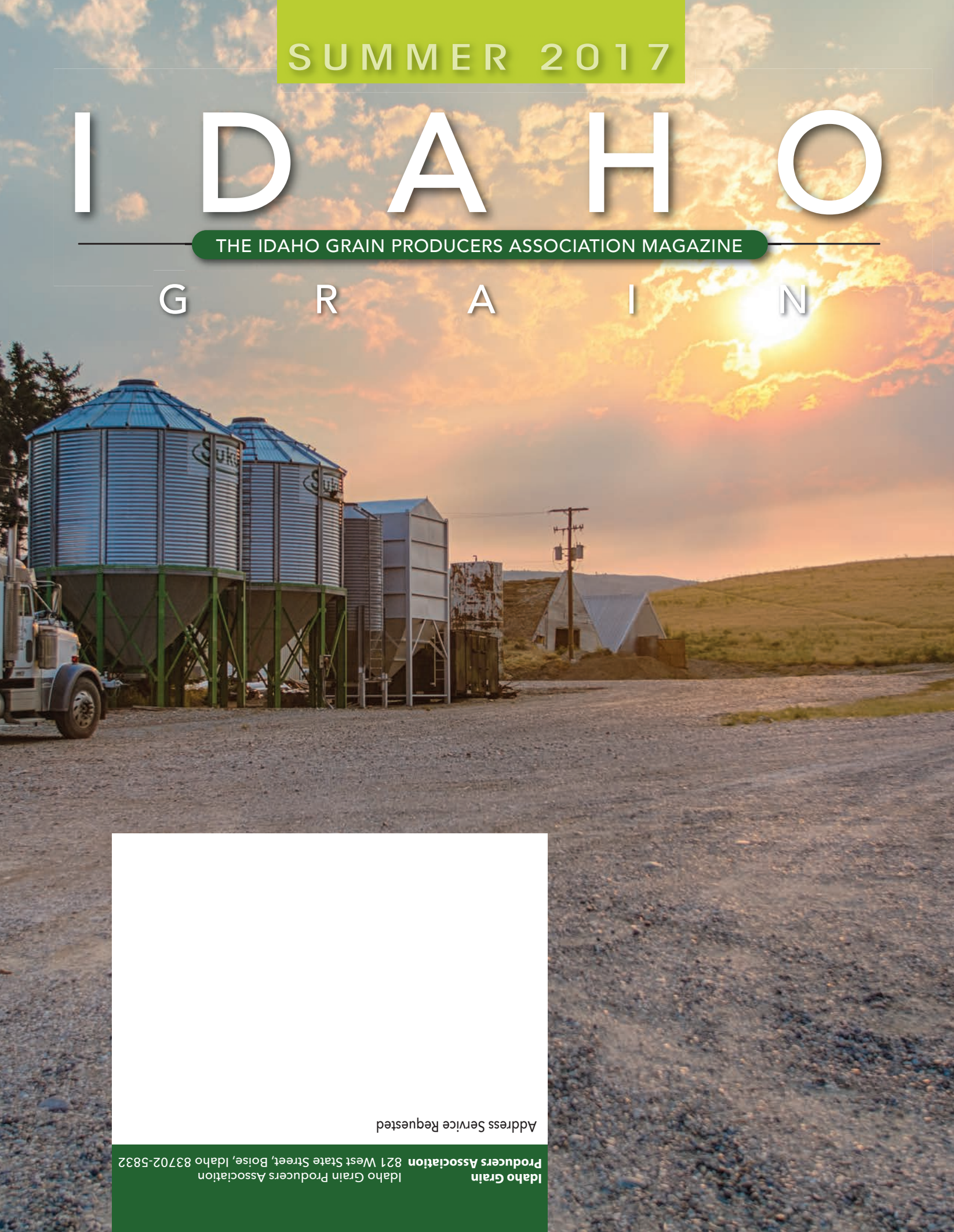


SUMMER 2017

IDAHO

THE IDAHO GRAIN PRODUCERS ASSOCIATION MAGAZINE

G R A I N



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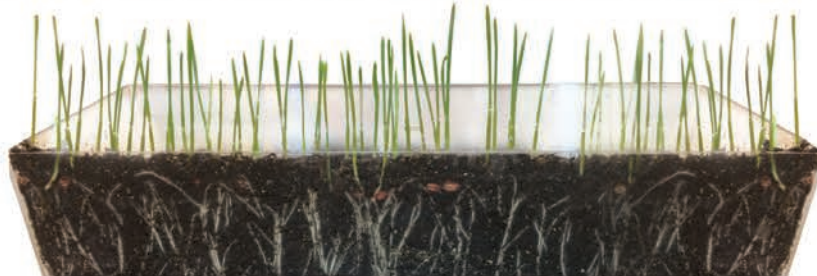
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VIEWS



VIEWS



**BY JOE ANDERSON
PRESIDENT**

I was given a deadline for my contribution to the summer edition of Idaho Grain magazine of May 15. It is only the first of May, but I thought I'd better write something now. It has been raining; we have barely gotten started with spring planting; it may get a bit hairy if this weather ever clears.

Within the last week, Congress was able to accomplish an appropriation for the current fiscal year which ends September 30, 2017. Hurray! In theory, the appropriations for the current fiscal year should have gotten done a year ago. Congress was not able to come to agreement by the start of the year. If appropriations are not done by the start of the fiscal year, October 1, Congress passes a Continuing Resolution (CR). Spending can continue using the prior year appropriations until the date set in the CR. If appropriations are not completed, then a new CR is passed or that part of the government that relies on discretionary spending shuts down.

Under our form of government, before money can be spent by the Administration, it must first be authorized and then appropriated by the Congress and signed by the President. A bill can authorize that funding may be provided through a subsequent appropriation or it can accomplish both the authorization and appropriation process in a single piece of legislation. The former provides for discretionary spending; the latter provides for mandatory spending. The Farm Bill typically has both types of authorization. The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), Price Loss Coverage (PLC), and Agriculture Risk Coverage (ARC) are examples of mandatory spending. Agricultural research and education funding are examples of discretionary spending.

The appropriation that was done last week was for discretionary spending. It was reported in the press that mandatory spending will be taken up at another time. Right!

I heard recently on TV that a budget and appropriation process was established by the Congress in 1974. Since 1974 there have only been four times that the process has produced a final budget by October 1, the beginning of the fiscal year.

Under this process the President presents a budget proposal for the following fiscal year to Congress sometime in late January or early February. The Senate and House Committees on Appropriations take up the President's budget proposal. There are twelve subcommittees that actually handle appropriations for the various functions of government.

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These subcommittees are Agriculture; Commerce, Justice, and Science; Defense; Energy and Water; Financial Services; Homeland Security; Interior and Environment; Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education; Legislative Branch; Military and Veterans; State and Foreign Operations; Transportation, Housing, and Urban Development.

Agencies are called to testify before appropriation subcommittees of both the House and Senate to defend the President's budget proposal. The subcommittees hear testimony, debate, bicker, consider and maybe even compromise to finally issue a recommendation report to the full Appropriations Committees. There can be more debate, bickering, compromise, etc. and if these appropriations bills pass, they are sent to the President for his signature and a budget is adopted.

When we realize the extent to which Congress has become polarized and, in many cases, driven more by ideology than governing, it is little wonder that the appropriations process gets a bit messy. When push comes to shove and the current CR is about to expire, under threat of government shutdown appropriations seem to sail through.

Why does it appear so easy in the last hour? Compromise! But make no mistake about it – compromise costs money. How many campaign promises appear to have been granted while others broken? It is little wonder that we see increased appropriations. I suggested that IGPA ask that during budget reconciliation, an appropriator offer to trade support for something that a colleague wanted to secure the colleague's support for a \$1 million additional appropriation for Agricultural Research Service to help address our critical falling number issue.

Unfortunately, it didn't happen, but we tried – and we will keep trying. It is IGPA's job to ask for what we need for the benefit of grain producers. And we need not apologize. As messy as it gets and as costly as it seems, it is still a pretty damn good system as compared to others around the world; at least we have the ability to ask. We get no more consideration when we die for telling government we don't want the money. ■

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EDITOR'S NOTE

EDITOR'S NOTE



BY STACEY KATSEANES SATTERLEE
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Together We Stand

Isn't that the truth? And it applies in so many different situations. I see the truth in that statement play out is within the Food Producers of Idaho. IGPA is a member of this unique coalition of agriculture groups and interested individuals that meets weekly during the legislative session. We talk through issues, share information, and decide whether to take a position as a group on an issue. Not everyone in the group agrees on every issue – but we all benefit from discussing issues, and when we can agree and stand together, we are all better for it. I see tremendous value in Food Producers, and am proud to represent Idaho's grain producers around that table.

Similarly, as we prepare for the next Farm Bill, our national affiliates are working to find common ground with other ag groups so that we can stand together. The National Association of Wheat Growers and the National Barley Growers Association are both part of a larger effort, working to identify core principles we can agree on moving into the next Farm Bill. A few of the places where many groups have been able to agree:

Federal crop insurance and commodity programs are our top funding priorities; continue a counter-cyclical program like the Price Loss Coverage (PLC) program and a revenue program like the Agricultural Risk Coverage (ARC) program – and that we need to change ARC and PLC to make them more effective and fairer to all farmers; maintain strong funding for federal conservation programs with preserve environmental benefits, while continuing the prioritization of working lands conservation programs; and that we continue to improve the Young and Beginning Farmer Programs implemented in the 2014 Farm Bill.

Given current budget constraints and political hurdles, agriculture needs to be united if we have any hope of weathering this storm and making it successfully through another farm bill. If we can stand together, we may be able to negotiate a strong farm bill that works for farmers – divided, we most surely will fail.

Finally, this notion of standing together rings true for each of Idaho's individual grain growers – alone, one voice isn't very loud. But together, as the Idaho Grain Producers Association, we have a strong voice here in Boise and in Washington, DC through our membership in our national associations. We need your individual voice so that we can all stand stronger, louder, and better together. ■



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2017 Session In Review

BY RICH GARBER

**DIRECTOR OF GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS,
IDAHO GRAIN PRODUCERS ASSOCIATION**

While they are not markers of the success or failure of the legislatures activities it is always interesting to compare some of the statistical data from the recently ended session to those in the past. This year's session often felt extremely long, but it was actually the fourth shortest session in the past 10 years. Beginning January 9 and ending March 29, the 80-day session was five days longer than last year's 75-day session and 9 days shorter than the 89-day 2015 session. The 10-year average length has been 85.7 days so this year was close to average.

History also indicates that the length of session does not necessarily correspond to number of bills introduced and enacted. The session with the greatest number of bills enacted into law over the past decade was 2008, with 410 compared to this year's 337. That year the session ran for 87 days. The 10-year average for bills drafted each year is 835.7, bills introduced is 563.7 and bills enacted into law average 356.5.

During the 2017 session, 785 proposed pieces of legislation were prepared for legislative committees or individual legislators. From that group of draft proposals 540 bills were actually introduced and by the end of the session 345 bills had been passed. The Governor vetoed 8 bills resulting in 337 introduced bills becoming law. The majority of those will become effective July 1.

Was it a good year? Well, that depends on who you ask – but I can tell you that this year's session seemed to contain an unusual amount of tension, frustration, and consternation between individual legislators, within the individual chambers, and between the chambers. However, for agriculture, it was a very good year. The legislature's 105 members sided with agriculture on many issues including water, field burning, immigration, invasive species, stock water, research and other important items. One of IGPA's and agriculture's top priorities for the session was to strengthen Idaho's transportation infrastructure. While this issue drug on to final days of the session, in the end significant resources were committed to improving Idaho's roads and bridges.

2017 Key Legislative Action

Transportation: Transportation was on many legislators' radars from the beginning of the session. While a number of proposals surfaced along the way it wasn't until the waning hours of the session that a bill finally got enough traction to move forward. At the end of the day, and without the Governor's signature, the legislature made major commitments to long-term projects as well as the damage to transportation infrastructure caused by the harsh winter.

S1206 authorizes \$320 million in investment, of which \$300 million will be in GARVEE bonds. If you remember, GARVEE is an acronym for Grant Anticipation Revenue Vehicle which allows states to borrow against a portion of their future federal highway allocations. The legislation also extends Idaho's "surplus eliminator" for two more years. The surplus eliminator would direct any unanticipated surplus at the end of the year to be split between roads and the state's rainy day fund. Of the amount that goes to roads, 60 percent will go to state projects and 40 percent will go to local projects. The surplus eliminator dollars will vary from year to year but in previous years the amount has varied from approximately \$20 to \$100 million.

In addition, the legislation directs 1 percent of Idaho's sales tax dollars to go to road work. Using general fund revenues has been a source of controversy for many legislators and for the Governor. Historically, Idaho has relied on dedicated funds like gas taxes, vehicle registration fees, and federal funds to pay for transportation needs and reserved funds generated from sales and income taxes for education, prisons and health and welfare.

While the Governor has been a strong advocate for more transportation funding his objection to using general fund dollars persuaded him to allow the legislation to become law without his signature.

Invasive Species: Invasive species became a huge topic of discussion regarding adequate resources committed to the program and the structure of the oversight and leadership of the program. There were probably more bills drafted over this issue than any other during the session and of those moving forward one of the most controversial succumbed to the Governor's veto stamp. However, after all the wrangling significant resources were committed to the battle to keep invasives out of Idaho.

S1112 contained supplemental funding of \$1,010,000, directed to the Department of Agriculture for expanded boat inspection stations through the end of this fiscal year. The appropriation will add three new inspection stations and accompanying staff this season that will operate from dawn to dusk on State Highway 3 near Rose Lake, U.S. Highway 12 near Lolo Pass, and on I-15 near Roberts.

H308 provides other funding for the Department of Ag including \$3.14 million in state funds and \$1 million in federal funds for FY 18. The \$3.14 in general funds to the Department plus an additional \$171,300 in funding to the Idaho State Police will fund another patrol position and will expand inspection hours at Cotterell on I-84 to 24/7. All other inspection stations statewide would be open from dawn to dusk plus the department would be encouraged to make use of roving stations that could be utilized during the peak boat season.

H211 generates an additional \$70,000 to \$80,000 for the inspection program from an approved increase in the non-resident Invasive Species Sticker fee from \$22 to \$30. Currently out-of-state invasive species tags generate \$218,000 annually.

Field Burning: Another win for Idaho Agriculture came is **S1009**, which will change the Department of Environmental Quality's rules that regulate Idaho's crop residue burning program. Idaho law requires the DEQ to assess air quality conditions before approving open burning of crop residue. DEQ must determine that air quality levels are not exceeding 75 percent of a National Ambient Air Quality Standard and are not projected to exceed such levels over the next 24 hours prior to approving a burn. There are days when ozone concentrations are high enough to limit crop residue burns on what would otherwise be good burn days when burning is not predicted to cause or contribute to a violation of any of the other NAAQS. In 2015, EPA reduced the NAAQS for ozone which has made it even more difficult to identify burn days that meet all requirements.

To address these limitations, DEQ proposed an increase to the ozone evaluation threshold from 75 percent to 90 percent. For the 2017 burn season, the ozone threshold will remain at the current level or 75 percent or the 2008 ozone standard. On February 28, 2018, which is the expected date of EPA approval of Idaho's state implementation plan which identifies the





change, the 90 percent threshold of the 2015 ozone standard will become effective. The new threshold will continue to be protective of Idaho's air quality but will also preserve the ability of growers to burn crop residue on good burn days when using smoke management best practices.

Fish and Game Depredation: Invasive Species Sticker increase in the Invasive Species to dusk plus the department hours at Cotterell on A longstanding frustration for many of our IGPA members has been the lack of timely and adequate response to critical wildlife depredation issues. This session Representative Marc Gibbs, Chairman of the House Resources and Conservation Committee, effectively leveraged the Department of Fish and Game to draft legislation that would provide more resources for both prevention and compensation for Idaho's farmers and ranchers.

In addition to simplifying compensation claim procedures H230 will raise \$2 million through license fee increases of \$5 for Idaho residents and \$10 for nonresidents. Of this \$2 million, \$1 million will be divided equally between the Expendable Depredation and the Depredation Prevention accounts. The remainder of revenues up to \$1 million will go to the fishing and hunting access dedicated account. This money can only be used for access agreements and easements.

The expendable account gets the first \$500K and will receive \$750K annually since \$250 is already transferred to the account every year. The prevention account receives the second \$500K. The claim fund balance is capped at \$2.5 million, an increase of \$1.75 million over the current cap of \$750K. Any fund balance over \$2.5 million goes to the depredation prevention account.

A price lock discount order is provided which would allow hunters and anglers who loyally buy licenses every year to lock in current rates and avoid the increases. The price lock provision is for a minimum of five years and then would come back to lawmakers for review.

More Politics

Weary of politics? I think many of us would welcome a reprieve from the almost daily dose of political postings and campaign advertising that has already hit the air waves. Unfortunately, there is no reprieve in sight. With the next election still 18 months out candidate filings are underway with many more in the rumor mill. To date we have five announced candidates for Governor. On the Republican ticket will be Lieutenant Governor Brad Little, former State Senator Russ Fulcher from Meridian, Boise developer Tommy Alquist and Congressman Raul Labrador. Boisean Roy Minton has announced his candidacy on the Democratic ticket.

With Congressman Labrador having announced his run for governor, there will be a scramble for his 1st District seat. Prominent Boise Attorney David Leroy has already indicated his interest in running.

Several candidates have filed for Lieutenant Governor. Those include Eastern Idaho State Representative Kelly Packer from McCammon, State Senator Marv Hagedorn from Meridian and former State Representative Janice McGeachin from Idaho Falls.

Superintendent of Education Sherri Ybarra has announced her candidacy to run for another term. She will be challenged by Wilder School District Superintendent Jeff Dillion.

The first state legislative district race to be announced is for District 1 Representative House seat A held by Heather Scott from Blanchard. She will be challenged by Bonner County resident Mike Boeck, a longtime forest products industry employee and county GOP central committee member.

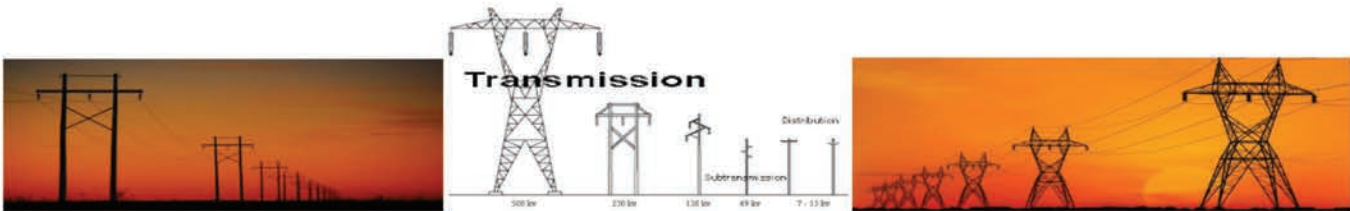
And it has only just begun! This election cycle promises to be long and intense and with critical national issues influencing local politics, we can only imagine what might happen next November. ■



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Lisa, Ty, and Colton Iverson

Ty Iverson

How did you get into farming?

I grew up on the farm but moved away for a few years after graduating college. I attended the University of Idaho and earned a bachelor's degree in agricultural economics. After college I worked for a couple years for a lobbyist in Boise who represents various agricultural organizations in Idaho. It was a very rewarding job and an incredible experience, but I just missed the farm too much to stay away for long. I moved back to Bonners Ferry in 2005 to farm full time with my family.

When was the operation established?

My mother's grandfather, O.F. Howe, first started the farm, and then his son (my grandpa), Don Howe, took over. My dad and uncle farmed together for a while, and my uncle has since retired.

Tell us about your family.

My wife and I got married in 2011. We've had two beautiful children together: a daughter, Cody, who passed away in 2012, and a son, Colton, who will turn 3 this summer. There's never a dull moment around our place with a rambunctious 2-year-old running the show!

My dad has worked for the U.S. Customs & Border Protection for several years but will be retiring from that job this spring and returning to farm full-time with me -- I can't wait to have him back. While working that job, he continued to do most of the bookwork for the farm, and has taken his vacation time to drive combine in grain harvest.

My mom is retired from teaching, but between grandma duties and taking care of her animals, she is as busy as ever. My mom and wife are constantly getting asked to help Dad and I on the farm -- whether it's moving equipment, making meals, parts runs to Spokane or watching Colton, they are always helping. It truly takes a team effort to keep things going around here.

What is your childhood background?

My dad was actually an archaeologist by trade but decided to try farming when he married a farmer's daughter. He quickly decided that this was the career for him -- and that Bonners Ferry was the ideal place to raise a family -- so they stayed put here. My mom was a high school English teacher her whole career, with the exception of a few years she stayed home with us kids when we were first born. I have one sister who is a few years older. She has been an elementary teacher in Meridian since she graduated college.

How did you meet your spouse?

My wife, Lisa Naccarato, was born and raised in Priest River. She attended the University of Idaho as well, but we didn't know each other in college. As fate would have it (lucky for me), her first teaching job out of college was for Bonners Ferry High School. We met here in Bonners shortly after she moved here, and the rest is history. After a few years at the high school, she switched to teaching 8th grade, and then earned her master's degree while teaching full time. She is now the principal of a rural elementary school here and runs the Title One program for our school district. Being a full-time principal doesn't allow her much free time to help on the farm during the school year, but she does help a lot in the summers and on the weekends.



What do you grow?

We are currently farming about 3,200 acres. Most of that is leased ground. Winter wheat is our biggest crop, followed by canola, barley, spring wheat, and garbanzo beans. We also raise both alfalfa and timothy grass for hay and a little timothy grass for seed.

How do you market your production?

It kind of depends on the crop. Some of our commodities such as wheat, we market in small increments throughout the year using different pricing options in order to minimize our risk from market downturns. Other crops, such as garbanzos and malt barley, are grown under contract so the price is already set before we begin production.

Is there anything unique about your operation?

We do a lot of custom work for neighboring farms. This has helped with payments on large equipment, and enabled us to keep one more person employed for us. Other than that, I wouldn't say we do any one thing great or incredibly unique. We just try to pay attention to detail and do all the little things right. If there's one thing I will brag about our operation, it's our employees. We've been blessed to have a couple of the best hired guys we could ever ask for. They are dedicated and work hard every single day. We really couldn't do it without them.



What conservation practices do you employ?

We have partnered with groups such as NRCS and Idaho Fish & Game on many conservation practices, such as establishing filter strips along ditches and leaving food plots for wildlife. This summer, in cooperation with NRCS, we will be establishing pollinators on some of our ground to create beneficial insect habitat. We are hoping to start using variable rate technology for fertilizer application within the next year or two. I think it's important to be proactive in being good stewards of the land; it's good for our industry, and it's just the right thing to do.

What are the biggest challenges in your operation?

We farm very wet, fertile ground, which is nice in a lot of ways but also brings its own unique challenges. This ground is great for producing crops, but unfortunately it is also great for producing weeds, bugs and disease. So our input costs are a lot higher than those on drier ground. Transportation is another major cost for us. Most major grain terminals are over 100 miles away from us.

What are the guiding tenets of your operation?

I think communication is key. We always keep an open line of communication with our landlords, bankers, seed and fertilizer dealers, grain buyers, etc. This has enabled us to keep operating smoothly through the good years and bad years.

Why do you farm?

Not many people can say this, but I truly love my job. I enjoy working outside, and I love the variety of this job. Today's farmer is kind of a jack of all trades; one day you could be driving tractor, the next out running chainsaw in bordering timber ground, the next day out taking soil samples or tissue testing. Every day is different, which keeps things from ever getting boring.

What brings you satisfaction?

Knowing that I am continuing a legacy started three generations ago is pretty rewarding. My goal is to hand this farm off to the next generation in better condition than I found it.

What do you do for fun?

I'm a huge sports fan (mostly football) and enjoy watching or listening to games on the radio. We spend as much time as we can camping and boating in the summer, and in the fall I enjoy deer and elk hunting.

What challenges does the U.S. grain industry face?

I think the term ‘perception is reality’ is more true now than ever. People will spend 30 seconds reading an article online about gluten, GMOs or pesticides, and suddenly they are an expert. It’s important for the grain industry to keep constantly presenting consumers with information about our products so they can make their decisions based on facts, not scare tactics or what’s trendy at the time.

How do you see the future of the U.S. grain industry?

I’m optimistic about the future of the grain industry, but I think we have to focus on quality, not quantity. There will always be countries that can produce grain cheaper than us, but if we supply our customers with a consistent, high-quality product, they will continue to buy from us.

Is it important for growers to be involved in industry groups?

Absolutely. If we don't speak up for ourselves, who will? Our lawmakers in this country (and even in our state) are becoming more and more removed from production agriculture. In my experience, I have found that most lawmakers are actually quite receptive to the needs of our industry once they are educated about it. This is key in forming policy that will sustain our industry and keep it moving forward. ■

As a participant in IGPA’s mentorship program, Ty traveled to San Antonio, TX, to attend Commodity Classic March 1 – 4.

Why did you want to attend Commodity Classic?

I’ve always had an interest in the political side of agriculture, so for me this was a perfect opportunity to get a first-hand look at how the National Association of Wheat Growers’ policy is developed by state grower organizations from around the country.

How was that experience?

It was a great experience. I really enjoyed networking with growers from other states and getting to know my IGPA officers and staff better. The trade show was a lot of fun too and gave me some good ideas for improvements I can make on my own farm.

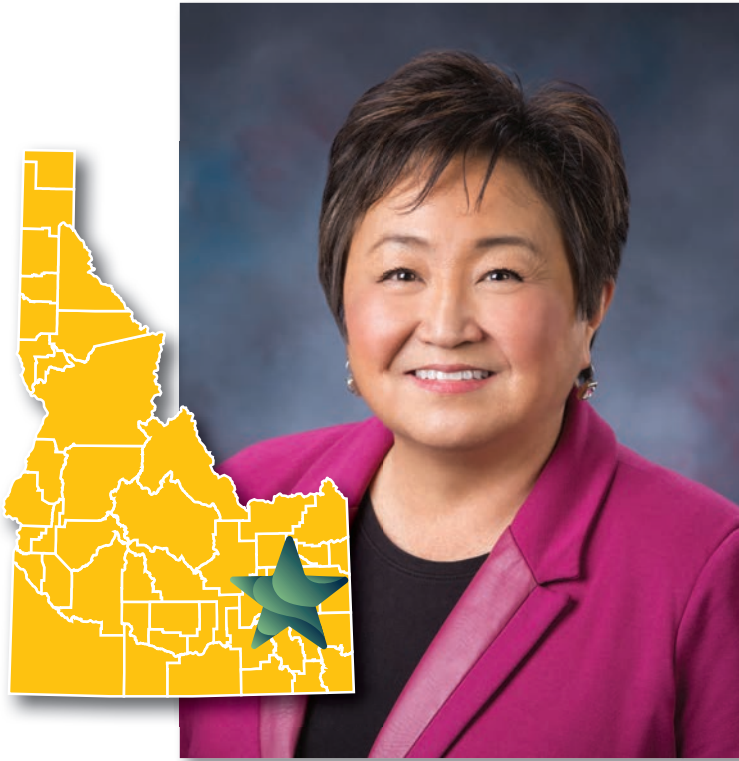
What was the take-away?

It was fascinating to me to sit in on the NAWG meetings and hear all the different ideas and perspectives from all the different regions of the country and how all those perspectives blend together to form policy for NAWG. Probably my biggest take-away was that I couldn't believe how influential Idaho is in these meetings. I always think of our state as kind of ‘small potatoes’ on a national scale, but we have some really influential leaders right now. Idaho grain growers are a major player on the national level.

How important is IGPA’s mentorship program?

I think they are a great way to get people involved. I probably wouldn't have gone if it weren't for this program. At one of the meetings, I sat next to a former IGPA officer who continues to attend Commodity Classic on his own each year because he saw the value of it when he was an officer. I could see myself doing that as well. It's one of those things that you really have to see for yourself to fully appreciate the value of it.





Representative Julie VanOrden

Rep. Julie VanOrden was a stay-at-home mom while her children were growing up, but her father’s advocacy work when she was young sparked her interest in politics and her participation in the local and state Parent Teacher Association fanned it.

What is your background?

I grew up in Blackfoot on a farm with an older sister and brother. My dad liked to build things to help on the farm and started EZ Tarp, automate tarps for trucks. My brother, Alan, still runs the company. Mom worked on the farm and did volunteer work. I was raised in a rural community, graduated from Blackfoot High School in 1977 and married about a year later.

I went to ISU Vocational-Technical School and received a certificate in data transmission and worked at the FMC Corp. in Pocatello and then I worked at Bingham Memorial Hospital in Blackfoot.

What happened from there?

I became a stay-at-home mom when my children were in school and helped out here with the farm and raised my kids. I did my PTA work and worked on the school board. When my youngest graduated from high school, I ran for the Legislature.

Party:
Republican

Home:
Pingree

Business:
Family farm with husband and two sons, 5,800 acres (some leased) of wheat and potatoes

Represents:
District 31

Tenure:
3rd term, first elected in 2012

Committees:
Chairman of Education, serves on Agricultural Affairs

Affiliations:
Former Idaho PTA state president, former Snake River School District trustee for 10 years, member of Japanese American Citizens League numerous Friend of Agriculture awards from Idaho Farm Bureau; numerous Ag All Stars from Idaho Food Producers

Education:
Attended College of Southern Idaho, certificate in data transmission from Idaho State University Vocational-Technical School

Family:
Husband, Garth; three sons (one deceased); one daughter (a senior at ISU); three grandchildren

Interesting note:
Her father, Masa Tsukamoto, was instrumental in putting the Minidoka Internment Camp on the National Register of Historic Places

How did you meet your husband?

I met him through mutual friends. He grew up in Pingree -- neither one of us have moved too far away from where we grew up.

Why did you get into politics?

When I was in PTA, we lobbied at the Legislature a little bit and we did an initiative one year that helped put cigarettes behind the counter. We started at the local level and worked up to the Legislature, and we worked with law enforcement on compliance checks. It sparked my interest in the Legislature, but my children were young so I didn’t think I could run at that time. But I learned that Joe Q Public, regular citizens, could help make policy and it was a responsibility we all had.

My dad was in a lot of civic organizations; he was instrumental in helping at some level with advocacy and awareness of issues. He helped to put the Minidoka Internment Camp in the historic registry and was a member of the Japanese American Citizens League.

I grew up seeing how important that (advocacy) was if you wanted to help change things. He said ‘instead of sitting back and complaining about it, you better get involved’ -- and that’s what I did.

Did anything surprise you in your first term?

I didn’t realize how much time we’d have to put in while we were in Boise. We were on the go from 7 in the morning to 8 at night – just the time commitment and not having the time to get done what you needed to. You were meeting with constituents, going to your committee meetings, meeting with other legislators on issues, meeting with lobbyists. There just wasn’t a lot of time to get all the information you needed. I needed to learn time-management skills.

The other thing that was interesting to me was meeting people from all over the state of Idaho. And it was interesting to learn about the different farming practices around the state – dry farming up in northern Idaho on the Palouse, smaller fields with different kinds of crops in western Idaho. The different crops were mostly in the Treasure Valley – mint and onions and seed crops – I’d never seen them grown or harvested.

How does that play into your role as a legislator?

On the Ag Committee, we hear reports from a lot of ag commissions. It helps me to understand what they’re talking about, such as productivity. (For example) they don’t harvest mint crops like potatoes; they end up with oil. So when somebody brings a report and we see how much is produced, we understand it -- it’s measured in a different way.



The Legislature has oversight of the commissions, and commissions might also have concerns with administrative rules on how they are run.

Also, if there’s something out in the field – like a pest that has caused harm to production or land – there might need to be legislation to appropriate money for the State Department of Agriculture to help combat that pest.

What is the make-up of your constituency?

It’s a mix. There are a lot of farms around here, but they’ve gotten larger and there are fewer farmers than there used to be. Agribusiness is huge in my area. And we’re also close to INL, so a lot of my constituents are employees. There are also five school districts in my district and also half of the Fort Hall Indian Reservation.

What legislation have you led?

One of my first years, I helped legislation to establish FFA programs in high schools. The next year, I helped on legislation for a teaching career ladder in education. Also I cosponsored legislation for teacher leadership premiums. The next year I sponsored legislation that addresses kindergarten through 3rd grade literacy. Along with that, I ran legislation that involved parents in their children’s literacy plans in K through 3rd grade. Those are the major ones I’ve done.

What’s your impression of the Legislature?

I think it’s made up of really hard-working people from all over the state who are really passionate about their job. I think we have good leadership. It’s been a real positive experience for me. Although you don’t agree with everyone all the time, it’s OK. I work with people I have things in common with, and it’s OK to agree to disagree.

When my son passed away, the outpouring of cards and calls and visits was amazing. I had just met these people in January and that outpouring of compassion that came from them when my son passed away in August was amazing. I realize we have our difference, but they’re good human beings.

What issues are you passionate about?

Education and issues that affect agriculture in my district. Water is a big one. The Snake River runs right through the middle of my district. We’re sitting on the ESPA (Eastern Snake River Plane Aquifer), and that’s where we get our water. Water issues are huge here.

What would be a good day in the Legislature?

A good day would be if I was sponsoring a bill to have a good debate on the floor and it passed. That would be a great day for me.

Do you have any hobbies?

I have just taken up a hobby in the last year. I am doing some competitive walking and I did my first 10-miler in San Diego last November. My goal is to do a half marathon. I've also taken up competitive horseback riding in a division called reining.

What do you do for fun?

We like to travel, but it's mostly just getting together and having family dinners. We live right on the river, so we don't have to go anywhere to go camping or fishing. One son lives across the street and one lives across the pasture and that's where my grandkids are, so we're all really close here. My mom lives in Blackfoot, so she spends a lot of time with us. She's 86. She's very healthy and can drive still, but she relies on us a lot since my dad passed away.

How long would you like to serve in the Legislature?

That's a good question. This is my third term. I would say I don't want to be a long-timer and I like the leadership right now in the Legislature. Good leadership would keep me in and things I put in on education, I want to see those things through, so maybe three terms more. The career ladder is in place for five years, and this is year three. I'd like to be able to draft a plan to help the continuation of that. I'm also on a committee right now working on possibly restructuring funding for education in the state. And the literacy legislation I put in place, I want to see what the results are on that and if revisions have to be made.

What's your legislative philosophy?

Do good work that helps the citizens of Idaho.

How about a philosophy for life?

Love your family and be happy. ■




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NAWG Wheat Yield Contest

The National Wheat Yield Contest is open and accepting entries for its second year. "We're going into the year with a lot of excitement among wheat grower leaders," said Steve Joehl, executive director of the wheat contest for the National Wheat Foundation, which hosts the contest. "A lot of growers are starting to understand how they can improve wheat yields when thinking about it differently. Changing just a few practices can improve productivity a lot. We are optimistic that this year's participation will improve because awareness is higher. The deadline for registration was May 15 for winter wheat – the deadline for spring wheat is August 1."

Entries will likely pick up as growers get a sense of the crop's potential as it comes out of dormancy in the winter wheat areas. The 2016 contest helped identify an innovative group of wheat farmers who manage wheat as intensively as they do corn and soybeans.

Growers must be members of either a state wheat association or the National Association of Wheat Growers to participate in the contest. Youth is no barrier; the minimum age is 14, and last year's national winner for irrigated winter wheat was Jagger Borth, a high school senior from Meade, Kansas.

The contest will be divided into the same four categories as last year: dryland winter wheat, irrigated winter wheat, dryland spring wheat and irrigated spring wheat. The winner of each category will be determined by how many percentage points the crop yields above the county average, and an overall highest yield winner will also be recognized.

The entered field must have at least five continuous acres of a certified or branded wheat variety. Growers who are planning to enter should keep careful records of every planting metric and input throughout the growing season. The contest is administered online entirely at <http://yieldcontest.wheatfoundation.org>. The entry fee is \$100 for spring wheat (it was \$125 for winter wheat).

The contest has very specific rules on how to harvest and check yield for the entered field, and a recheck is required if your field yields above 150 bpa. You can find those specifics, along with all the rest of the contest's rules and regulations, at <http://yieldcontest.wheatfoundation.org>.



IDAHO'S 2016 WINNERS

WINTER WHEAT – IRRIGATED

RICK PEARSON, PEARSON FARMS – BUHL, ID

SPRING WHEAT – IRRIGATED

TERRY WILCOX, KEITH WILCOX AND SONS – REXBURG, ID

SPRING WHEAT – IRRIGATED

BRAD PARKS, ARISTOCRAT FARMS – HAMER, ID

Long-term Manure Application Study: Return on Investment

“Committing to a long term field study tying up 5 acres of research land for eight years was a daunting idea at first” confided University of Idaho (UI) Soil Scientist, Amber Moore, PhD. “A lot can happen in eight years and land is at a premium for all research facilities.” Undeterred, she crafted an experimental design and began collecting the resources she would need: land, equipment, labor, and professional staff to help manage the plots. The UI Kimberley R & E Center didn’t have enough land to dedicate to one experiment for 8 years. So, Moore looked across Hwy 30 to her collaborators at the USDA-ARS Northwest Irrigation and Soil Research Laboratory (NISRL). Dave Bjorneberg, Supervisory Agricultural Engineer at the laboratory and his team of scientists were intrigued by Moore’s proposal to study the long term effects of adding manure to the local Portneuf



April Leytem, PhD, USDA-ARS Research Soil Scientist at NISRL, newly appointed project leader for the Long-term Manure Application Study.



Manure application on the field plots at NISRL in Kimberly, ID. Field photo credit: Robert Dugan, USDA-ARS NISRL

silt loam soils common to the region. The study required two fields because Moore wanted to follow a four year crop rotation of wheat-potatoes-barley-sugar beets on one field and a rotation of barley-sugar beets-wheat-potato on the second field.

In this way, each crop in the rotation would generate data every 2 years instead of once in 4 years. Convinced the project merited support, Dr. Bjorneberg offered two, 2.5 acre adjoining fields and said his team could provide equipment, vehicles and support staff. A great collaboration was born!

April Leytem, PhD, USDA research soil scientist at NISRL and Dave Bjorneberg, would help facilitate experimental design and maintenance of this project. The basic design was to apply manure every year on one field and every other year on the other. Applications would be made in the fall, before the grain crop was sown. Three different rates of manure would be applied: 7, 14, 21 tons per acre, on a dry weight basis. The 7 and 14 ton rates represented local practice if using manure as a fertilizer supplement. The 21/ton rate represented what might done when the primary objective was animal waste disposal. Control treatments would include plots with standard rate commercial fertilizer and plots with no application of nutrients.

Finding financial support for the operational expenses for an 8 year study would be a challenge, too. Dr. Moore approached the dairy industry, the various crop commissions, and the research communities at UI and USDA-ARS. She succeeded in building a strong collaboration between these entities with grants from The Idaho Wheat Commission, Idaho Barley



Taking a break from harvesting grain in the field plots of the Long-term Manure Application study at NISRL, Kimberly, ID.
Field photo credit: Robert Dugan, USDA-ARS NISRL

Commission, the Northwest Potato Consortium, the USDA-ARS, and the Idaho Dairymen’s Association.

“I remember, as the study came together, lots of other scientists began to ask about the possibility of sampling in the manure plots for their own research interests. I realized they would be able to overlay their own studies on top of the manure plot design. The scientific output from the trial would increase significantly and help justify the long term tie up of land resources.” Moore explained. Testing on soil samples, plant tissue, disease reaction, and crop quality were some of the original response data the project hoped to capture. Moore and her collaborators hoped to better understand the effect of repeated manure applications on soil properties, crop yield and quality. Stakeholders, in particular, were interested in the effect of manure application on the quality parameters for all of the crops in the rotation.

Return on Investment

“The manure study began in crop year 2012-13. Today, we are 4 years into an 8 year study and have generated an incredible amount of data” said Moore at the project’s stakeholders meeting held in Kimberly, ID on March 14, 2017.

Dr. Moore described numerous USDA-ARS and University of Idaho researchers who used the long term manure plots to generate important data for their own research interests. The manure field plots had already generated a massive number of data points so quickly that analyzing the data and getting it published has become a bit of a bottle neck. Moore estimated 30 articles could be written based on research data collected, including a manure application guide for small grains.

The essential information has been delivered in less formal ways through grower meetings, cereal schools, industry presentations, and in annual reports to the funding partners. Wheat responses to the manure applications were showcased in “Improving Wheat Yield and Grain Protein with Dairy Manure Applications” Idaho Grain, spring 2016 issue.

“Do you the stakeholders think the study should continue?” Moore asked the attendees. Stakeholders pointed out the exceptional amount of novel data captured, the projects value as a model for overlaying annual studies on a long term plot design, and the synergy gained from intentional collaborations and team work. Stakeholders unanimously voiced their support for the continuation of the study for another 4 years as originally planned.

Leadership Transition to USDA

This declaration of stakeholder support was critical as Dr. Moore informed stakeholders she was leaving University of Idaho for a position at Oregon State University, therefore, the leadership of the project was in question. A solution was proposed to transfer the project from the University of Idaho, College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, to Dave Bjorneberg's research team at USDA-ARS Northwest Irrigation and Soil Research Laboratory (NISRL). Stakeholder's supported this action and re-affirmed their financial and in kind support for the project, under NISRL leadership.

April Leytem has been a key collaborator on the manure project from initiation of the concept to the present day. Dr. Leytem officially became the Project Leader after the stakeholder meeting.

More Novel Research in the Future

While the manure project will continue for the next 4 years as intended in the original 8 year plan, researchers and stakeholders discussed the potential research opportunities available by continuing to study these field plots beyond that time.

Manure application has a legacy effect on the soil long after the manure applications stop. The manure plots would be a perfect opportunity to study legacy effects of long term manure applications on the soil biome, soil structure and chemistry, soil fertility and crop production. Extensive documentation of the soil prior to manure application and the sampling of response variables during the current project provides a wealth of baseline information for comparison during legacy studies.

Taking the time and attention developing a research field plot design allowing the overlay of other research experiments, and willingness of collaborators and stakeholders to make an 8 year commitment, has set up an unprecedented opportunity to generate significant original research on the legacy effects of manure applications. These manure field plots will likely become a hallmark study site in research literature on sustainable agriculture. ■



NISRL researchers prepare bags of soil for the "buried bag" Nitrogen Mineralization study in the long-term Manure application plots at NISRL, Kimberly, ID.

Field photo credit: Robert Dugan, USDA-ARS NISRL



DATE	TIME	EVENT/LOCATION	CONTACT
June 06	08:00 AM	Horse Heaven, WA	Ryan Higginbotham, 509-641-0549
June 07	03:00 PM	Ritzville, WA	Aaron Esser, 509-659-3210
June 08	09:30 AM	Western Whitman Co. – LaCross, WA	Steve Van Vleet, 509-397-6290
June 08	05:00 PM	Connell, WA	Ryan Higginbotham, 509-641-0549
June 13	07:30 AM	Pendleton Field Day-CBARC, OR	Mary Corp, 541-278-4415; Christina Hagerty (Christina.Hagerty@oregonstate.edu)
June 13	03:30 PM	Pendleton-Ruggs Tour, OR	Mike Flowers (mike.flowers@oregonstate.edu)
June 14	07:30 AM	Moro Field Day-CBARC, WA	Mary Corp, 541-278-4415; Christina Hagerty (Christina.Hagerty@oregonstate.edu)
June 14	04:00 PM	Harrington Field Day, WA	Diana Roberts, 509-477-2167
June 15	08:30 AM	Lind Field Day, WA	Bill Schillinger, 509-235-1933
June 15	03:00 PM	Hermiston Wheat Field Day	Ruijun (Ray) Qin (ruijun.qin@oregonstate.edu)
June 15	9 AM-Noon	Ririe Direct Seed Field Day, Lunch provided	Tereasa Waterman (ts@idahowheat.org)
June 16	05:00 PM	St. Andrews, WA	Dale Whaley, 509-745-8531
June 20	09:00 AM	Mayview, WA	Mark Heitstuman, 509-243-2009
June 20	8:00-11:00 AM	Tammany Crop Tour, Lewiston, ID	Doug Finkelburg, 208-799-3096 (dougf@uidaho.edu)
June 20	03:00 PM	Eureka, WA	Ryan Higginbotham, 509-641-0549

DATE (Cont'd)	TIME	EVENT/LOCATION	CONTACT
June 21	08:00 AM	Parma Wheat Trial, ID	Olga Walsh (owalsh@uidaho.edu)
June 21	01:00 PM	Walla Walla Field Day, OR	Paul Carter, 509-382-4741
June 22	10:00 AM–1:00 PM	Bonner's Ferry Crop Tour, ID – Lunch provided	Kathleen Painter (kpainter@uidaho.edu)
June 22	09:30 AM	Rockland/Arbon, ID	Jianli Chen (jchen@uidaho.edu); Terrell Sorensen, Power Co. Extension, 208-226-7621 or (tsorensen@UIdaho.edu)
June 22	12:30 PM	LCS Field Day, Waitsburg Research Station 110 Main Street, Waitsburg, WA 99361	Jay Klouse and Zach Gains
June 22	08:00 AM	Dayto, WA with WSU & NWSG	Paul Carter (cart@wsu.edu)
June 23	08:30 AM	Pomeroy Wheat Tour,	Hannah Kammeyer (hanna.kammeyer@oregonstate.edu)
June 27	8:00 AM–1:00 PM	UI All Farm Field Day, Parker Farm, Moscow, ID Lunch provided	Kurt Schroeder (kschroeder@uidaho.edu)
June 27	01:30 PM	UI-LCS Wheat Tour	Kurt Schroeder (kschroeder@uidaho.edu)
June 29	7:00 AM–Noon	Prairie Area Crop and Conservation Tour, Craigmont, ID	Ken Hart, 208-937-2311, khart@uidaho.edu;
July 11	10:00 AM	Rupert Field day, ID	Jon Hogge (jhogge@uidaho.edu)
July 11	02:00 PM	Minidoka Field Day, ID	Jon Hogge (jhogge@uidaho.edu)
July 12	4:00-5:30 PM	Idaho Falls Field Day, ID @ Mark Thiel Grain Growers dinner @ Seedal Park	Derek Reed, 208-390-7191 derekreed33@gmail.com; Mark Mulberry (mmulberry56) or Juliet Marshal (juliet.Marshall)
July 13	8:30 AM–1:00 PM	Aberdeen Cereals Field Day, ID-Lunch provided	Juliet Marshall (jmarshall@uidaho.edu); Jianli Chen (jchen@uidaho.edu)
July 20	10:00 AM-12:30 PM	Grace Winter Wheat Large Plot Demonstration Trials, lunch provided by Scoular Grain in Grace, ID	Jonathon Hogge, (jhogge@uidaho.edu) 208-716-5602
July 25	3:00-6:00 PM	Soda Springs Field Day, ID	Kyle Wangemann (kylekingkong@gmail.com) 801-361-7139
July 25	06:00 PM	IGPA Caribou County Org. Dinner, Soda Springs, ID	Kyle Wangemann (kylekingkong@gmail.com) 801-361-7139
July 27	10:00 AM-Noon	Ashton Field Day, ID	Jonathon Hogge, (jhogge@uidaho.edu) 208-716-5602

Direct Seed Field Day June 15

10:00 a.m. at Clark Hamilton Farm - 17112 E. Ririe Hwy, Ririe
Second stop at Gordon Gallup Farm - 1922 Swan Valley Hwy

Join us for a direct seed field day and crop tour east of Ririe, co-hosted by University of Idaho and the Idaho Wheat Commission.

Dr. Juliet Marshall will provide an overview of alternative crops and soil health at Clark Hamilton's Farm. The tour will move to Gordon Gallup's farm where Dr. Marshall will discuss cover crops, and breaking disease and insect cycles by adding diversity to crop rotation.

Lunch will be provided at Gordon Gallup's farm.

Please RSVP to: Teresa Waterman ts@idahowheat.org (208) 334-2353



UI Sparrow: an all-around winner

The Idaho Experiment Station with the Idaho Wheat Commission, recently invited seedsmen to negotiate licenses for a new soft white winter wheat variety, UI Sparrow. UI Sparrow is widely adapted across the Pacific Northwest's 12-16" rainfall zones. It is high yielding under irrigation when water is managed similarly. The varieties' tall stiff straw reduces the potential of lodging while providing the biomass necessary to support high yields in dryland production systems. A broad disease package, including multi-gene stripe rust resistance, tolerance to snow mold, eyespot, and immune resistance to dwarf bunt, helps reduce input costs for dryland producers.

Kurt Schroeder, UI Regional Trial manager, was impressed with the high falling number (FN) test results, for UI Sparrow, in all the 2016 northern Idaho trials, given the wide spread low FN test results experienced across most wheat varieties and geographic locations in Idaho and Washington in the 2016 crop.

The variety consistently ranked in the top 3 varieties for yield in the 12-16" precipitation zones (Pullman, Harrington, Fairfield, and Colton) in Washington State. In two years of Idaho Regional trials, UI Sparrow ranked third in yield, but was not significantly different from the top two varieties Bobtail (#1) or Jasper (#2).



Dave Sparrow served as the Executive Director of the Idaho Wheat Commission from 1996 to January 2002

UI Sparrow is protected by PVP and has Title 5 invoked. Title 5 of the Federal Seed Trade Act requires seed sold, traded, or given to another party, be a class of certified seed.

Certified seed has been adopted by the seed trade as a method to maintain the genetic and physical purity of field crops. Idaho Crop Improvement Association is Idaho's certifying agency. The University of Idaho will collect a royalty, to be negotiated during licensing, to be reinvested in the wheat research and variety development programs.


UI Sparrow is named in honor of David W. Sparrow, Idaho Wheat Commission's Executive Director from 1996 to 2002. Dave Sparrow was a strong supporter of Idaho wheat, serving at the state and national level in many capacities impacting Idaho's wheat industry.



Dr. Jianli Chen, University of Idaho wheat breeder at the Aberdeen R & E Center, Aberdeen, ID, was happy when UI Sparrow passed the release committee and would be commercialized. She had been waiting to name a new variety after Mr. Sparrow.

“The name acknowledges the financial support from grower assessment dollars through the Idaho Wheat Commission, making it possible to develop competitive varieties meeting the diverse needs of Idaho’s wheat growers” said Dr. Chen.

Foundation seed is available to Licensees for fall planting for a 2018 certified seed crop. The Invitation to Negotiate a License and the performance dossier of UI Sparrow, with guidelines on how to write and submit a license proposal, are available from the Idaho Wheat Commission at this email address: cathy.wilson@idahowheat.org.

UI Sparrow is widely adapted producing high yields and good grain quality under dryland or irrigated production management making it an all around winner for Idaho grain producers. 

Jianli Chen, Developer, University of Idaho wheat breeder, Aberdeen R & E Center, Aberdeen, ID





Scoular Creates Opportunity for Farmers, Customers

Around the world, people depend on food and feed. That need has been at the heart of Scoular’s business for 125 years, and it continues to drive the company’s efforts to create safe and reliable supply-chain solutions for its customers.

Every day, the collective contributions of Scoular’s 1,000-plus employees make it possible for the company to meet its customers’ unique needs -- from buying and selling desired qualities and quantities of grain and ingredients at competitive prices to ensuring shipments in the right mode, to the right place and at the right time.

From grain and livestock producers, dairies and aquaculture operations to feed, pet food and food manufacturers and processors, the company’s customers count on Scoular for flexible, customized and creative supply-chain solutions.



To accomplish that, Scoular:

- Sources grain, oilseeds, special crops and pulses from some of the most productive agricultural growing regions, providing farmers with local access to competitive markets;
- Secures safe, reliable -- and when desired, sustainably-sourced and traceable -- food and feed ingredients by forging strong partnerships with ingredient producers around the world;
- Leverages its network of more than 95 safe and efficient handling and processing facilities in the U.S. and Canada -- both its own and those of its third-party partners -- to store, blend, process and package grain and ingredients to meet customer specifications;
- Builds relationships with global transportation partners and leverages its own TSC Container Freight business to move product safely, efficiently and economically worldwide; and
- Commits to understanding its customers’ businesses and their unique needs for the long term to be the best at creating and delivering supply-chain solutions.



Weiser, Idaho

Access to competitive markets

The company has taken a long-term, strategic approach to serving customers in Idaho, said Kevin Thompson, a 28-year Scoular veteran based in Preston who oversees Scoular's western U.S. operations.

"We got our start in the late 1990s working with Idaho dairies and feeders to provide them with a reliable supply of quality grain and ingredients," he said.

"A few years later, we opened a grain-merchandising office and invested in a handful of grain elevators in the eastern part of the state. Things have just grown from there as we've listened to what our customers need and combined that with our knowledge of the broader marketplace," he said.

Scoular established the grain-merchandising office in Preston in 2001. Two years later, it purchased a group of grain elevators from Farmers Grain Cooperative of Idaho and began serving farmers in American Falls, Michaud, Grace and Bancroft, Idaho, and Ogden, Utah.

In 2006 while Scoular was constructing a feed-ingredient operation in Jerome, a consortium of dairy owners chose Scoular to operate an adjacent grain-handling facility, which Scoular later purchased in 2016.

In 2012, the company expanded its operations in the western part of the state, purchasing two grain operations in Weiser, Idaho. Two years later, it began operating a barge-loading facility in Burbank, Wash., giving Scoular access to export markets via the Columbia river and opening up another marketing avenue for grain purchased from area producers.

Complementary to the Weiser and Burbank operations, the company purchased Evans Grain & Elevator Co. assets in Ontario, Ore., and Nampa and Notus, Idaho, in 2014. The next strategic move was in 2015 with the construction of a grain facility in Aberdeen, Idaho.

"Our goal from the beginning has been to provide farmers with local access to competitive markets for their corn, barley and wheat -- whether that's down the road, across the state or around the world," Thompson said.

"We can do this because we have end-user and export customers that want grain from Idaho and trust that we can supply what they need, when and where they need it," he said.

While market access is key, Scoular also helps local farmers manage their price and quality risk by offering transportation from the farm to the elevator, grain-storage options and creative, flexible contracts with unique pricing and delivery options.

"We also invest in our grain facilities to make sure that they are safe and efficient for our customers and our employees. We've made a lot of updates to Idaho locations with this in mind," he said.

In addition to improvements for safety reasons, Scoular also invests in capacity upgrades to better serve its farmer customers.

"We focus on two primary areas -- how carefully can we segregate by product quality to capture premiums and how fast can we unload trucks to save our customers time," he said.

Reliable feed supply

Scoular began providing dairies and feeders in the Idaho market with dried distiller grains and other feed ingredients in the late 1990s, opening its first Idaho office in 1999 in Twin Falls.

In 2006, amidst the ethanol boom, Scoular completed the construction of a 12,000-ton ingredient handling and storage facility in Jerome and opened an on-site office to accommodate the staff who had been working in nearby Twin Falls.

“Our investment was in response to area dairy and feeder customers’ demand for a more consistent and reliable supply of ingredients, including DDGs,” said Todd Strayer, the leader of Scoular’s feed ingredients operations in the western U.S., who’s been actively building Scoular’s presence in Idaho since 2001.

“At the time, DDGs, an ethanol co-product, was a relatively new and attractively priced substitute for corn in feed rations, and our customers wanted it,” he said.

Built for speed and efficiency, Scoular’s then-new handling and storage facility in Jerome was one of the first of its kind in Idaho, allowing the company to unload 75-car trains of DDGs in 48 hours or less as well as transload product directly from rail cars to trucks.

Today, the facility has been upgraded to unload 100-car DDG units and 110-car shuttle trains of corn, giving customers access to Midwestern grain and ingredients as well as those grown or produced locally.



In 2014, the company expanded its Jerome operation and service by adding a commodity-blending facility to produce custom-blended feed.

“If you would have told me 10 years ago that we would be in the business of blending feed, I wouldn’t have believed you,” Strayer said.

“But, after hearing a lot of our customers talk about the high cost of blending their own feed, particularly related to shrink, we started thinking about what we could do to solve their problem,” he said.

Finding solutions for complex customer challenges is one of the things about Scoular that is unique as well as rewarding, he said.

“As a company, we really are committed to working closely with our customers to understand their individual needs, rather than taking a one-size-fits-all approach,” he said.



Grace, Idaho

“When we combine a deep understanding of our local customer with our knowledge of the broader marketplace, we can come up with truly customized and creative solutions. Our investment in our Jerome operation is a perfect example. It wouldn’t exist if we hadn’t been listening to our local dairy customers and paying attention to trends in the larger marketplace,” he said.

Looking ahead

On the wheat side of the business, Scoular is committed to exploring technologies and processes to help the company’s farmer customers provide the information that end-use customers want, Thompson said.

“Our customers are driving us for more traceability. Consumers want to know where their food comes from, and our flour mill customers are asking us to help them figure out how to help answer that question,” he said.

Strayer said he has a few possible projects in the hopper but nothing that’s up for public discussion just yet.

“We’re exploring a number of opportunities right now,” he said.

Scoular is the type of company that is always open to discussing growth opportunities that leverage the company’s capabilities to deliver new solutions, whether that’s through investment or partnership, he said. ■



About Scoular

Employees: 1,000+

Ownership: Independent, privately-held, employee-owned

Annual Sales: \$4.7 billion FY2016

Offices: 25

Facilities: 95 storage, handling and processing

Bushels Traded: 1+ billion FY2016

History: Scoular’s roots in agriculture began in 1892 when the company was founded by George Scoular. The company remained under the ownership of the Scoular family until 1967, when it was acquired by a group of grain industry executives led by Marshall Faith.

Points of Interest:

- One of the biggest grain storage and handling companies in North America.
- Exports more than 100,000 TEUs annually from the U.S., making it one of the country’s largest exporters of ocean containers.
- One of the largest processors of special crops in Canada.
- Added 70 facilities, 10 offices and more than 700 employees in the past 10 years.
- Customers are local, regional, national and international.
- Small enough to have personal relationships with customers but big enough to reach markets in more than 50 countries.
- Provides a wide array of marketing options to producer customers.
- Doesn’t consume the products handled; focuses on unique supply-chain solutions.
- Through involvement in trade organizations, influences trade policy and trade practice, volunteers to serve as arbitrators and trainers and cosponsors public outreach programs and events.
- The Scoular Foundation puts a portion of net profits to work helping people, organizations and projects where it does business and where employees live.

Source: Scoular Co.



Bridges to Opportunity

USDA has partnered with thousands of local, state, regional and national agricultural organizations that offer programs, nongovernmental grants, technical assistance, financial advice and other information that can help current and future farmers and ranchers.

For example, a farmer, rancher or someone interested in agriculture may visit an FSA county office seeking information on organic production.

Using specialized software, an FSA employee now can search and obtain a list of all local, state, regional and national organizations offering resources and services on organic production. The FSA employee can email or print that information for the producer, plus contact the partner organization regarding the producer's interest.

The Bridges database contains information on all subject matters that affect farmers, ranchers and anyone interested in agriculture on a wide range of topics, including but not limited to drought relief, beginning farmer information and disaster assistance.

For more information

For more information about Bridge to Opportunity, visit the website at www.fsa.usda.gov/bridges or contact an FSA county office. To find a county office, visit <http://offices.usda.gov>.



Farm Storage Facility Loans

Overview

Farm Storage Facility Loans (FSFL) provide low-interest financing for producers to build or upgrade farm storage and handling facilities to store eligible commodities they produce. The program is administered by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Farm Service Agency.

A producer may borrow up to \$500,000 per loan, with a minimum down payment of 15 percent. Loan terms are up to 12 years, depending on the amount of the loan. Producers must demonstrate storage needs based on three years of production history. FAS also provides a microloan option that, while available to all eligible farmers and ranchers, also should be of particular interest to new or small producers where there is a need for financing option for loans up to \$50,000 at a lower down payment with reduced documentations.

Each applicant will be charged a nonrefundable \$100 application fee.

Microloans

Producers who select the microloan option can borrow up to \$50,000 with the minimum down payment reduced to 5 percent and shorter loan terms. Producers can self-certify the storage needs of the eligible commodity and are not required to demonstrate storage needs based on production history.

Applicants for all loans will be charged a nonrefundable \$100 application fee.



Eligible Commodities

The following commodities are eligible:

- Corn, grain sorghum, rice, soybeans, oats, peanuts, wheat, barley or minor oilseeds harvested as whole grain;
- Corn, grain, sorghum, wheat, oats, or barley harvested as other-than-whole-grain;
- Other grain (triticale, speltz and buckwheat);
- Pulse crops (lentils, chickpeas and dry peas);
- Hay;
- Honey;
- Renewable biomass;
- Fruits (including nuts) and vegetables-cold storage facilities;
- Floriculture;
- Hops;
- Maple sap;
- Milk;
- Cheese;
- Butter;
- Yogurt;
- Eggs;
- Meat/poultry (unprocessed);
- Rye; and
- Aquaculture (excluding systems that maintain live animals through uptake and discharge of water).

Environmental Evaluation Requirements

These loans must be approved by the local FSA state or county committee before any site preparation and/or construction can be started.

All loan requests are subject to an environmental evaluation. Accepting delivery of equipment, starting any site preparation or construction before loan approval may impede the successful completion of an environmental evaluation and may adversely affect loan eligibility.

Eligible Facilities, Equipment and Upgrades

The following types of new/used facilities and upgrades are eligible and must have a useful life for at least the term of the loan;

- Conventional cribs or bins;
- Oxygen-limiting structures and remanufactured oxygen-limiting structures;
- Flat-type storage structures;
- Electrical equipment and handling equipment, excluding the installation of electrical service to the electrical meter;
- Safety equipment, such as interior and exterior ladders and lighting
- Equipment to improve, maintain or monitor the quality of stored grain;
- Concrete foundations, aprons, pits and pads, including site preparation, off-farm labor and material, essential to the proper operation of the grain storage and handling equipment;
- Renovation of existing farm storage facilities, under certain circumstances, if the renovation is for maintaining or replacing items;
- Grain handling and grain drying equipment determined by the Commodity Credit Corporation to be needed and essential to the proper operation of a grain storage system (with or without a loan for the storage facility);
- Structures that are bunker-type, horizontal or open silo structures, with at least two concrete walls and a concrete floor;
- Structures suitable for storing hay built according to acceptable design guidelines;
- Structures suitable for storing renewable biomass;
- Bulk tanks for storing milk or maple sap;
- Cold storage buildings, including prefabricated buildings that are suitable for eligible commodities. Also may include cooling, circulating and monitoring equipment and electrical equipment, including labor and materials for installation of lights, motors and wiring integral to the proper operation of a cold storage facility; and
- Storage and handling trucks, including refrigerated trucks.

Eligibility Requirements

An eligible borrower is any person who is a landowner, landlord, leaseholder, tenant or sharecropper. Eligible borrowers must be able to show repayment ability and meet other requirements to qualify for a loan. Contact an FSA office for more details.

Where to File the Application

Loan applications should be filed in the administrative FSA county office that maintains the form's records.

For More Information

This fact sheet is provided for informational purposes; other eligibility requirements or restrictions may apply. For more information about Farm Storage Facility Loans, visit www.fsa.usda.gov/pricesupport or contact your local FSA office. To find your local FSA office, visit <http://offices.usda.gov>

Other examples of equipment include but are not limited to the following:		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • baggers • boxers • brush polishers • bulk bin tippers • case palletizers • cement flooring • circulation fans • cold dip tanks • conveyors • drying tunnels • dumpers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • electrical equipment • food and safety-related equipment • hoppers • hydrocoolers • hydrolifts • ice machines • quality graders • refrigeration units or systems • roller creepfeeders • roller spray units 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • safety equipment meeting Occupational Safety and Health Administration requirements • sealants • sizers • sorting bins and/or tables • storage and handling trucks • washers • waxers • weight graders

Notes:

- Eligible storage structures and handling equipment, having a useful life for the entire term of the loan, may be permanently affixed or portable
- Facilities built for commercial purposes and not for the sole use of the borrower(s) are not eligible for financing.



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