commission. The commission delegation attended business meetings and workshops hosted by the US Wheat Associates, the national marketing and production arm of the U.S. wheat industry. ■



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Elections 2014

Republicans Take Over U.S. Senate; Expand Majority in House

Election night, November 4th, was an all-out victory for the Republican Party. In a series of hard-fought Senate races, Republicans trounced their Democrat opposition to seize control of the chamber for the first time since 2008.

Kentucky Senator and Republican leader Mitch McConnell won his re-election bid and is anticipated to be installed as the Senate Majority Leader when the party caucus votes on its leaders in the coming months.

The Republican winning streak extended to pickups in Arkansas, Colorado, Iowa, Montana, North Carolina, South Dakota and West Virginia. In Georgia, candidates from long-serving political families faced off. Businessman David Perdue, cousin of former Governor Sonny Perdue, defeated Democrat Michelle Nunn, daughter of former Georgia Senator Sam Nunn, by a 14 percent margin.

In one of the most closely watched races, Kansas Senator Pat Roberts won a fourth term over Independent candidate Greg Orman. The GOP Senate takeover could elevate Senator Roberts to be chairman of the Senate Agriculture Committee. Roberts, who previously chaired the House Committee on Agriculture from 1995-1997, stated that he would be the next chairman of the Senate Committee on Agriculture and “we will put farmers and ranchers first.”

Republican candidates also cleaned up in the US House of Representatives, gaining at least 14 more seats to add to Speaker of the House John Boehner’s (R-Ohio) existing majority. The election night victories bring the Republican majority in the upcoming 114th Congress to the party’s largest count since World War II.

Idaho Elections Also Good for Republicans

Contributions by Brent Olmstead, MPIIdaho, Inc.

Idaho’s election results mirrored the projections of what most pollsters expected. In the congressional races, US Senator Risch, Congressman Raúl Labrador and Congressman Mike Simpson all won by large margins.

The results for statewide seats displayed wider vote margins that many anticipated. Winning a rare third term, Governor C.L. “Butch” Otter overcame a challenge from hard-charging opponent



A.J. Balukoff. Meanwhile Lieutenant Governor Brad Little, Attorney General Lawrence Wasden, and Treasurer Ron Crane all won big. In the race to succeed retiring Secretary of State Ben Ysursa, former Idaho House Speaker Lawrence Denney of Midvale defeated Boise Democrat Holli Woodings by a 13 percent margin.

The only close statewide election was the open race for Superintendent of Public Instruction. Just like her primary election, political newcomer Sherri Ybarra won a race that few expected her to. Ybarra, an educator and school administrator from Mountain Home, squeaked out a win over Democrat Jana Jones by just 1.4 percentage points.

Bids for the Idaho State Legislature provided little movement in the makeup of either Chamber. The GOP continued its dominance over Democrats

in the Idaho Senate, however the Democrats picked up one additional seat in the House as Lewiston incumbent Thrya Stevenson lost to newcomer Dan Stevenson by just 26 votes. Stevenson’s defeat was not an anomaly however, as several Idaho legislative races were decided by slim margins.

House Minority Leader Dr. John Rusche of Lewiston won his race by only 48 votes. In District 5, incumbent Republican Representative Cindy Agidius (Moscow) lost by 500 votes to Paulette Jordan a councilwoman with the Coeur d’Alene Tribe. In the same District, Republican Caroline Nilsson-Troy defeated Democrat Gary Osborn (Troy) by over 1,400 votes for the open seat vacated by Shirley Ringo.

In Boise, incumbent Republican Representative Lyn Luker won re-election by a 69-vote margin over perennial candidate Steve Berch. Republican Representative Steve Miller of Fairfield earned a return to the Idaho State House by defeating former US Olympic high jumper Dick Fosbury by less than 200 votes.

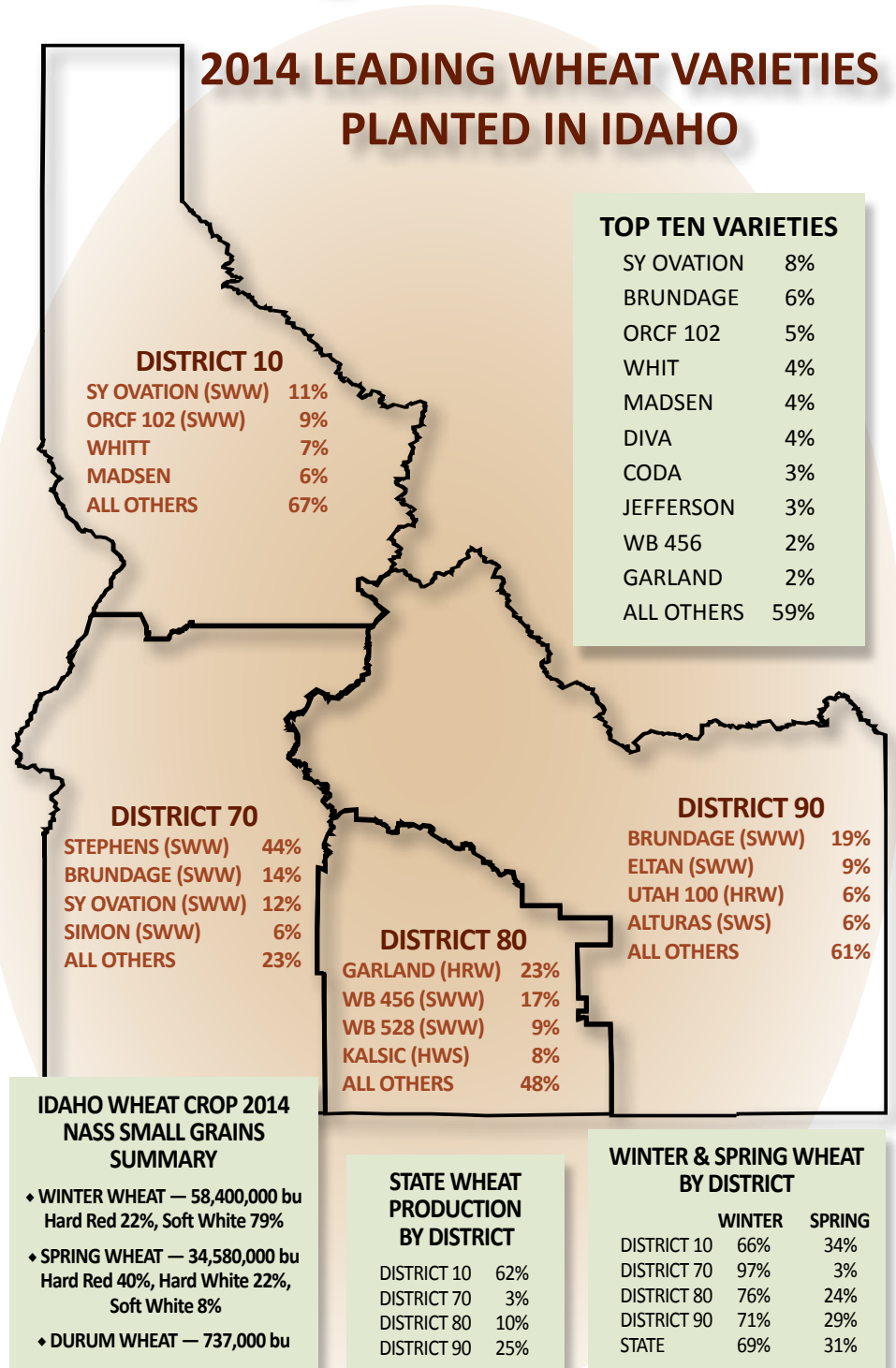
Idaho’s new state legislators will attend a new member orientation on December 1-3 to prepare them for the 2015 legislative session scheduled to convene January 12, 2015. ■



New Leader Tops the List

NO surprise, there is a new “King of the Hill” on the Top Ten List in the Idaho Wheat Commission variety survey. Remember that game children play where they knock each other off the top of the couch? It happens fast. The days of a variety with a 30 year life span are gone. Seven of the largest international seed companies and three regional land grant universities are now focused on wheat variety development. The variety game is changing rapidly. Looking at leading variety surveys from each state, the top variety in Idaho is not the same as the top variety in Washington or Oregon. Breeders are now able to develop and test varieties tailored for specific production areas defined by rainfall zone, soil type, production systems, management and equipment preferences and disease concerns. While sometimes confusing, this is good for the savvy grower who knows the strengths and weaknesses of his or her particular operation. Growers now have more choices to match agronomic performance of varieties to their specific needs and keep the elevator, miller and bakers happy, too.

The challenge comes in knowing what options are out there and learning how to grow each new variety. Some growers routinely set aside a half pivot for strip trials of new varieties for several years before they decide to switch out significant portions of their acres to something new. That was the case with SY Ovation, a new soft white winter wheat from Syngenta. SY Ovation caught the eye of producers in the Palouse over several years of grower trials. Then growers tried it in Southern Idaho and to an extent in Oregon. Three years after it was first reported in the Idaho variety survey, SY Ovation has 8% of the planted wheat acres in Idaho and the top spot on the list. Ovation is in European genetic



background, similar to Norwest 553, which carries genetic yield potential new to the PNW. SY Ovation has shown an increase in yield over a fairly wide geographic area,

carries a good disease package and has desirable end-use quality, but it still is not for everyone in every location.

Brundage a long time favorite in



Idaho, was knocked off the top of the hill a couple of years ago when it got hit with sever stripe rust. In 2014, it climbed back to second position with 6% of the total planted acres in the state. Brundage is widely adapted, with good yield potential, easy threshing and handling ability, desirable end-use quality and is consistently a good all-around performer. Except when it isn't. Brundage is susceptible to stripe rust and if not sprayed with a fungicide it will take a big yield and quality hit in a bad stripe-rust year. Juliet Marshall, University of Idaho small grains agronomist, located in Aberdeen Idaho, would love to see Brundage retired with honors, and replaced with newer varieties carrying resistance to multiple diseases, including strip rust. But the grain chain still requests grain of Brundage by name because of its excellent handling traits and its desirable end-use qualities. Brundage will be hanging around a bit longer.

Clearfield technology has a specific niche on the north Idaho acres where jointed goat grass is a serious weed problem and the crop rotation is less effected by the herbicide carry over of Beyond™. ORCF102 has been the leading variety planted on north Idaho wheat acres for several years. Last year it was “King of the Hill” for the whole state, both winter and spring varieties. In the panhandle of Idaho, SY Ovation was planted on 11% of the acres in 2014 and ORCF102 on 9%. Madsen the historic variety of choice in the panhandle was still planted on 6% of the acres this year.

Clearfield technology is a necessity on many acres but not on every acre of wheat. In Southeastern Idaho, it can be an advantage on specific fields but generally comes with a sacrifice in yield growers in the Snake River Plain are not willing to accept. Growers get paid on yield and the variety that results in the highest, most consistent yield, year after year, will be planted.

It may seem like 8 to 10% of the total wheat acres planted in the state isn't much of a market share. But about 10% is the maximum any variety has garnered in



Juliet Marshall, U of I small grains agronomist, explains traits and performance of new wheat varieties in south eastern Idaho.

Idaho in the last ten years. Seventy different spring and winter wheat varieties were reported on the 2014 wheat variety surveys. Each year between 5 and 10 new variety names are added to the drop down menus on the survey, but few are removed. The top ten varieties in the state combine to represent 41% of the acres reported on the IWC variety survey. All other varieties planted make up 59% of the acres but each of these varieties is on less than 2% of the total wheat acres in the state.

The National Agricultural Statistics Service divides the state of Idaho into four reporting areas. The panhandle, District 10, plants 62% of all wheat acres in Idaho. District 9 plants 25% of the total wheat acres in the state, most of which is winter wheat. Bingham County, in District 90, is number one in wheat production for any Idaho county because of the high yields possible under irrigated production.

District 80 and District 70 combined plant 13% of the wheat acres in the state. In these two districts, a single variety can have between 20 to 45% of the acres planted in those areas. This has more to do with access to new genetics than best yield and agronomic performance. The varieties planted are historically decent agronomic performers with seed available from local suppliers. Often local

suppliers in the south central and south western Idaho do not have the interest or ability to carry risky inventory positions of expensive new varieties with genetic improvements. The dealers and producers are likely to be content with well-known traditional varieties that have been grown in the area for a decade or longer. In both districts more than 40 species of crop plants are grown, many specialty seed crops or high value row crops. Wheat is viewed as a place holder crop necessary for a good crop rotation plan. But even here, private company varieties SY Ovation, WestBred 456 and WB528 are in the top four varieties for the districts.

The Idaho Wheat Commission will continue to do yearly winter and spring variety surveys to provide an overview of how varieties and markets are changing. This information will help producers to plan for transitions to new varieties in a systematic way that will bring increased yield and efficiency to their wheat production. IWC extends much thanks to the wheat producers throughout the state who take time to complete a survey. Your data is aggregated with no traceability back to the farm, it is reported as a percentage of the whole to protect your identity and competitive advantage. Please continue to help your commission provide this critical data in support of Idaho's wheat stakeholders. ■

MARK YOUR CALENDAR: Friday, January 9 at 8:00 AM MST

Farm Income Tax Update Webinar

Offered to Idaho Grain Growers

The Idaho Wheat Commission will be presenting a web-based grower education webinar. **The Farm Income Tax Update** webinar will be approximately one hour. Participation is free. Log onto the website at <http://connect.cals.uidaho.edu/wheat> (requires Adobe Flash Player which is installed on most computers) and enter your name as a participant.

Farm Income Tax Update. Guest presenter, Jerry Brown, CPA will cover current income tax developments including the new regulation on capitalization of repairs recently imposed by the Internal Revenue Service. Additional topics will cover new changes to the law affecting 2014 tax returns.

For those who cannot view the webinar in real time, it will be recorded and available at: www.idahowheat.org.

Jerry Brown owns and operates a dry land and irrigated farm where he raises winter and spring wheat, and barley. Jerry has been farming for over 40 years, and holds a bachelor's degree in Accounting, a Master of Accounting from Utah State University, and is a Certified Public Accountant.



Brown was appointed by Governor Otter to the Idaho Wheat Commission in 2009. He represents wheat producers of District Five, which includes Bannock, Bear Lake, Caribou, Franklin, Oneida, and Power counties.



Wheat grower David Stolworthy and his neighbors hosts the China Contracting for Wheat Team at his home in Shelly, Idaho.

China Contracting for Wheat Value Team Visits Idaho Falls

SIX participants from the top milling companies in China as well as government agency officials directly involved in wheat purchases participated in the Contracting For Wheat Value (CFWV) Team during July. These buyers represent companies that are responsible for the majority of wheat that China purchases, including soft white wheat from the Pacific Northwest and Idaho. While still relatively small at 185,000 metric tons or 6.7 million bushels, soft white sales to China have been growing in response to a growing middle class that demands more Western Style wheat food products. Higher Chinese incomes are translating into greater

demand for soft white wheat.

Their first stop was Oregon where they visited the Wheat Marketing Center, Federal Grain Inspection Service, toured an export facility and met with US Wheat Associates. The objective of this CFWV Team was to demonstrate the quality and functionality of US wheat and then show the Chinese how to write purchase contract language to assure they get the wheat they want! Steve Wirsching, Vice President and Director of the US Wheat Associates West Coast Office, said that Caveat Emptor, or in English, "let the buyer beware" is one of the basic principles of the international wheat market. Often times the complexity of

purchasing wheat from the United States can be a challenge for new buyers. Buyers who fully understand our grain inspection and logistics system are satisfied with the quality and value they receive. Less experienced buyers often fail to adjust complex contract language and do not always consider the full value of additional cost for quality.

The highlight of their trip was the State of Idaho where they were able to meet with wheat producers and learn more about the personal commitment growers have to producing the highest quality wheat in the world. The team enjoyed a farm tour and riding on a combine, something they will not soon forget. ■



Market for Idaho Wheat is Healthy and Long-term

Piles of wheat in American Falls

IDAHO wheat growers have asked for information on the long-term outlook for wheat so that lenders can be reassured, following the devastating rains that occurred in August.

Idaho typically enjoys dry weather at harvest. It is highly unusual to have excessive moisture at the levels received this year. August and early-September were the wettest on record in southern Idaho since 1953. The last time extreme weather caused crop losses at these levels was 1968.

Idaho Has Most Consistent Wheat Crop in United States

Among wheat-growing states, Idaho ranks first in having the most consistent wheat crop year after year. This is due to having just right rainfall patterns in northern Idaho and being able to carefully manage irrigation water on the deserts in southern Idaho. Due to rich soils and the availability of water, Idaho ranks second in the U.S. in yield per acre of wheat.

Most wheat-growing states experience more fluctuation in their crops. The chart shown at right compares wheat crops in Idaho and Kansas. The fluctuation shown in Kansas can be applied to most wheat-growing states.

The Wheat Market is Healthy and Robust

The wheat industry is a good place to be. Growth in both export and domestic markets is strong and expected to continue. The last six years are the all-time highest six years in both production and consumption of wheat worldwide.

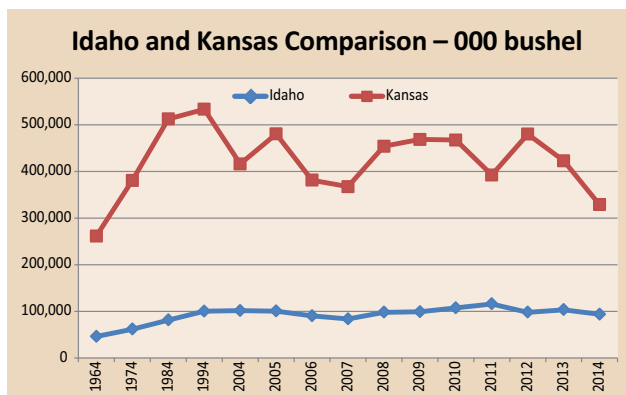
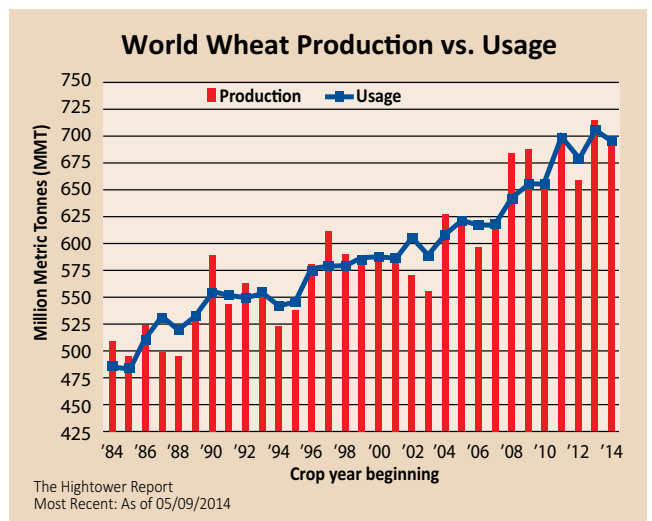
Idaho's Wheat Customers Will Stay Loyal to Idaho Wheat

Idaho has a nice balance of export and domestic customers. About half of Idaho's harvest goes to domestic customers and the other half goes export. Domestic customers include well-known brands such as Wheaties, Wheat Chex, Sun Chips, Pizza Hut, KFC, Goldfish, Oreos,

Mission Tortillas, and Barilla Pasta. There are many others.

Idaho wheat that is exported goes into cookies, crackers, bread, donuts, and pizza crust, just like it does in the U.S. In addition, export customers use it for noodles, steam bread, fine sponge cakes, and flatbreads. Japan is the top export destination followed by Mexico, Philippines, Korea, and Taiwan.

The primary crop damage occurred in areas serving mostly domestic customers. The Idaho Wheat Commission has been in touch with all of our large domestic users and all have reassured us that they understand this year is an anomaly and wheat from Idaho will remain their preferred choice. The millers are making every effort to use as much of the damaged crop as possible.



Crop Insurance and This Year's Harvest

Piles of wheat, such as shown above in American Falls, are way too common this year. Some of this wheat has not yet found a market due to sprout damage or low falling numbers. Disaster areas have been declared in 22 counties in Idaho.

Coverage gaps in the crop insurance program have been exposed and it is not the safety net expected. A task force has been assembled by the Governor to examine the problem and bring help to growers. The near-term objective is to quantify how much wheat truly has no market and can qualify for insurance payments.

The longer-term objective of the task force is to make changes to crop insurance so that the coverage gaps are closed.

What Is "Low Falling Number" Wheat?

Wheat destined for export has been tested for a falling number score for many years. It is new to many growers serving the domestic market because it has been less of an issue on the deserts of southern Idaho and because domestic millers were not requiring it. Growers wanting to know more about the test and how it is done can learn in the video at:

www.youtube.com/watch?v=YMjhdSskXP0



What Are The Next Steps?

The good news is that the wheat market is healthy and Idaho's customers will continue to be loyal. The bad news is that moving this year's crop is a huge challenge. Millers have relaxed standards significantly to try to use as much of the damaged crop as possible. As communicated in our mid-August newsletter, we encourage all wheat harvested after the rain to be stored separately from wheat harvested prior to, so the market can determine how best to use it.

At the same time, the wheat commission will continue to prod government agencies on short-term fixes to existing policies to try to help this year's harvest, as well as implementing long-term fixes. ■

OUR CLASSROOM COVERS FIVE STATES



Northwest FCS Relationship Manager Colton Brown (left) with customer Ryan Lankford

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Mark Samson

Idaho FSA Director

By Cindy Snyder

IDAHO'S new director of the USDA Farm Service Agency brings a wealth of grain marketing knowledge with him to the position, a skill set that will be critical as farm policy shifts focus under the 2014 Farm Bill.

Mark Samson is quick to admit that he is not an expert in farm policy. After working with wheat export markets for much of the last three decades in wheat export promotion and international business, he is much more comfortable discussing exchange rates than target prices. But that different perspective may help him guide implementation of new farm programs that seem to be more focused on marketing than production.

Samson has deep roots in Idaho. He was born in north Idaho but grew up near Pocatello. His father was an extension educator with the University of Idaho and told him he'd pay for college anywhere Mark wanted to go — as long as it was the University of Idaho.

After graduating with a master's degree in agricultural economics, Mark served as assistant director in the Washington, DC, office of Western Wheat Associates, a legacy organization to U.S. Wheat Associates. He then went to work for Morrison Knudsen as a senior accountant and served in several overseas assignments, including Saudi Arabia.

He later worked as an international trade coordinator for the State of Idaho before serving 11 years as administrator for the Idaho Wheat Commission. He then joined USW as regional vice president for South Asia in Singapore and then vice president for Europe, Middle East, East and North Africa in Egypt and The Netherlands.

At one point, he was watching the markets in 48 countries while at the

same time introducing six distinct classes of wheat grown in the U.S. to buyers who viewed it as 1) over-priced or 2) something exotic that they weren't sure how to use.

"At US Wheat, we developed a lot of technical programs to show the economic value of a bushel of U.S. wheat compared to a Russian or Ukrainian or even an Australia bushel and it was all done under the microscope of the competition," Samson says. "We were problem solvers."

He plans to bring that can-do attitude to an agency that is just beginning to roll out new farm programs. "The policy direction has already been set," Samson explains. "I'm looking forward to working with producers to identify those opportunities that will be beneficial to their operations."

Joe Anderson, a wheat grower from Potlatch and an executive officer for the Idaho Grain Producers Association, expects Samson to do all that is in his power to administer USDA FSA programs in a way that benefits Idaho agriculture.

"Mark understands Idaho agriculture and brings, what may be, a rather unique perspective to the state executive position," Anderson explains pointing to Samson's many experiences dealing with wheat grower issues in research, market development and service. "He understands how critical it is to deliver quality products to our domestic and export markets."

Even though the FSA state executive director is one of only a few positions



filled by presidential appointment, Samson is not a political hack. He's a marketing and business guy who hopes to expand the role of state executive director to spend more time making presentations to producers so they can make informed decisions about the new farm programs and so they can educate him.

"I'd like to carry information back to the state and national levels so policy can be improved," he says.

Samson took over as the new FSA director on November 3. He is excited to work with the FSA staff across the state as they begin to implement these new programs. FSA employs 130 people in 29 offices across the state.

"I have found from working with FSA staff on a limited basis that they know their people very well and they know their industries very well," Samson says. "I am looking forward to learning from them and working with them to see how we can implement the programs better." ■

Ben Thiel

USDA Risk Management, Spokane

By *Cindy Snyder*

THE new head of the USDA Risk Management Agency brings a wealth of policy expertise along with practical farm experience.

It's a nearly perfect combination as the agency enters into a new era under the 2014 Farm Bill where crop insurance will have a prominent role in the farm safety net.

Kelly Olson has worked with Ben Thiel on barley insurance changes over the last few years. She describes him as most capable. "Ben brings a skill set that will be useful to the region," says the Idaho Barley Commission administrator.

Thiel assumed the duties of the RMA Spokane Regional Office this fall. He is responsible for all aspects of crop insurance in Idaho, Oregon, Washington and Alaska.

For the past six years, Thiel worked for RMA's Product Management Office in Kansas City. As a risk management specialist in the Policy Administration Branch, he oversaw area-based insurance plans for canola, forage, malting barley, onions and all small grains. He developed and implemented an insurance pricing structure based on contract prices for specialty-type crops. Thiel helped refine this structure through development of the contract price addendum, which allows most organic crops to be insured at a contract price.

He also helped implement several privately submitted 508(h) products and many of the new crop insurance exchanges enacted by the Agricultural Act of 2014.

One of the challenges Thiel faces is changing his emphasis from developing programs to advocating those programs. Olson believes he is more than up to that task pointing to a new malt barley

revenue insurance product that IBC has been working with RMA to develop. They met with a private company to work on details in October and Olson was impressed with Thiel's willingness to work with all parties to get the product available as soon as possible (likely 2016).

"His expertise is very useful and I think he has the right mindset to help us," Olson said.

Thiel is mindful of expectations crop producers and taxpayers alike have for crop insurance in the coming years. Balancing those expectations against the complex nature of insurance instruments (which are legally binding contracts) with the inherent risks involved with agriculture and government policy that essentially says 'if there is a disaster, you are on your own' is a large responsibility.

"Crop insurance is an intricate and complex program with many aspects," Thiel explains. "That raises a lot of questions. You work years in advance for things to change, but when people have problems they want it fixed yesterday."

Thiel is thankful the Spokane Regional office has been so proactive in educating growers in the past and he hopes to build on that outreach going forward.

"The expectation in the future is that producers need to put more emphasis on understanding all aspects of the farm bill and how it impacts their operation," he says. "All of USDA has made it a priority to educate producers."

Coming from a small hay, barley and potato farm just west of Idaho Falls, Thiel is well aware of the reluctance — even animosity — some producers feel



towards government programs. Even though he is not actively involved with the family farm, Thiel still feels a connection to the land and has pursued career opportunities related to agriculture.

After graduating from Idaho State University with a bachelor of arts degree, he went to work as manager and merchandizer in the grain elevator business. He put those experiences to work when he joined the USDA Farm Service Agency as a warehouse examiner. He oversaw warehouses storing cotton, grains, peanuts, sugar and processed commodities under the United States Warehouse Act and storage agreements for the Commodity Credit Corporation in southeastern Virginia.

That was a learning experience. Not only was he working new crops and unfamiliar agronomic practices, but producers were coping with the loss of quota systems for peanuts and tobacco. To say there was animosity about the changes to the farm policy is an understatement.

But those experiences helped Thiel define what he calls the three characteristics of leaders: integrity, competence and empathy. "Leaders take responsibility and do the right thing even if it's not in their best interest," he explains. ■



Idaho Wheat Producers Invest in Tomorrow's Leaders

NOW in its second year, the Idaho Wheat Commission has once again awarded six scholarships to students across the state who are pursuing degrees in Agricultural related studies. These scholarships are designed to target students that are preparing for a career in Agriculture.

Scholarships were awarded to three students enrolled in the College of Agriculture and Life Science programs at the University of Idaho. Each

student received a \$1000 scholarship.

Three students from southeastern Idaho were awarded \$1,000 scholarships to Utah state University's College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences.

The Idaho Wheat Commission is proud to invest in these six outstanding students. Each of these young men and women are poised to become the next generation of leaders in agricultural business, research and technology.

IDAHO WHEAT 2014/15 AG SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

NICK SCHMIDT developed an interest in agriculture from an early age. He grew up with 4-H and learned a variety of skills, from cooking and sewing to welding and firearms. Although he grew up in the center of Boise, he looked outside the city for inspiration. During his elementary and high school years, Nick continued to be active in 4-H. He joined the Boy Scouts of America, where he learned leadership and outdoors skills.



Schmidt attained the rank of Eagle Scout in the BSA, and was chosen to attend two national events on 4-H. Nick partly attributes his personal success to his mom, who "always had a way of motivating me, if you catch my drift." Born to two Vandal alumni, it was easy to see that Nick had a destiny to fulfill. "I've always liked the campus", says Nick, "and I appreciate what the U of I does for Idaho."

Nick is currently a junior at the University working towards his undergraduate degree in Food Science. He says that the IWC scholarship has helped with his expenses in college, adding that, "scholarships like these help me focus less on the monetary aspect of college, and more on the learning."

AUSTRIAL WESTOVER was pleasantly surprised to hear she was selected to be one of three recipients of the Idaho Wheat Commission scholarship. Austrial grew up on a dairy farm where her family raises wheat, alfalfa, corn, and barley. This year the family has 240 acres of fall wheat planted on their dryland farm.



"I love working on the farm and learning about all the different commodities," said Westover. "Working on the farm has helped me decide that I want to have a career in agriculture. I love how farmers know a little bit about everything and are well educated."

Austrial has been working to save money for her education for some time. "I know that money does not come easy, I have always tried to spend my money wisely. I want the Idaho Wheat Commission to know that I will be very careful how I spend this scholarship money. The scholarship money has helped me to be able to continue to take extra time to study and learn so that I can be better prepared to enter the work field."

Westover appreciates the generosity of Idaho wheat growers in helping her further her education.

MITCH RENFROW is currently a junior at the University of Idaho pursuing a Bachelor of Science degree in Agricultural Business. He was raised on the outskirts of the small farm town of Genesee, Idaho. "Growing up in Genesee revolved around school, sports and farming," said Renfrow. "In high school I played three sports and I was involved in FFA. I raised pigs in FFA for the county fair each year. I enjoyed Genesee because I felt that the community was your family and you could always count on people for support and the fact that everyone takes a genuine interest in your well-being."



After high school Mitch chose to attend the University of Idaho for several reasons. The main reason was because the majority of his aunts, uncles, parents, sibling and cousins are all alumni. He was exposed to many events and discussions about the UI from the time he was very young. He also wanted to stay close to the farm where he

tries to help out during the school year and spends his summers working on the farm.

"I chose to major in Agricultural Business because I have a strong passion for the agricultural industry and how important it is to feed the world," said Renfrow. "After I graduate I plan on finding work somewhere in northern Idaho as an agronomist, helping farmers grow the best crops they can to keep up with the world's demand."

Mitch interned this past summer with a local seed company and really enjoyed the interactions with the farmers and helping them with their crop questions. After his dad retires from farming, he plans to continue on the family farm where they raise wheat, barley, peas, lentils and garbanzo beans.

"Growing up my dad always pushed me to be a hard-working and productive individual and I believe it has paid off," said Renfrow. "Sometimes I did not appreciate when I'd have to work instead of hanging out with friends or doing something fun. But I now realize the work ethic that my father instilled has affected my studies and desires to earn my own money for college... in a positive way."

AUSTIN HANNY grew up on a wheat and potato farm in south-eastern Idaho. Two summers ago, he began financing and operating over 200 acres, including over 100 acres of wheat, as he tries to make a start in the agricultural industry. “The experience of running and operating a farm has taught me many things,” said Hanny. “It has highlighted the need for further education if I am to be successful in the agricultural industry, and I have now seen the importance of pursuing a dual major in Agricultural Economics and Finance.”



Austin has maintained a GPA of over 3.93 and is committed to academic excellence. He appreciates the commitment made by Idaho wheat growers to help fund his scholarship. “You can rest assured that your gift will be accompanied with diligence and persistence,” said Hanny. “While at Utah State I have participated in the Huntsman Scholars program with the business college, and currently serve as a business ambassador.”

Hanny has already begun using the knowledge gained at Utah State University by applying it to his farming enterprise. He will continue to gain experience this summer as he interns with an agricultural lending organization.

Austin would like to thank the Idaho Wheat Commission for “investing in the College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences at Utah State University, and for investing in my future.”

WHITT DAVIS really appreciates the \$1000 scholarship provided by the Idaho Wheat Commission to help fund his education. “The money is instrumental to the continuation of my schooling,” said Davis. “Thank you for the gift of a scholarship. Words cannot express how thankful I am for the award.”



Davis is an Idaho farm boy who has thoroughly enjoyed being brought up in a farming community. His entire life has revolved around farming. His grandfather owned a large cattle ranch in a very small town in Elba, Idaho that was later lost due to a virus that infected his cattle. This is one of the reasons Austin would like to practice veterinary medicine.

Austin is an active person who enjoys sports, especially football. His senior year of high school, his team brought home the first state championship for his school. He also enjoys riding dirt bikes and snowmobiling with his family.

“I love having the opportunity to attend USU,” said Davis. “This, so far has been the best experience of my life. I have loved learning and growing each day, and the friends that I have made have influenced my life immensely.”

RICHARD CROOKSTON was born in Moscow, Idaho in 1996; however, he’s had several opportunities to travel outside the country, which has given him an appreciation for the Northwest and has kept him from getting ‘cabin fever.’ These opportunities have made Richard want to look for careers at home and throughout the world.

“Agriculture is an enormous practice with endless opportunity, which is why during my travels I have been able to learn about how farming is done in other places,” said Crookston. “I spent three weeks at an organic farm in the Basque Country of Northern Spain, where I participated in vegetable harvest, transplanting, bakery work, and sausage making.” According to Nick, the family he stayed with was part of a local food cooperative, so everything they ate came from their own farm and their friends’ farm. Their way of life was very attractive to him.

Crookston was also able to work on a chicken farm in Togo, West Africa, where everything was done by hand or machete. The farmers in Togo were the hardest workers he had ever met. To make the feed, they dry the corn out in the sun, use their hands to rub the kernels off, and take the bags of kernels into town



to be ground. “While in Togo, I noticed that the corn cobs often turned out to be small and gnarly, which ended up being a result of inbreeding depression. My friend, Ganyo, told me that they usually harvest their own seed, because seed was so expensive.”

After college Crookston intends to pursue a Master’s degree, however he has not decided if he wants to go into research. “Plant breeding would be an interesting and rewarding job; however I am also interested in policy, regarding Agriculture or working for an NGO abroad.” Because the USA is the largest exporter of food, the policies our government makes in agriculture affect the world’s consumers and producers for better or for worse.

“I am very grateful that the IWC is helping me get through school so that I can learn enough to one day repay society for the experiences it has given me.” ■

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SUCCESS STORY

Three Times Is a Charm for Wheat Exports to Ecuador

U.S. wheat exports are gaining entry into a former Canadian Wheat Board (CWB) stronghold, driven by a trio of activities conducted by U.S. Wheat Associates (USW).

Ecuador traditionally imported most of its wheat from Canada, primarily because the CWB, as a single desk seller, could offer favorable terms and preferential service to Ecuadorian buyers for its spring wheat. As a result, Ecuadorian millers preferred high protein wheat and were not familiar with the cost savings and quality improvement that is possible when wheat classes are blended.

But seeing opportunity when CWB lost its monopoly, USW combined funds from state wheat commission members and USDA's Market Access Program to demonstrate the real benefits that U.S. soft red winter (SRW), hard red winter (HRW) and soft white (SW) wheat provide.

First, USW Milling Consultant Andrea Saturno held two-day technical sessions in May and June 2013 to demonstrate the value of milling SW wheat and the benefits of blending SW with HRS and HRW wheat as a replacement for Canadian Prairie Spring wheat.

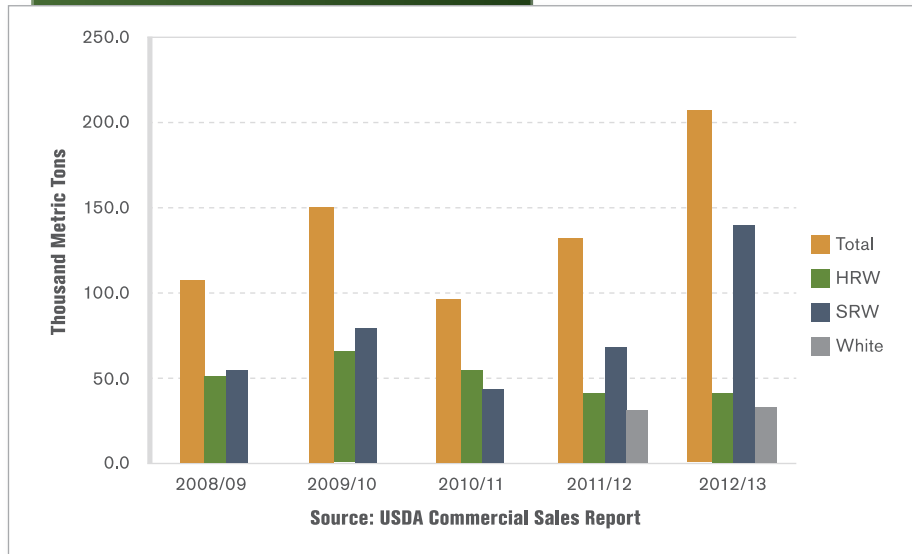
In the growing Ecuadorian wheat foods market, bakers face significant competitive pressure. As a result, they are starting to demand the kinds of flour that will help them increase end-product quality to meet the changing needs of more affluent consumers.

So, USW Baking Consultant Didier Rosada conducted a two-day baking seminar in June 2013, demonstrating how millers can respond more effectively to their customers using blends of U.S. HRW and HRS.



By demonstrating that flour made from blends of U.S. wheat produces bread that is superior to bread made with Canadian Prairie Spring wheat, USW is changing a traditional preference among Ecuadorian flour millers. Quality is increasingly important in this growing South American market and USW is showing millers that blending soft white wheat with hard red spring and hard red winter wheat is a rewarding change. State wheat commissions from Washington, Oregon and Idaho are helping support this activity with direct contributions to USW.

ECUADOR - WHEAT IMPORTS



U.S. wheat sales to Ecuador in 2012/13 were up 52 percent and added more than \$28 million in return to farmers and the wheat industry compared to 2011/12. That return would not have been possible without state and federal support to demonstrate the quality and diversity of U.S. wheat and the advantages of the U.S. wheat marketing system.

Rosada showed that all of the breads made with U.S. wheat had superior volume and higher height compared to those made with Canadian wheat, which is an important distinction in the Ecuadorian market where volume is an indicator of quality. In addition, breads made with U.S. wheat had increased dough strength, superior crumb softness, more appealing crust color and a sweeter, more complex flavor.

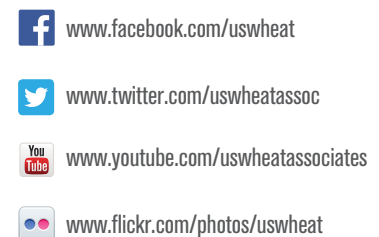
Finally, USW brought a team of experienced Ecuadorian wheat buyers, who together directly purchase or influence the purchase of almost 71 percent of the country's annual wheat imports, to Oklahoma, Kansas and Oregon in June 2013. This activity connected buyers with U.S. wheat growers, grain traders and federal grain inspection managers to demonstrate the advantages of the U.S. wheat marketing system, as well as the quality and diversity of U.S. wheat.

This activity took place at a time when funding for Foreign Agricultural Service export market development programs was very uncertain — the result of delays in passing a new federal farm bill. So while USW conducted the work, most of the funding came directly from state wheat commissions in Washington, Oregon and Idaho, with additional support from Oklahoma and Kansas. USW is especially happy to report that the payoff is already evident.

In marketing year 2012/13, Ecuador purchased 205,800 metric tons of U.S. wheat, valued at \$56.73 million. That is a 52 percent increase compared to the year before. And, as of Feb. 1, 2014, Ecuador has already purchased 106,700 metric tons of U.S. wheat.



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WWW.USWHEAT.ORG



U.S. Wheat Associates (USW) is the industry's market development organization working in more than 100 countries. Its mission is to "develop, maintain, and expand international markets to enhance the profitability of U.S. wheat producers and their customers." The activities of USW are made possible by producer checkoff dollars managed by 19 state wheat commissions and through cost-share funding provided by USDA's Foreign Agricultural Service. For more information, visit www.uswheat.org or contact your state wheat commission.

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PA-SS0114A



SAVE THE DATE! • March 11, 2015 • Shiloh Inn, Idaho Falls South Idaho Direct Seed Workshop

The **Direct Seed Workshop** is a one-day educational event for growers who are thinking about direct seeding or have taken the plunge and are looking for new ideas, technology, science and networking opportunities.

The 2015 Direct Seed Workshop topics will include: crop rotation, cropping systems, fertility, cover crops and a grower's panel where experienced direct seed farmers share their on-farm experience with direct seed, what worked in their operations and, equally valuable, what they changed over the years.



SAVE THE DATE! More information on this year's agenda will be available soon. The Workshop is sponsored by the Idaho Wheat Commission. Contact Tereasa Waterman at ts@idahowheat.org.

Japanese Milling Managers Visit North Idaho

U.S. Wheat Associates (USW) brought a team of four mid-level flour milling managers from Japan to visit the hard spring (HRS) and soft white (SW) wheat supply system in Montana, Idaho and Oregon. USW collaborated with the Montana Wheat & Barley Committee, the Idaho Wheat Commission and the Oregon Wheat Commission to organize this team.

"These customers are successful managers with influential flour milling companies," said USW Japan Country Director Wataru Utsunomiya who accompanied the team. "Experience shows that as they advance in their positions, having a deeper understanding of wheat breeding, production, marketing and handling systems helps to create a preference for U.S. wheat. In turn, these milling managers will have an influence on imports by Japan's Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries."

During their trip to Idaho, the team learned how wheat breeders balance the need for higher yields and quality to produce improved varieties and see how farmers apply that technology. They also had opportunities to learn about wheat supply logistics in Idaho during their visit with PNW Farmer's Coop, Lewis and Clark Terminal and CHS/Primeland.

Japan typically imports more U.S. wheat each year than any other country. Japan's importing pace is remarkably consistent year to year with U.S. SW, HRS and hard red winter (HRW) making up more than 57 percent of Japan's total annual wheat imports on average. However, U.S. wheat



Japanese trade team members meet at UI Kambitsch Farm near Moscow with UI Crop Agronomist Kurt Schroeder and Idaho Wheat Commissioner "Genesee" Joe Anderson.

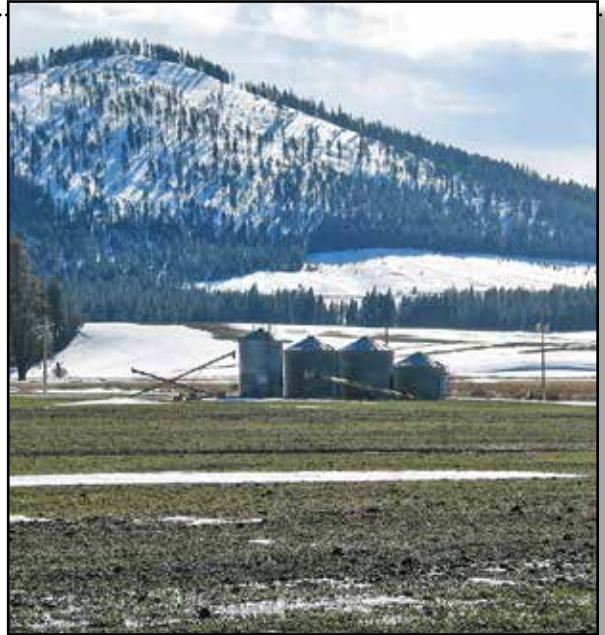
farmers must compete in Japan with Canadian and Australian wheat supplies. That is why USW and its state wheat commission members focus on giving buyers detailed quality information, keeping both Japanese government and millers informed on market and policy developments, advising government officials on their policy change proposals and collaborating in detail on any food safety related concerns.

USW is the industry's market development organization working in more than 100 countries. Its mission is to "develop, maintain, and expand international markets to enhance the profitability of U.S. wheat producers and their customers." USW activities are made possible through producer checkoff dollars managed by 19 state wheat commissions and cost-share funding provided by USDA's Foreign Agricultural Service. ■



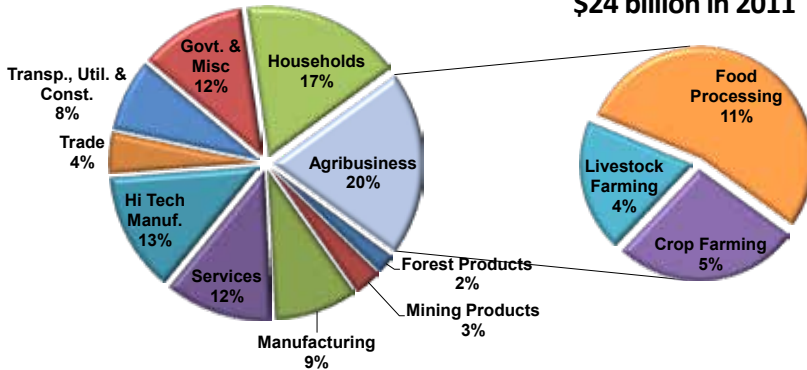
All Wheat Harvested, Yield and Production

	Planted	Harvested	% Harvested	Avg Yield/ acre	Production/ 1,000 bu
2014	1,271,000	1,196,000	94%	78	93,717
2013	1,321,000	1,261,000	95%	82	103,592
2012	1,313,000	1,253,000	95%	78	98,006
2011	1,471,000	1,401,000	95%	83	115,979
2010	1,400,000	1,345,000	96%	80	107,410
2009	1,310,000	1,250,000	95%	79	99,130
2008	1,400,000	1,330,000	95%	74	98,170
2007	1,235,000	1,175,000	95%	71	83,645
2006	1,255,000	1,195,000	95%	76	90,315
2005	1,260,000	1,200,000	95%	84	100,590
2004	1,250,000	1,190,000	95%	86	101,710
1994	1,490,000	1,390,000	93%	71	100,280
1984	1,550,000	1,280,000	83%	64	81,400
1974	1,550,000	1,440,000	93%	43	61,860
1964	1,238,000	1,110,000	90%	na	46,200
10-year avg	1,448,600	1,379,600	105%	87	109,226
50-year avg	1,354,267	1,267,733	94%	70	92,134



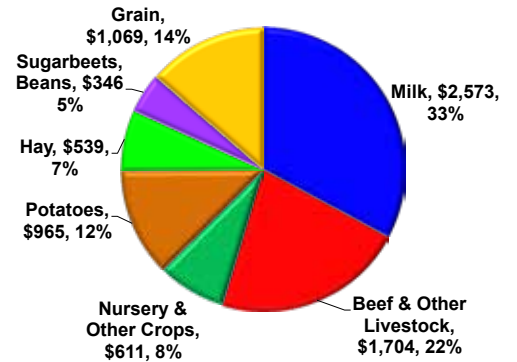
Agribusiness — the biggest contributor to Idaho's base of economy

\$24 billion in 2011



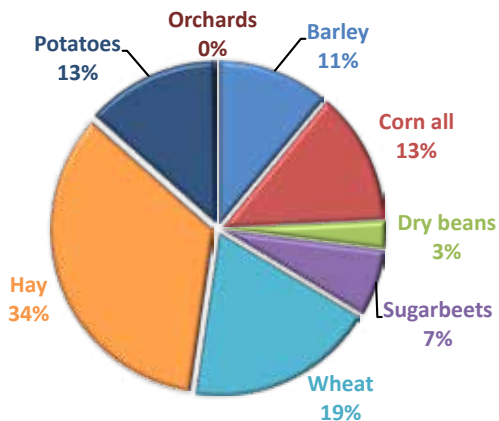
Source: Eborn, Taylor, and Watson — University of Idaho

A record \$7.8 billion Idaho cash receipts, 2013



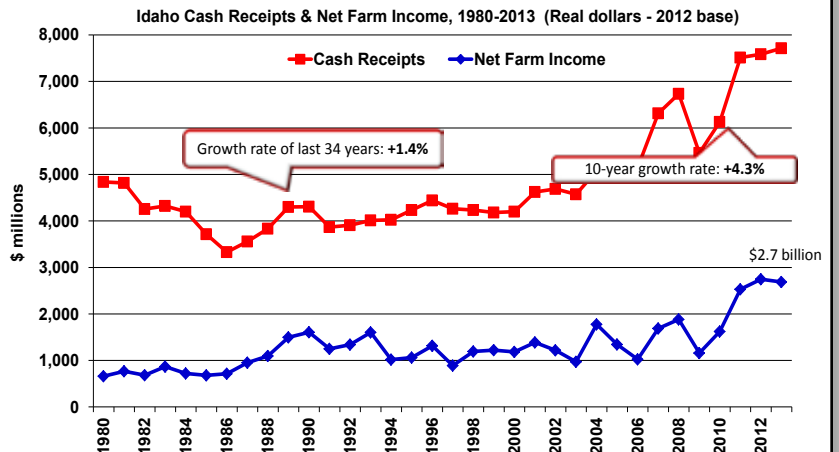
Source: University of Idaho

Idaho crop irrigated acres, 2012



Total irrigated acreage in Idaho is 2.8 million acres.
Source: 2012 Census of Agriculture

Idaho, 2013 record high cash receipts



Source: USDA-NASS, University of Idaho



Idaho Barley Commission Update

Christopher Rogers Charts Course for new Barley Agronomy Research

Submitted by Dr. Christopher Rogers, Barley Research Agronomist, UI Aberdeen Research & Extension Center

BEGINNING as the Endowed Barley Agronomist during the 2014 growing season at the University of Idaho Aberdeen Research and Extension Center presented a unique and challenging experience due to the unprecedented weather conditions that arose as Idaho growers were working to harvest their grain. When I began this position in August, Idaho growers were reporting exceptional stands, and yield prospects looked extremely good; however, heavy monsoonal rains resulted in widespread crop damage in Idaho's major barley producing areas. In spite of this setback, the barley agronomy program has continued to move forward by working to establish a research and extension program focused on the needs of Idaho growers. I am particularly interested in **working to provide nutrient management strategies based on up-to-date research to provide maximum agronomic and economic returns to growers while minimizing environmental impacts.** Idaho growers are one of the most important stewards of our lands, and as such, they have a strong history of implementing best management practices on their farms and adapting to the ever changing demands of crop production. My program will encourage the adoption of **the 4R approach to nutrient stewardship: the right fertilizer source, at the right rate, at the right time, and in the right place.** By implementing farming practices to supply nutrients based on the 4Rs, we will help more properly supply the plants nutrient needs when the crop demand is there. To begin focusing on these strategies, initial research investigating application rates and timings for several varieties of winter barley have been established this year. My program is interested in evaluating current soil testing strategies to determine if improvements in soil testing can be accomplished to more properly determine fertilizer nitrogen rates for barley producers. I am also interested in the evaluation of enhanced efficiency fertilizer nitrogen sources, which can directly improve our ability to manage nutrients based on the 4Rs of nutrient stewardship. As I establish research trials, cooperation with Idaho growers will be important to provide sufficient sample diversity across a wide range of management, soil textures, and regions, and I hope to have the chance to work with you in the future.

As an agronomist, I am interested in the science of crop production, and the factors that influence production such as varietal selection, cropping system practices, soil and nutrient management and the management of weeds, diseases, and pests. However, to focus on all these areas, active collaboration will be required with University of Idaho College of Agricultural and Life Sciences faculty, as well as other university, government, and industry organizations. By teaming with other experts focused on all of these important aspects of successful barley production, the barley agronomy program will be able to address a wide range of issues that Idaho growers are presented with each year. In addition to my own field trials, I have begun working with the USDA ARS barley breeding program at Aberdeen to provide valuable input concerning fertilizer



Christopher Rogers

management strategies for new varieties. Collaborative efforts have been initiated to investigate aphid and wireworm populations in Idaho and determine strategies related to their management. I have also observed issues with nematodes with other faculty, and I have discussed future research interest investigating this issue. Finally, several of the growers I have spoken with utilize no-till farm management, or have expressed interest in this practice, and I hope to have the opportunity to work with you to provide management solutions to the unique issues that you face.

I believe the commitment of the University of Idaho and the Idaho Barley Commission to establishing the Endowed Barley Agronomist Professorship will result in long-term returns to Idaho barley growers. I look forward to the opportunity to meet and work with you and would encourage your participation in training focused on the Farm Bill during the 1st week of December and at the University of Idaho Cereal Schools in early February 2015. ■

Global Grain Market Outlook, November 2014

MY 2014/15 World Grain Supply & Demand

USDA, Nov. 10, 2014 (million metric tons, MMT)

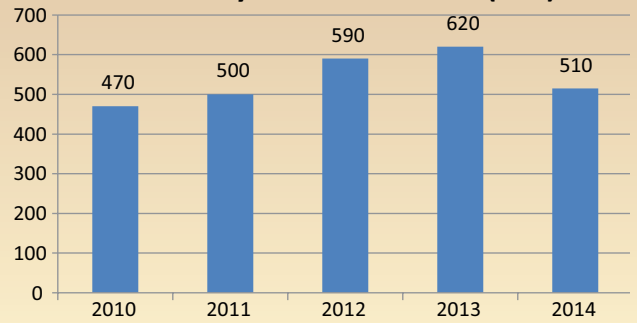
	BARLEY		CORN		WHEAT	
	2013-14	2014-15	2013-14	2014-15	2013-14	2014-15
Carryin	20.9	24.9	137.7	173	174.8	162.1
Production MMT	145.2	139.8	989.2	990.3	714.7	719.9
Total Supply	162.6	164.7	1,126.9	1,163.3	889.5	882.0
Export trade	23.4	22.2	129.6	115.0	162.1	155.2
Total Usage	141.2	139.8	953.9	971.8	703.7	712.7
Ending Stocks	24.9	24.8	173	191.5	185.7	192.9
Stocks / Use	18%	18%	18%	20%	26%	27%

MY 2013/14 U.S. Grain Supply & Demand

USDA, Nov. 10, 2014 (million bushels)

	BARLEY		CORN		WHEAT	
	2013-14	2014-15	2013-14	2014-15	2013-14	2013-15
Harvested Acres (mln)	3.0	2.4	87.7	83.1	45.3	46.4
Carryin	80	82	821	1,236	718	590
Production (mln bu)	217	177	13,925	14,407	2,135	2,026
Imports	19	35	36	25	169	170
Total Supply	316	294	14,782	15,668	3,021	2,785
Food, seed & industrial	155	154	6,497	6,535	1,028	1,036
Ethanol			5,134	5,150		
Feed	65	60	5,132	5,375	228	180
Exports	14	10	1,917	1,750	1,176	925
Total Usage	234	224	13,546	13,660	2,432	2,141
Ending Stocks	82	70	1,236	2,008	590	644
Stocks / Use	35%	31%	9%	15%	24%	30%

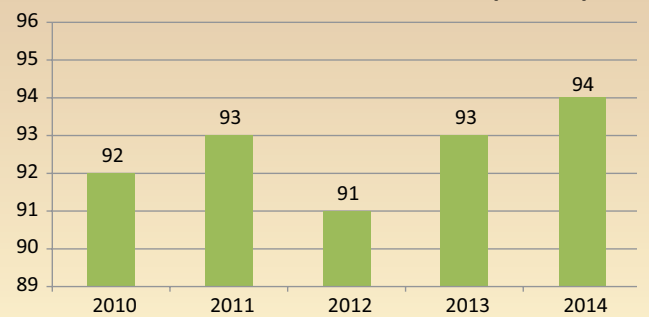
Idaho Barley Harvested Acres (000)



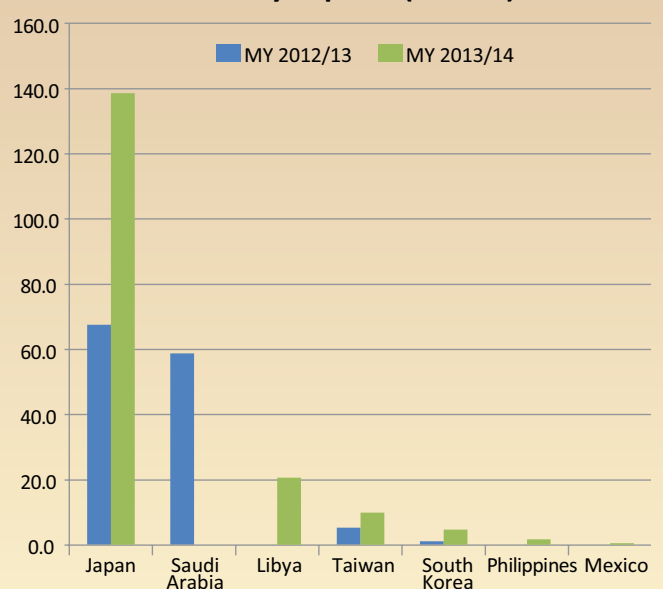
Idaho Barley Production (000 bu)



Idaho Yield Per Harvested Acre (bu/Ac)



US Barley Exports (000 bu)



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