

SUMMER 2020

# IDAHO

THE IDAHO GRAIN PRODUCERS ASSOCIATION MAGAZINE

# G R A I N



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# VIEWS



**BY JAMIE KRESS  
PRESIDENT**

I'll be honest. When talk of potential shutdowns began in March I did not expect the country, and especially Idaho, to change into what it has become. It felt like we might just have a really long spring break. The "real" moment for me was when our son texted on the way to his very first high school baseball game. "Mom, I'm glad you're coming today. We were just told this is our last game of the season." Perhaps I was naïve. Maybe I felt untouchable tucked away in rural Idaho. Either way, I'm not sure anyone could have seen that our world was about to abruptly stop.

Early on, agriculture was deemed "essential". That single word provided us the privilege to continue on with life as we know it. As we fired up the sprayer and the drill, we watched Americans around us being forced to the shut doors on their "non-essential" businesses and put their dreams on hold. There has almost been a little bit of guilt for being deemed essential. It takes everyone to make the world go round, and I'm pretty sure those folks are "essential" too. Sometimes in farming, we don't feel lucky. Sometimes it seems if we didn't have bad luck we wouldn't have any luck at all. Well, amidst the chaos, this time we were the lucky ones- able to push forward and carry on our passion and our work.

Although labeling ourselves "essential" is hard in our home, making sure crops are harvested and the wheat supply remains unaffected this fall is critical. For the first time in recent history, Americans nationwide are experiencing restrictions to food access. Grocery stores are limiting quantities of certain items; many items are unavailable. American agricultural production and food supply chains have made their way to the forefront of not only political conversation, but kitchen table conversation. Farmers have always known that American food production is vital. Might I even suggest a national security issue? This Pandemic has brought home the importance of American farms, farmers, and the crops we grow.

With this spring's uncertainty and turmoil, I've felt an even greater appreciation for my family and our opportunities. Tyson's baseball season was unsalvageable, but he logged quite a few hours operating the sprayer and seeded over 1,000 acres of spring crops by himself. Hailey's dance was derailed, but watching wildlife from the buddy seat has been pretty cool. Cory and I've been reminded, from a different perspective, what a privilege it is to farm. As we wait for the world to look more like it did three months ago, we'll keep measuring our social distance in miles, not feet and looking for the good things in life. ■

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# EDITOR'S NOTE



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BY STACEY KATSEANES SATTERLEE  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

We send out Idaho Grain magazine once a quarter, so I end up writing this magazine article every three months. Three months ago, we were in the thick of the legislative session, had been to Washington DC, and hosted an IGPA board meeting in Boise – and none of us would have imagined what the next three months would hold.

COVID-19 changed just about everything. The legislature adjourned quickly, without dealing with some big issues that had been on their agenda. Read more about the legislative session on page 4.

Governor Brad Little issued a stay at home order to try to reduce community infection and contain the spread of the virus. It was hard, but it worked – Idaho's infection rates remain relatively low. But the impacts to individuals, communities, and industries are real. You can read more about some of the repercussions for Idaho agriculture on page 8, and about global impacts to wheat and barley from our national affiliates on page 9.

Another significant change is that Idaho's May 19 primary election was held entirely by absentee ballot – we'll have to see what November's election looks like, whether we'll all be back at polling places in voting booths, or if we'll be at home filling out absentee ballots again.

An ER doctor in the hard-hit Wood River Valley wrote a piece in the Idaho Statesman, where he said, "The Devil himself couldn't have created a more diabolical plague, something that turns human touch against us. Normally during times of crisis, people band together, we congregate. But we can't do that now." Which is one of the hardest things about this global pandemic.

On the other hand, I think often of this timely quote from Mr. Rogers: "**When I was a boy and I would see scary things in the news, my mother would say to me, 'Look for the helpers. You will always find people who are helping.'**" There are so many helpers right now, and so many communities coming together in different ways. And thank goodness that in these uncertain times, farmers are still farming and working hard to produce the safest, most abundant food supply in the world. And IGPA is still hard at work on your behalf on state and federal issues – if you haven't joined for 2020, go to [www.idahograin.org/membership](http://www.idahograin.org/membership) to join today. ■



## Legislative Wrap-up

BY RICH GARBER, GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS DIRECTOR, IGPA



Following the legislative session we are frequently asked how we would evaluate the session. One of the measurements is to compare this session with previous sessions. Each year's Legislative Services sine die report is a 10-year look at the volume of legislation and length of session. During the 2020 session, 830 proposed pieces of legislation were prepared for legislative committees and individual legislators as compared to the 10-year average of 804. From that initial group of draft proposals, 559 bills were actually introduced along with 70 resolutions, memorials and proclamations as compared with the 10-year average of 547. By the end of the session, 347 bills had been passed. After final legislative action, and following the Governor's review, 341 introduced bills became law as compared to the 10-year average of 348.

When the legislature adjourned sine die on March 20th, it had been in session for 75 days. The 2020 legislative session was twenty days less than the previous session and the shortest since 2016. The 10-year session average length is 83 days.

The following is a brief synopsis of bills and resolutions your IGPA staff and intern followed this session. This includes bills we actively lobbied on, supported or opposed through IGPA's membership in Food Producers of Idaho and Idaho Association of Commerce and Industry, or simply monitored.

**H325a, Transportation:** Amends existing law to revise the sales tax distribution to the Transportation Expansion and Congestion Mitigation Fund and to establish the Bridge Maintenance and Replacement Program Fund. The legislation would have increased the distribution from 1% of sales tax collections to 2% of sales tax collections. **Vetoed**

**H367, Phosphogypsum:** Adds to existing law to provide construction requirements for new phosphogypsum stacks or lateral expansions of existing phosphogypsum stacks and to provide for design and construction plans. IGPA supported on behalf of permitting of the Itafos Conda's Husky 1/North Dry Ridge project, so the site may be developed in a timely and cost-effective manner. **Law**

**H389, Idaho Potato Commission:** This legislation would have amended existing law to revise provisions regarding the Idaho Potato Commission. Proposed

revisions included moving certain district boundaries for commissioner appointments, changing appointment dates, and adding a referendum process. **Never got a hearing**

**H442, Agricultural Aircraft:** Amends existing law to provide a sales and use tax exemption for agricultural aircraft, materials and parts. **Law**

**H452, Right to Repair:** This legislation establishes that original equipment manufacturers provide consumers and independent repair businesses with equal access to repair documentation, diagnostics, tools, service parts and firmware as their direct or authorized repair providers. These protections include no alternation or pirating of intellectual property during repair. **Died on General Orders**

**H486, Unmanned Aircraft Systems:** This legislation clarifies and enhances restrictions on the use of Unmanned Aircraft. It provides a narrow scope for law enforcement and fire department use of unmanned aircraft systems without a warrant. **Law**

**H487a, Aerial Applicators:** This bill, brought by the Idaho Aerial Applicators Association, as originally proposed, would have removed sections of Idaho code that restrict pesticide use applied by all licensed pesticide applicators. It adds new language that will require the Department of Agriculture to promulgate rules related to penalties and restrictions due to violation of this section through a negotiated rule making process. **Vetoed**

**H560, Ag Land Evaluation:** This legislation establishes the commonly used method for calculation of agricultural land assessed values. It places emphasis on using local available data when available rather than relying on generalized aggregated data. **Law**

**H591, Idaho Potato Commission:** This legislation creates a refund provision of up to 50% of the tax paid to the Idaho Potato Commission. **Held in committee**

**H614, Distracted Driving:** The purpose of this legislation is to treat the use of certain electronic devices behind the wheel as an infraction. This bill will prohibit the use of any mobile electronic device while operating a motor vehicle with the exception of using an electronic device to assist in the movement of farm tractors,

Continued on next page

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## Benefits to Farmers Entering 2020 NWYC

By Trenton Stanger, WestBred® technical product manager, Montana region

Entering the 2020 National Wheat Yield Contest (NWYC) offers growers the opportunity to compete with their peers and learn innovative techniques from each other to improve wheat productivity on their farms.

As an industry leader, WestBred is proud to again sponsor NWYC. I encourage our growers to enter their spring wheat in the contest. The entry deadline is August 1, with an early registration deadline of June 15.

### Why Enter

- Support new ideas for ways to improve production.
- Enable knowledge transfer between growers.
- Identify top wheat producers in each state.

### Why Enter WestBred Varieties

- All WestBred growers will have their entry fees paid for by the brand.
- All WestBred growers who place nationally will receive a trip to 2021 Commodity Classic in San Antonio, Texas.

### How to Enter

- Entering the 2020 NWYC requires completing an entry form as well as submitting a grain sample.
- For more information on entering and winning, visit [yieldcontest.wheatfoundation.org](http://yieldcontest.wheatfoundation.org).

### How to Win

- Grow high-yielding, good-quality wheat and submit your harvest results and grain sample!
- 24 National Award opportunities.
- The contest features two primary competition categories, Winter Wheat and Spring Wheat, plus two subcategories: Dryland and Irrigated.
- Winners will be selected based on percentages above USDA county averages and high yield basis, with no regard to USDA county averages.

Good luck!

To contact Trenton Stanger, WestBred® technical product manager, Montana, call 530-681-8288 or email [trenton.stanger@bayer.com](mailto:trenton.stanger@bayer.com).



Performance may vary, from location to location and from year to year, as local growing, soil and weather conditions may vary. Growers should evaluate data from multiple locations and years whenever possible and should consider the impacts of these conditions on the grower's fields. Bayer, Bayer Cross, WestBred and Design® and WestBred® are registered trademarks of Bayer Group. ©2020 Bayer Group. All Rights Reserved.



Continued from previous page

farm equipment, and implements of husbandry from one farm operation to another. **Law**

**HJM11, Itafos Conda:** This joint memorial encourages the President of the United States, the Secretary of the Department of Agriculture, Secretary of the Department of Interior, Administrators of the Environmental Protection Agency and Idaho's Congressional Delegation, to commit adequate personnel and sufficient financial resources to move forward with the permitting of the Itafos Conda's Husky 1/North Dry Ridge project. **Adopted**

**S1267, Pacific Time Zone:** This legislation provides that those areas of Idaho that are in the Pacific time zone, and all its political subdivisions, will follow Pacific daylight savings time throughout the year, at such time as the State of Washington makes daylight savings time the permanent time of the state. **Law**

**S1345, Industrial Hemp:** This legislation adds a new chapter to Idaho code to enact the Industrial Hemp Research and Development act, which provides legislative intent, defines hemp, and permits any persons or institutions of higher education in Idaho to grow, cultivate, harvest, sample, test, research, process, transport, transfer, take possession of, sell, import and export hemp or hemp products containing .3% or less of tetrahydrocannabinols (THC). It also adds a new section to provide for the transportation of industrial hemp. **Held in committee**

**S1365, Beer Tax Revenue Distribution:** This legislation would change the standard measurement of alcohol, and would reallocate revenues from the Idaho Grape Growers and Wine Producers Commission to the General Fund. **Died on floor**

**S1367, Agricultural Research and Extension Service:** This is the original appropriation for the Agricultural Research and Cooperative Extension Service. It appropriates a total of \$32,108,400. **Law**

**S1379, Dyed Fuel:** The purpose of this legislation is to provide a practical method for using existing law enforcement and Idaho Transportation Department resources to inspect commercial vehicles for dyed fuel. It also defines and sets violations and civil penalties for violations. **Law**

**S1386, Mountain Time Zone:** This legislation provides that those areas of Idaho that are in Mountain time zone and all its political subdivisions, will follow Mountain daylight savings time throughout the year, at such time as the State of Utah makes daylight savings time the permanent time of the state. **Held in committee**

**S1413, Department of Agriculture:** This is the FY 2021 original appropriation bill for the Idaho State Department of Agriculture. It appropriates a total of \$47,559,800 and caps the number of authorized full-time equivalent positions at 216.00. **Law**

**SJM110, Port of Lewiston and Columbia-Snake River System:** This Joint Memorial states that the Idaho Legislature recognizes and supports the international competitiveness, multimodal transportation and economic development benefits provided by the Port of Lewiston and the Columbia-Snake River System. This memorial states that Idaho opposes the removal or breaching of the dams on the Columbia-Snake River System and its tributaries. **Adopted** ■

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## THREE AG PERSPECTIVES ON COVID-19

### Impact of COVID-19 to the State of Idaho

BY CELIA GOULD, DIRECTOR, IDAHO STATE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

It is hard to predict much these days. Markets are all over the place, weather is just as unpredictable, and no one can say when life will begin to look normal again. Despite the challenges, it is not in the character of farmers and ranchers to quit and certainly not when they are needed most.



I appreciate the IGPA team reaching out for an update. Like so many of you, I feel like I spend most of my days now on the phone. I try to be in daily contact with Idaho's leaders, agricultural producers, USDA leadership and my counterparts in other states. There are still more questions than answers, but communication is critical.

Various forms of federal relief have been implemented and more is coming. I also know how hard state leadership is working to provide relief for Idahoans. We have heard some constructive and innovative ideas from industry, and I would encourage producers to continue reaching out. It really does make a difference and provides invaluable firsthand information.

With current strains on supply chains, now is also a good time to remind producers of some the measures that

are in place to protect them in uncertain times. Idaho's Commodity Indemnity Fund and Seed Indemnity Fund programs are similar to insurance. If you sell beans, peas, grain or seed to a licensed operator in Idaho but that facility fails to pay, the indemnity fund may cover up to 90% of what is owed. There is only one caveat: you must sell to a licensed warehouse or dealer to be covered by indemnity funds. A list of licensees is available on the Warehouse Control Program's website. If you need any assistance, please contact us.

During these unprecedented times, ISDA employees have worked to keep service as normal as possible. Our frontline staff are still at farms, sheds, processing plants, gas stations and beyond. It certainly has not been business as usual, though.

My deepest thanks go out to Idaho's farmers, ranchers, farm workers, truckers, processors and every supporting sector. Because of you, we can all have faith in our food system.

Agriculture knows what it's like to weather adversity successfully. We've done it before and we will do it again. As always, we'll do it together. ■

### COVID-19 Impacts on Barley

BY NATIONAL BARLEY GROWERS ASSOCIATION

Like many other sectors and crops, the COVID-19 pandemic has impacted the barley supply chain and barley farmers. Food barley contracts for export to Japan have been cancelled. The closure of restaurants and bars and the cancellation of concerts and major sporting events across the country has impacted beer consumption and supply chains. Exports of malt barley have also ceased, directly impacting the malt facility in Idaho Falls, as Mexico shut down beer production in their country, which is the top export market for U.S. malt barley. Some craft malt processors have invoked "force majeure" clauses to reduce barley contracts with farmers, some of which had already planted their 2020



crop based on the contract. Others have notified growers that deliveries will be suspended indefinitely and growers should be prepared to store contracted barley for an extended period, possibly into 2022.

The National Barley Growers Association (NBGA) has joined with other commodity groups on numerous letters to make policymakers aware of the impacts to agriculture, including price impacts, trucking, and labor issues. Specific to barley, NBGA has provided USDA with information on the supply chain impacts and the effects it is having on farmers currently as well as the impacts that will continue in the coming months and into next year. NBGA also joined other stakeholders in a



letter to the President of Mexico urging the resumption of beer production to allow the supply chain to begin moving again.

The Administration has taken actions to address some of the impacts on trucking and labor needs for agriculture, and Congress provided over \$23 billion for agriculture in the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act. USDA has announced plans to utilize the authority and a portion of the funding provided by Congress for the Coronavirus Food Assistance Program (CFAP), which will provide direct support to farmers and ranchers, and to purchase and distribute surplus commodities. USDA indicated that \$3.9 billion will be made available for row crop farmers where prices and market supply chains have been impacted. NBGA will continue to gather information on impacts to growers and work to ensure

that the assistance provided by USDA and Congress addresses these needs.

The unforeseen disruption for barley farmers from the pandemic comes on top of the ongoing effects of severe weather events in a large part of the barley growing region of the country during the 2019 harvest season. In response to these severe conditions that resulted in quality losses for barley and other crops, Congress provided in the Fiscal Year 2020 Appropriations an additional \$1.5 billion for the Wildfire Hurricane Indemnity Program (WHIP+). The U.S. Department of Agriculture was working on implementation of the WHIP+ quality loss provisions when the COVID-19 pandemic emerged, and NBGA has urged USDA to expedite that assistance as a way to help some barley farmers who have experienced losses that are now compounded by the pandemic disruptions. ■

# What NAWG is doing to address the Impact of COVID-19 on Wheat Farmers

BY NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF THE WHEAT GROWERS

In the short span of early March to early May, the United States went from around 25 to 1.19 million confirmed cases of coronavirus (COVID-19). Officially deemed a pandemic on March 11th, this novel virus drastically disrupted all types of businesses and industries, including agriculture. While wheat farmers continue to produce through the outbreak, COVID-19 created major hiccups in the supply chain. Wheat growers' seasonal workforce is being impacted and delayed by heightened travel restrictions. Further, wheat farmers are experiencing cash flow problems and only two classes of wheat, hard red spring and durum, currently qualify for the Coronavirus Food Assistance Program (CFAP) in large part due to the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA)'s flawed methodology behind the program (this is addressed further below). The National Association of Wheat Growers (NAWG) is helping its members get through the COVID-19 crisis by maintaining open lines of communication, consistent outreach to the Administration and Congress, and weekly memos updating membership on its activities around COVID-19. Our ability to do so and to represent you depends on the information and feedback we receive from our states, and so we have regularly sought out input from our members via surveys, conference calls, and other mechanisms.



While there is no shortage of wheat being produced, consumers are seeing a temporary shortage of flour in the grocery store. It is one of the most apparent setbacks the wheat industry has observed as a result of COVID-19.

Stay-at-home orders are leading to an increase in consumer demand for flour because folks, now more than ever, are baking at home. Supply chains have had to adapt to significant drop in demand from restaurants along with significant increase in at-home use, which has required a shift in packaging and distribution. As a result, this has had adverse impacts on markets and, while there has been a drastic increase in consumer demand for wheat food products, that hasn't necessarily translated into higher prices for farmers who are also dealing with high cost of production.

NAWG has been active in bringing examples of disruptions, like these, in the supply chain to the attention of lawmakers. In the early stages of the outbreak in the U.S., we joined with other national organizations in asking President Trump, in the process of considering steps to restrict movement of individuals to stop the spread of the coronavirus, to be mindful of the impacts on the agricultural supply chain and workforce impacts in meeting food demand. Additionally, we asked USDA and the Department of Labor to ensure segments of the agriculture industry, including farmers, would be considered essential workers to ensure their work would not be restricted while also ensuring proper safety precautions were taken. On March 25, 2020, NAWG joined over 50 food and agricultural organizations in sending a letter to the Department of Transportation's Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration Acting Administrator requesting additional emergency relief that

Continued on next page

encompasses all segments of the farm-to-fork supply chain to address these disruptions.

Building on this effort, on April 1st, NAWG signed on to a letter sent to all Governors suggesting actions states could implement to aid the continued movement of food and agricultural inputs during the COVID-19 crisis. Specifically, these efforts sought expanded emergency declarations and waivers related to trucker hours-of-service requirements to ensure the resiliency of our nation's food supply and producers had access to the necessary inputs going into the planting season. NAWG has also been in contact with the North American Millers Association (NAMA) to identify any possible transportation issues between the wheat farmer and the miller, as well as other logistical issues, to come up with quick solutions.

Regarding direct aid for producers, we worked alongside other national organizations in calling on Congress to provide funding through the Commodity Credit Corporation to USDA in order to provide aid to producers. Subsequently, on April 8, 2020, NAWG joined several organizations in sending a letter to U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Secretary Perdue outlining severe impacts the COVID-19 pandemic is causing throughout production agriculture with recommendations on how to help the industry recover.

Coronavirus travel restrictions has also thrown a wrench in many state's agricultural workforce including Idaho. The H-2A Temporary Agricultural Visa Program, which fills many temporary agricultural jobs, is needed help for many wheat farmers during harvest. In its conversations and outreach to the Administration, NAWG has stressed that farm labor is essential for many American growers and that it must be mindful of any possible disruptions in the processing of H-2A visas.

As a result of the action taken by the food and agriculture industry around COVID-19, USDA delivered a relief package. Announced on April 17th, the Coronavirus Food Assistance Program (CFAP) includes \$16 billion in direct payments for farmers and ranchers, funded using the \$9.5 billion emergency program in the CARES Act and \$6.5 billion from the Credit Commodity Corporation (CCC). On April 23rd, NAWG issued a letter to USDA demonstrating how wheat farmers should be eligible for CFAP. In the letter, NAWG urged USDA to incorporate price volatility during the January to April timeframe to capture the full market conditions during which wheat farmers were marketing their crop. Wheat producers experienced substantial price losses during the designated timeframe and should be eligible for assistance under CFAP.

On May 19th, USDA released final details of CFAP which includes eligibility for producers of durum and hard red

spring wheat. Other classes including hard red winter, soft red winter, and white wheat were not included in the program. In response, NAWG issued a statement thanking USDA for their work and for allowing certain classes of wheat to be eligible under the program but argued that their methodology should take into consideration price loss experienced by all six classes of wheat. Following the announcement, NAWG continued to press USDA to consider price volatility and economic loss experienced by all wheat growers as a result of COVID-19 and should be eligible for CFAP. Additionally, NAWG has been in contact with Congress about the need to provide additional resources to farmers to address the short and long-term impacts of the pandemic.

On May 4, 2020, the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) announced that agricultural businesses will be eligible for SBA's Economic Injury Disaster Loan (EIDL) and EIDL Advance programs. SBA's EIDL portal reopened on May 4th as a result of funding authorized by Congress through the Paycheck Protection Program and Healthcare Enhancement Act. In an April letter to SBA, the agriculture industry, including NAWG, argued Capitol Hill meant to include agriculture as an eligible industry in the CARES Act that was passed in March. NAWG continues to work with Congress on ways wheat farmers can access assistance through the uncertainty of COVID-19. plan to submit comments/letter outline how all wheat has been negatively impacted.

U.S. farmers overcome significant risk every year to meet domestic wheat demand and still provide half their crop for export markets. NAWG has coordinated with U.S. Wheat Associates on its messaging to the Administration on how it must work to ensure that commercial warehouses can store and efficiently transport wheat in top condition to meet overseas demand when needed and throughout the marketing year. In the COVID-19 outbreak, NAWG vocally argued why farmers and food distribution industries are essential. Export grain systems and Federal Grain Inspection Service (FGIS) inspections have continued operating with little or no interruption.

While some logistics have needed to shift in light of the COVID-19 pandemic, NAWG continues to include in its messaging that there is enough safe and high-quality wheat in the supply chain to meet the demand. In its conversations with congressional staff, the Administration, and lawmakers, NAWG reaffirms that wheat growers are working with its cohorts to ensure food is available to communities around the country. Idaho's wheat growers can stay up to date on NAWG's activities around COVID-19 by visiting our media page and signing up for our weekly updates by emailing Caitlin Eannello, NAWG Director of Communications, at [ceannello@wheatworld.org](mailto:ceannello@wheatworld.org). ■



REPRESENTATIVE

# Jerald Raymond

MENAN, ID • DISTRICT 35



Rep. Jerald Raymond currently serves as a Representative for House District 35 and is running for re-election this year.

Rep. Raymond is a rancher from the little town of Menan, Idaho, that only has about 500 residents - and he “doesn’t even live in town; about 2 miles outside.” He is a graduate of Rigby High School, attended Ricks College, and says he is “still attending and paying tuition to the school of hard knocks.”

The reason Rep. Raymond ran for state office can be summed up in one phrase: “if not you, then who?” His political experience also includes time served on a mosquito abatement district board and two terms as a county commissioner. Rep. Raymond also served as President of the Idaho Cattle Association and has spent his entire career solely in the livestock business.

“Ag is my passion. It’s how we have made our living our whole lives so agricultural issues are always at the top of my list,” he says.

Rep. Raymond has served one term (two sessions) in the Idaho legislature where he sits on the Agricultural Affairs, Business, and Education committees.

“If reelected, I hope to continue my work on legislation we started regarding livestock grazing improvement on state and federal lands. That’s such an important issue to me right now.”

“We are an ag export state, the positive economic impact ag has on the state of Idaho is phenomenal, so we need to make sure we have markets available to us.”

Rep. Raymond says education is also very important and his opinion is strong on the issue. “I have a favorite saying and it is ‘education displaces poverty.’ When unemployment increases, folks look to technical education hoping to increase their chances of employment, so those technical agribusiness jobs and education in agribusiness in general are going to be vital.”

On a state level, he says balancing the budget is of utmost importance. “Although I don’t have an easy

answer for that yet. Revenue is down but hopefully after taxes come in in June, that will help. We don’t want to mess with the education budget and want to hold that together as much as possible, while also being able to get the budget balanced.”

Rep. Raymond says family is everything. “My wife, Cheri, and I will celebrate 43 years of marriage this summer. We have six married children, one son who is a veterinarian, two daughters who are educators, a son who is a civil engineer at the Idaho National Laboratory, and two daughters who are registered nurses. We also have 23 grandchildren who keep us busy and happy.”

“We love getting together with our whole family a few times a year. We do that at Christmastime and during the summer. Its a different place each summer, but we get together to waterski and be together. Our kids are all across Idaho and we have one in Texas, so family time is very important and precious to us. I told my kids when they were growing up to not live any further than a tank of gas home. My daughter in Texas reminds me that it’s still a tank of gas home to Idaho, it’s just a 737 tank.”

He says he considers himself a good listener and a pragmatic conservative legislator who wants the best for all of Idaho. “I would like to see Idaho move forward with enhanced educational opportunities for our youth and meaningful property tax reform. As the 5th largest ag economy in the nation, I see nothing but great things for Idaho agriculture.

“COVID-19 has had its influence on all business in Idaho and agriculture has not escaped unscathed. As with all serious challenges, these times will require serious leadership. I hope I can be one of those leaders.”

Rep. Raymond continues: “At this time, our greatest asset is HOPE. As we look to the future we have more reason than ever to cooperate, collaborate, roll up our sleeves, and go to work! We need to look for the opportunity for growth, even during these difficult times. What we’re facing now with rebuilding our economy will take time, and I am cautiously optimistic about that happening.” ■



## New Innovations-Wheat Straw Paper Used for Idaho Grain Magazine

BY KELLIE KLUKSDAL, COMMUNICATIONS MANAGER, IGPA

Have you noticed anything different about the paper used in this issue of Idaho Grain? If not, take a close look. It's not the same paper usually used for the magazine — in fact, it's better.

We were fortunate to have a unique opportunity to print this issue of Idaho Grain magazine on wheat paper. Paper made from wheat! How great is that?

The new paper, called reHARVEST, is a paper product family made with 10% wheat straw fiber produced by Willamette Falls Paper Company (WFPC) in West Linn, Oregon with pulp made by Columbia Pulp out of Dayton, Washington.

Columbia Pulp is an innovator in this area of sustainability and the use of agricultural byproducts. In this case, they are using wheat straw. The group is collecting and pulping wheat straw into a high-quality fiber used for a variety of things including paper products. According to a recent press release from WFPC, the Columbia Pulp plant “generates zero effluent and zero solid waste. Use of this agricultural fiber reduces field burning and takes the pressure off forests. Finally, the wheat straw fiber has a lower carbon footprint and uses less energy than conventional wood pulping processes.”

Dr. Phil Harding, Director of Technology and Sustainability, and Barb Ness, Regional Sales Manager, both work for Willamette Falls Paper Company and contribute to the process of taking agricultural byproducts and turning it into paper.

Harding says he is excited to be a part of these sustainability initiatives. “We are thrilled to be the first coated paper mill to offer non-wood grades made in the U.S. and sourced with local agricultural fiber, in this case, straw,” says Harding. “Our long-term focus is sustainable papermaking and releasing reHARVEST is a huge step toward this goal. The use of agricultural fiber sources is a key part of our strategy.”

The idea for this initiative came from some faculty at the University of Washington who developed a process for pulping wheat straw to generate a high-quality fiber. The driving motivator was to take advantage of the available agricultural residue that would otherwise be tilled or burned and for a low-cost, use the material in



The first wheat straw paper reel. Photo courtesy of Dr. Phil Harding.

a sustainable way. The lower carbon footprint and zero liquid effluent (no water pollution) were also factors. While this is not a new idea, it does create a good quality fiber used for paper and other products.

Essentially, the folks at Columbia Pulp take bales of wheat straw, add water and chemical, cook the straw down, and the result is a slurry of fibers for papermaking. The unique process partially eliminates the need for fiber from trees as is typically used in paper-processing. This material is then shipped to customers (in this case Willamette Falls Paper) where they continue the process by blending the mixture with other fibers, pressed, and then dried to make different paper grades. Uncoated sheets are used for offset printing and coated paper would have a clay coating for a glossier printed look. The paper used for this issue is coated, but if you look closely you can see some of the wheat straw fibers. The paper used here in the magazine is 10% wheat fiber, but Harding described “golden” grades having up to 50% wheat fiber for use in bags and other packaging materials.

The machines used at Willamette Falls Paper are one eighth of a mile long and require five to seven people to run them. They are producing 200 tons of paper per day! Just for this issue of Idaho Grain, they produced 5 tons of wheat straw paper.

Most of the wheat straw used by Columbia Pulp comes from Eastern Washington, around the Walla Walla area. They are truly innovators in their field and have a deep desire to help the world by creating a smaller carbon footprint. We all hope you enjoy reading this special issue of Idaho Grain magazine, printed on wheat paper. ■





GROWER PROFILE:

# Ryan Searle

**Tell us about your farm.** We run around 1,900 acres on average, mainly spring wheat. Usually divide about evenly between Hard Red Spring and Hard White. The last three years I've had small acreage of quinoa and learning about how to raise it and make it a viable crop. This year for the first time in 15 plus years I planted some malt barley. In addition to the farm we own and operate the Wild Adventure Corn Maze where we have corn, pumpkins and last year sunflowers. We will be doing the same this year with a larger sunflower patch.

**How and when did you get into farming?** Grew up on the farm and can remember riding around in the tractor with my father and doing all the small work that kids can do. My parents taught me to further my education before returning to the farm. So, after college and several different employment opportunities, I returned back to the farm in 2011 working for my father and his two brothers.

**When was the operation established?** In 2014 I was given the opportunity to buy one of my uncles out of the operation and took that chance. At the end of 2018 my father and uncle decided to retire at which point I took over the entire operation. In doing so we took the chance to start off on a new foot and came up with Rising Beyond Farms, R for Ryan and B for Bethany. That was also the time that we purchased the Corn Maze, which made 2019 a crazy year.

**Tell us about your family.** I married my wife Bethany in 2004 and moved to Utah to attend school. There we had two boys before moving back to Idaho in 2008. We have added two more boys and one daughter to the crew for a total on 5 children, Kaden (14) Ethan (12) Foster (9) Amelia (7) Levi (4). My oldest who is 14.5 has a lawncare service that he has been operating and is in his third year of that. My second oldest helps him with that and my third boy can't wait to help out. The older boys help out on the farm as needs arise. My wife has

a salon in the home, which allows her to be an amazing mother while still helping bring in an income.

**What is your upbringing/childhood?** Growing up on the farm I was taught that when it's time to get things done you just make it happen. Doesn't mean that at 5 or 6pm you head home; if it takes staying up until 2 or 3am to get the job done and back up at 6 or 7am, then that's what it takes. Even as a teenager I seemed to have the need to have two jobs. My best friends' father had a construction company so during our Junior and Senior years we would work on the farm moving pipe in the morning, then go do home construction with his father and then come back to the farm and move pipe again that night. However, even with all the work, play was a priority. I definitely played as hard as I worked.

**How did you meet your spouse?** I met Bethany about three months before graduating high school, with a group of friends. She actually hit it off with my best friend and dated him until he left for his mission. We continued to hang out until I left for my mission and upon returning home, we started dating.

**How do you market your grain?** My father taught me how he marketed grain during his 35 years of operating the farm finances and I use his knowledge and plan to direct me in my decision making. I also pull from my college education and experiences and work to improve that system. Currently it's a cash sale only where we work with local elevators and hope to hit the market just right. However, as I've been studying and following markets, I'm working on changing my marketing strategy. The direction that the industry is going and the cash price markets struggling for the last 6 plus years is forcing a change. It's going to take using every tool available to us to be able to survive.

**Is there anything unique about your operation?** We aren't a super unique operation other than we are in an

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area that is filled with potato growers and the wheat crop is considered just a rotational crop. We focus 100% on that crop and it has to produce and generate an income. Aside from that, the Wild Adventure Corn Maze was a blast to operate last year and gives us some ability to be creative and have fun while still staying within the ag industry. We look forward to building it every year.

**What conservation practices do you employ?** When I returned to the farm I pushed for some changes as to how we perform some of our annual tasks. It was initially met with some push back, but I was able to get some things changed and since taking over the operation have started implemented more changes. Having a “Body” to perform a task in the past wasn’t hard to find, so they would do fall work making multiple passes, using multiple people and tractors at the same time. That worked for them, however realized I would be the only one replacing three individuals, so that would no longer be an option. So slowly I have gone away from that and finding equipment that did the job we needed without multiple passes was key. I’ve gone away from deep tillage and focus on tilling as little as possible. Last year, which was a horrible fall to try, we did a cover crop for the first time.

**What are the biggest challenges in your operation?** There are so many challenges that we are facing right now I’m not sure I could pin point the biggest or most crucial. We took on a huge task of taking over the entire operation as well as the corn maze in the same year. That not only created huge financial hurdles, but time constraints, comfort levels were pushed, and learning occurred. They say taking over something like a farm while the markets are at their weakest is the best time, what they don’t tell you is it is also the hardest.



An aerial view of Searle’s farm.

However, if we can survive these forced changes, we will be stronger, more efficient and hopefully on top. With that being said I would say the thing I think about most that I have found no solution to is how to obtain ground. Finding ground to rent is easy enough if you’re willing to lose enough money by over paying for land rent, that’s not the problem. The problem is finding ground that you can be profitable on without using other ground that is profitable to cover. Also purchasing farm ground at a price that the farm can pay for is gone. I think the current generation that hold the ground, in my area at least, have lost the vision of keeping it in the family or keeping the farm together. They no longer care about making sure there is the “family farm.” So, with that we see these farms that do go up for sale, go to investors or large farmers that are paying rates that can be more than double what is profitable as a farmer. I can’t blame the land owners for seeing large dollar signs and wanting that money, who wouldn’t. My generation will struggle to be owners/operators, and more just operators renting the majority if not all of the ground. This also changes the dynamics and limits the profitability of the farming operation and will eventually kill the “family farm.” I currently see no opportunity where I can pass something on to my children where they can be successful.

**What are the guiding principles of your operation?** As I am figuring out how I want to farm, using what my father and uncles taught me as well as my education, the principles of how I run the operation are morphing. Currently the driving principle is focusing in building something that will last generations. That means we have to be efficient, lean and profitable. Raising crops in a manner that benefits everything, including building the health of the soil.

**Why do you farm?** I don't know if I could narrow down why I farm. I do it because I love it, you have to love it. Growing up I would tell my father "I'm not going to farm, I might as well go to Vegas and gamble every day for a living". Growing up all I saw was everything you can't control that either made or broke the farm. So I actually planned on not coming back to the farm. I went and earned a Bachelors in Business Finance and a second one in Business Management. I then started down a path that I thought I would be on in the finance industry. It didn't take long before I found out there are risk in everything. So I starting contemplating what I wanted to do to risk all, the only thing I could think of was farming. Even 18 months ago while I was running the numbers on taking over the operation from my father and seeing that the numbers don't add up, my wife asked what I wanted to do. We could take what we had invested and find something that was "less risk" or looked more profitable. I told her I wouldn't be able to live with myself if I didn't try. As a numbers guy all I needed was the market to recover just \$0.50, and things were looking like that is what was going to happen. Here we sit with the market down almost \$1.00 from when I took over. I still would rather be risking it all than doing something else. I honestly don't know what I would do if I couldn't farm.

**How do you see the future of the U.S. grain industry and the grain industry in Idaho?** Two months ago I would say something totally different, but today I think the future for the grain industry will be changing. We are forcing a change and what that ends up being I don't know. I hope what that means is more respect from consumers for those that provide their food and lifestyles. I hope that means opportunities that allow farmers/ranchers to become sustainable. ■



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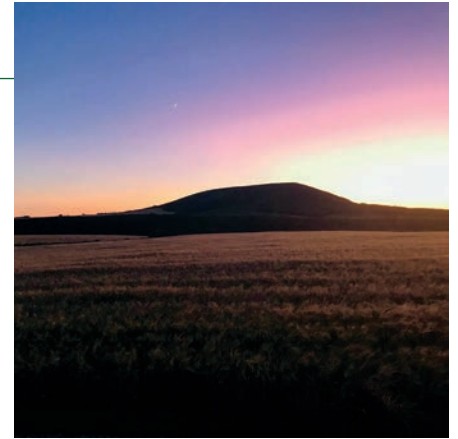
# Idaho Sunrises and Sunsets



Submitted by Jeremy Searle.



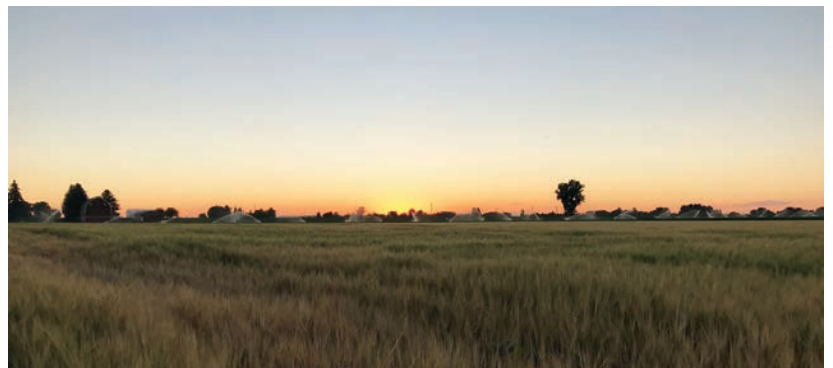
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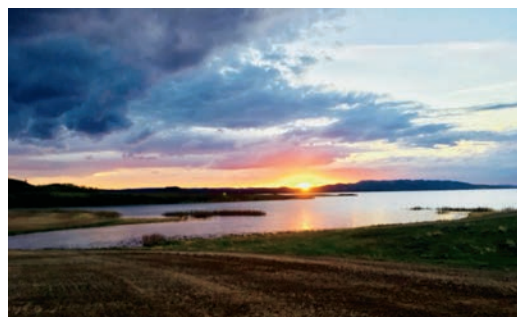
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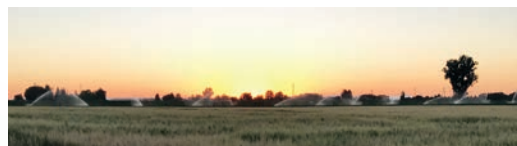
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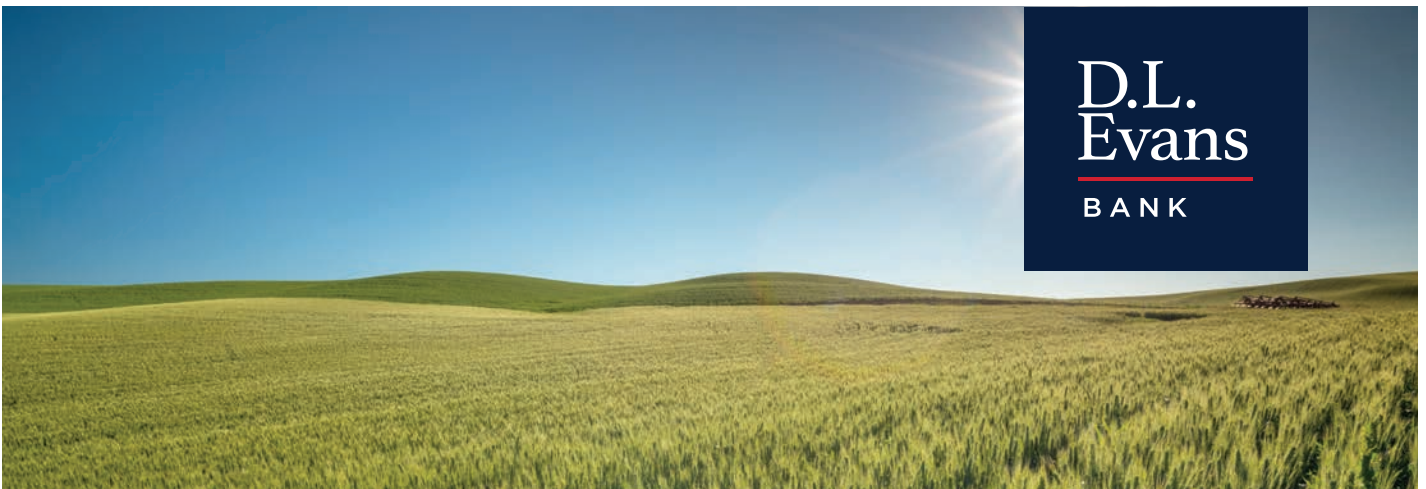
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# Blaine Jacobson Retires From Idaho Wheat Commission

In mid-June 2020, Blaine Jacobson will retire from his post as Executive Director of the Idaho Wheat Commission (IWC). He has served the wheat growers of Idaho for 18 years.



Under Jacobson’s leadership, the wheat industry in Idaho has been robust. The most recent National Agricultural Statistics Service data show Idaho as the sixth-largest wheat-growing state and the state with the highest yields per acre in the U.S. Soft white wheat from Idaho is preferred by many domestic mills and export customers. Idaho has grown to be the largest provider of hard white wheat and one of the largest providers of organic wheat in the U.S. during Jacobson’s tenure.

“Over the years, as a member of the IWC, I became acquainted with executive directors of wheat commissions from all over the U.S.,” said “Potlatch Joe” Anderson, an IWC commissioner emeritus. “Idaho has indeed been fortunate to have had Blaine. He is a leader among peers and his contributions to the wheat industry go far beyond Idaho.”

“The Idaho wheat industry is a state asset and many people have built it over the past 60 years. I take pleasure in turning it over to my successors in as strong a position as it was when I received it,” said Jacobson. “I feel that is my best accomplishment.”

In 2018, Jacobson successfully renegotiated the royalty structure on sale of wheat seeds developed with Idaho wheat grower money so that most of the proceeds now go back into wheat research programs. He also undertook a three-year project to educate Idaho’s elevators and legislators so that major gaps in wheat commission legislation could be fixed.

A research partnership with Limagrain was put together and WestBred created their global wheat breeding

center in Idaho during his term. One of his early projects was the purchase of a wheat grower office building adjacent to the state capitol in Boise where ag commodity executives, such as wheat, barley, wine, bean and milk, can work and collaborate together.

“For nearly two decades, the wheat commission and growers in Idaho have benefited from Blaine’s steady hand,” said Ned Moon, chairman of the Idaho Wheat Commission. “His agricultural experience prior to leading the wheat commission, and his work with our commissioners and international partners have helped create domestic and export sales opportunities.

Jacobson has hosted four to six trade missions each year from Mexico, Japan, Korea, Taiwan, Philippines, and other Asian and Latin American markets. His encyclopedic knowledge of the food industry was developed while working with food commodity companies as diverse as Minute Maid orange juice, Chiquita bananas and Simplot potatoes. Jacobson grew up on a wheat farm in Bonneville County.

“It is a privilege to work with Idaho wheat growers. Idaho growers are among the best people I have associated with,” said Jacobson.

Casey J. Chumrau, who was hired as associate administrator in January, will succeed Jacobson. Prior to joining IWC, Chumrau spent nearly a decade as a marketing manager and analyst at U.S. Wheat Associates. Most recently she was working in Santiago, Chile. She is a native of Missoula, Montana. ■



Blaine Jacobson on the left and Gordon Gallup (former IWC commissioner) second from right with Grupo Bimbo buyers from Mexico in a visit to a wheat field in Ririe.

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# Herbicide Resistance: Taking a Community Approach

In the spring 2019 issue of this magazine, Doug Finkelburg (an extension educator at the University of Idaho) wrote about widespread concerns in the cereal production system about herbicide resistant weeds.

Weeds are mobile and spread through ways that are under and outside of our control such as uncleaned combines, un-tarped grain loads, soil left on implements, untended roadsides, through wind, irrigation water, run-off and wildlife.

Extension educators (such as Finkelburg) and social scientists (Dr. Katherine Dentzman) understand that growers may be reluctant to share specific information about their operations. However, discussions with neighbors about shared issues can help solve current and impending problems.

That is part of why a community approach to resistance management is going to be so important. A single farm may struggle to control herbicide resistant weeds—even with the use of effective integrated pest management approaches—if the grower does it alone. By definition, a community comes together with growers supporting each other, sharing resources and ideas and identifying actions and goals needed address a problem. Herbicide resistance is no different.

Dr. Dentzman is working to better understand community-based approaches to herbicide resistance. According to a survey 100 Pacific Northwest (PNW) wheat growers, 80 percent are concerned about herbicide resistant weeds spreading from neighbors and 60 percent said they discuss herbicide-resistant weed problems with their neighbors. Two-thirds of growers agreed that herbicide resistance must be managed through a cooperative approach.

In November, at the Tri-State Grains Convention in Spokane, Washington, Finkelburg, Dentzman and others presented about the herbicide resistance initiative and conducted a listening session. The Idaho Wheat Commission, in planning a Direct Seed Workshop for March, invited Finkelburg and myself to bring a similar presentation and listening session to Pocatello.

The workshop started because former Idaho Wheat commissioners, Gordon Gallup and Hans Hayden, were practicing no-till farming and wanted to help



Doug Finkelburg speaks at the Direct Seed Workshop at Idaho State University on March 10, 2020.

other growers learn from shared experiences and avoid making the same mistakes.

This year’s workshop, called “Preserving the No-Till Option,” was hosted at Idaho State University on March 10. Finkelburg talked about increasing herbicide resistance risks and Dr. Don Morishita (professor emeritus of weed science at UI) discussed the effectiveness and possible removal of glyphosate from the marketplace.

Dr. Morishita also participated in a panel discussion with Scott Baker from Ardent Mills and Idaho Wheat commissioner Cordell Kress about the importance of glyphosate to the no-till approach, alternate modes of action if glyphosate is no longer available and options for testing of chemical residue through the Idaho State Department of Agriculture.

To help understand how producer communities in Idaho can form communities of resistance management, Avery Lavoie, a graduate research assistant at the University of Idaho, led a listening and discussion session with more than 50 growers, researchers and industry representatives focused on a “strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats” (SWOT) approach. This approach promotes discussion of regional strategic issues, pools stakeholder knowledge, and begins discussion for future activity coordination.



The SWOT approach acts as a starting point, summary, and planning tool for understanding complex issues such as herbicide resistance management.

Each group of 10 or less, discussed if herbicide resistance is a problem in their communities and if it is a future concern. Participants identified a range of perspectives on management approaches given the range of severity of weeds types across the region and level of awareness about the issue. Growers know about alternative strategies including crop diversification and are willing to share best practices.

Is resistance a problem?	Strengths of the Community	Weaknesses and threats	Next Steps
<p>Economic and agronomic problem Examples: wild oats, Russian thistle, Kochia, cheat grass</p> <p>Why does it occur? Transplanting/transporting resistant weeds from other areas, spreads easily</p> <p>"Weeds want to live"</p> <p>Improper applications: -maybe herbicides are not being used at the correct timing -Low rates of glyphosate use</p> <p>Recent conversion to no till and chem-treatment</p> <p>Limited/weak rotation, more chem use with no-till/direct seed increasing</p>	<p>Being pro-active; recognizing the potential threat</p> <p>Good inclusion in community: - Farmers, industry reps, chemical suppliers, agronomists, FFA youth</p> <p>Willingness: - farmers are willing to share best management practices</p> <p>Established networks: - Idaho direct seeders and dryland farmers existing and long-standing partnership</p> <p>Resources: - University and Idaho Wheat commission research, education, and funding opportunities - Continuing education programs</p> <p>Climate: - Low residual herbicides in grain harvested due to dry climate</p> <p>Existing Resources: - Continuing education</p>	<p>Economic: - Lack of external funding sources - Lack of economically viable alternative management practices, low crop value and expensive inputs, shifting commodity prices</p> <p>Agronomic: - Lack of new MOA and new chemistries - Organic farming may increase weeds - Perspective may differ in irrigated communities - Lack of viable alternative crop management options - Difficulty keeping records - Scale of farm and lack of land ownership and available labor</p> <p>Mindset: - Some stakeholders may be unaware of HR or not think of it as a problem - Lack of public awareness - Pride or denial - Rural vs. urban differences in awareness</p> <p>Communication: - Lack of communication between farmers about their experiences - Lack of regionally appropriate information</p> <p>Other: - Liability with spraying around residential areas - Extension spread thin/lack of specialists - Outdated research</p>	<p>Need to take a proactive management approach</p> <p>Experts: - Increased access to local weed science experts</p> <p>Networks - Draw from local direct seeders network, - Increase connect to UI cereal schools and connection to producers</p> <p>Information - Increased information from University researchers on alternative management approaches</p> <p>Planning - Winter meetings - Identify local leaders - Integrated systems approach is necessary</p> <p>Technology: - Podcasts to share information</p>

Group notes from listening sessions provided by Avery Lavoie and Katherine Dentzman.

Grain industry members feel there is good inclusion in the agricultural community between growers, industry professionals, chemical companies and agronomists, and they “watch out for each other.” Further inclusion of younger generations through programs like Future Farmers of America (FFA) also could help.

Some stakeholders may think herbicide resistance is not a problem because they are unaware, in denial or unwilling to change current management practices.



Avery Lavoie leads listening and discussion session at the Direct Seed Workshop at Idaho State University on March 10, 2020.

One participant mentioned that weed management approaches are not likely to change unless other members of the community start treating it as an increasing threat to the greater agricultural community.

Shifting management practices to mitigate herbicide resistance may be difficult when faced with financial challenges like small margins, low crop value, shifts in commodity prices, increased input costs and lack of market availability for alternative crops.

Additional field-level challenges include lack of time, labor, record-keeping tools and agronomic and economic viability options for alternative crops. There might not be regionally appropriate and timely information about types of strategies to address the unique management goals of the farm and grower. Additionally, the failure of the market to provide new herbicide chemistries can limit growers’ options for effective weed management.

“Members of the Idaho grain industry see a need to identify local leaders and develop local networks including weed experts, local direct seed networks, producers and cereal schools,” said Dentzman.

Winter meetings and podcasts may help reach more producers who are constrained for time. There is also a need for increased information dissemination on up-to-date herbicide resistance research from university

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researchers and extension to growers and other agricultural stakeholders.

The Idaho Direct Seed Association has partnered with dryland farmers since the 1980s and can continue working together to share information about managing herbicide resistance in a no-till system. Communities can also draw on university partners and the wheat commission to fund regionally appropriate research projects and share up-to-date information. Local weed board control programs and continuing education programs may also offer additional educational support.

Many PNW producers are helping to create a foundation for more targeted, relevant and effective efforts to address herbicide resistance in the region. This is neither the beginning nor the end of the fight against weeds and UI researchers and educators look forward to further engagement with growers



Avery Lavoie leads listening and discussion session at the Direct Seed Workshop at Idaho State University on March 10, 2020.

in Idaho and in the region on next steps in this community-based approach.

*Avery Lavoie, UI graduate research assistant, contributed to this article.* ■

## Potential for Harvest Weed Seed Control Systems to Manage Herbicide Resistance

BY JOAN CAMPBELL, WEED SCIENTIST, UNIVERSITY OF IDAHO

One of the often-promoted methods of managing against weeds is to rotate herbicides with different modes of action. Once a weed population has developed resistance to most of the herbicide groups used, there is not much left to rotate. Introduction of novel herbicides has been few and far between in recent decades.

In the 1990s, Australia was running out of chemical weed control strategies after several types of weeds developed widespread resistance to many herbicides. Some rigid ryegrass populations have resistance to seven modes of action including glyphosate.

One option for control is to target the chaff, which contains most of the weed seed going through the combine. Rather than spread the weed seed across the field after grain threshing, Australia developed several Harvest Weed Seed Control (HWSC) systems to disrupt this “weed seeding.” The goal is to drive down the weed seed soil bank.

Here are some of the key components of a HWSC system.

**Chaff carts** – The first system used was a trailing cart behind the combine that collected the chaff. This is then



Joan Campbell and other weed scientist stand between narrow windrows on a visit to Australia. Photo by Claudio Rubione.

piled in the field to be burned or grazed or removed from the field.

**Narrow-windrow burning** – A chute attached to the rear of the combine places chaff and straw into a narrow windrow. Windrows are later burned to obtain up to 99 percent of seed destruction.



Weed seed mill on combine. Inset shows a top view of the mill.

**Bale direct system** – A baler is attached to the combine and straw and chaff are baled and removed from the field for livestock feed or other uses.

**Integrated impact mills** – Single or double mills fit into the back of the combine process the chaff, destroy the weed seeds and distribute the residue back onto the field.

**Chaff lining** – Chaff is separated from the straw and placed in one narrow windrow between stubble rows. This creates a poor environment for weed seed germination and growth. Weeds that grow have little impact on overall crop yield.

**Chaff Tramlining** – Similar to chaff lining, chaff is placed in two narrow rows in the wheel tracks. Controlled traffic systems allow the weed seed to be placed in the same seeding, spraying, and combine wheel tracks every harvest. These highly compacted tracks full of chaff are unfavorable for weed growth.

HWSC systems that rely on burning or removing residue from the field would be less desirable because residue is essential for soil health and reducing erosion. Burning is also risky and restricted in many areas.

Impact mills and chaff or tramlining chutes maintain all the residue on the field. The former have a high capital cost whereas the latter are inexpensive and easy to build.



Simple chute for placing chaff in narrow line. Photo by Claudio Rubione.



Chaff tramlining showing chaff lines in wheel tracks.

HWSC systems work only if the weed seed gets into the combine. Australian weeds, rigid ryegrass, rigput brome and wild radish retain most seed on the plant up to harvest. In the Pacific Northwest (PNW), Italian ryegrass, downy brome, wild oat and raitail fescue can shed a considerable amount of seed before harvest. The amount of shed may be influenced by slope, precipitation amount, location and crop grown.

Weed plant height and location of seed on the plant also influences seed flow into the combine. Raitail fescue can lodge between the grain rows and will be missed. Rotational crops like peas and lentils that are cut near ground level will have a high efficacy of picking up the weed seeds. However, crops like chickpeas are cut later in the season which means more time for the weed seed to shed.

Kochia, common lambsquarters, mayweed chamomile and prickly lettuce are some broadleaf weeds that have herbicide resistant populations.

Overall, the effectiveness of HWSC systems in the PNW is unclear.

Weed scientists at the University of Idaho and others in the PNW are investigating the potential for HWSC for our weed species in our production systems. It is important to keep in mind, HWSC does not replace the need for other management tools to manage herbicide resistance. Other chemical, mechanical and cultural weed management tactics are required.

For more information, visit “Harvest Weed Seed Control Applications for PNW Wheat Production Systems – PNW730” on the University of Idaho website <https://www.extension.uidaho.edu/detail.aspx?IDnum=2367&title=Recent&category1=Recent&category2> ■



# Seeking Opportunities for Growth on the Other Side of the World

One of the primary purposes for the creation of the Idaho Wheat Commission in 1959 was to develop export markets for Idaho wheat growers. That part of the IWC mission continues through partners such as U.S. Wheat Associates (USW) and the Wheat Marketing Center (WMC). The former has team members in countries around the world to work with millers, bakers and food producers. The latter is a trusted source for research and testing of end-use quality.

WMC regularly hosts foreign delegations at their Portland, Oregon office and laboratory, focusing on promoting U.S. wheat by demonstrating its quality and functionality in products such as crackers, breads and noodles, including ramen.

“We all owe a huge debt to those folks that came before us. There was foresight in that coming off World War II, there were going to be huge opportunities in Asia,” said “Potlatch Joe” Anderson, commissioner emeritus, in an interview to commemorate IWC’s 60th anniversary. “Some of those early efforts in trying to help Europe and Asia rebuild have been invaluable as tools to help develop markets we have today.”

Today, Southeast Asia represents some of the largest potential markets for U.S. and Idaho wheat exports. In the last decade, U.S. exports to the region have more than doubled, increasing from 115 million bushels to 241 million bushels. In that same time period, Southeast Asia represents 26 percent of total U.S. exports, up from 11 percent. There is no reason to think the trend will soon fade.

Rapid population growth, increasing economic prosperity and shifting diet patterns all contribute to increased demand for high quality wheat products. This comes at a time when more traditional Asian markets, such as Japan, South Korea and Taiwan, are seeing lower to negative population growth and significantly older median ages.

“Everybody knows Japan is our biggest market,” said Wirsching. “The Philippines has emerged as single-largest growth market for U.S. soft white and competes for the largest market overall.”



Idaho wheat grower and commissioner Bill Flory (left) hosted Philippine wheat buyers on his farm with the assistance of fellow wheat grower Nate Riggers (second from right).

The U.S. has long enjoyed more than 90 percent market share in the Philippines and is now benefitting from a rapid increase in per-capita wheat consumption. After hovering around 25 kilos per capita for 20 years, consumption started rising in 2012 and now exceeds 36 kilos per capita, according to Euromonitor. The vast majority of imports are soft white and hard red spring, making the Philippines the top market for both classes the past six years, overtaking Japan in both. On a five-year average, the Philippines represents 23 percent of total U.S. soft white exports.

“Idaho is unique in that it has an ocean port,” said Steve Wirsching, vice president and director of the USW west coast office in Portland, Oregon, referring to the Port of Lewiston that provides direct access to export terminals downriver.

Representatives from the Philippines and Indonesia attended Wheat Quality Council meetings in Spokane, Washington in January. Wirsching said USW is working to address the needs of companies in those countries.

Indonesia is emerging as a good market for the U.S. as it continues to develop economically. The country has a growing population, a diversifying diet toward wheat products from what was predominant rice-based and an expanding economy. USW is present in the market to provide high-quality inputs into Indonesian





companies' food processes to make those products and meet consumer demands.

In recent years, Vietnam, Myanmar, Indonesia, Malaysia and the Philippines have experienced rapid economic growth. Myanmar, Vietnam and the Philippines led the way with at least 5.5 percent increases annually in gross domestic product (GDP) between 2014 and 2019. Indonesia had at least five percent increases annually in GDP from 2016 to 2019. Malaysia's growth was between 4.4 percent and 60 percent between 2014 and 2019.

On the whole, economic growth in southeast Asia is combined with a strong demographic profile. Indonesia had the largest population of the three with 260.6 million people in 2019, a 0.9 percent growth rate and a median age of 30 years old. The Philippines had the greatest growth rate, 1.6 percent, a population of nearly 105.9 million people and the lowest median age, 23.5 years old. Vietnam had more than 96.2 million people in 2019, a growth rate of 0.9 percent and a median age of 30.5 years old.

On the other end of the spectrum, Japan's population in 2019 was about half of Indonesia's (126.5 million people) with a negative 0.2 growth rate and a median age of 47.3 years old. South Korea had 51.2 million people, a growth rate of 0.5 percent and a median age of 41.8 years old. The island nation of Taiwan had 23.5 million people, a growth rate of 0.2 percent and a median age of 40.7 years old.

Middle class consumer spending in Asia Pacific is growing at an astronomical rate. In 2030, it is expected that there will be about \$33 trillion spent by the middle class there, which would be a 571 percent increase from \$4.9 trillion in 2009.

The per capita wheat consumption for Indonesia, the Philippines, Vietnam, Myanmar, Thailand and Malaysia increased to at least 10 kg in 2016 and 2018. Eighty percent of the wheat used in southeast Asia was for food in 2019-20.

In the southeast Asia region, 20 million metric tons of wheat products are now consumed each year. In Indonesia, the consumption is 8.5 million metric tons,

**“In 2030, middle class consumer spending in Asia Pacific is expected to be about \$33 trillion, which would be a 571 percent increase from 2009.”**



Bill Flory provided a tour of crops grown in the area to Philippine milling team.

with almost half (48 percent) in noodles and nearly 30 percent in bakery products. In Vietnam, out of two million metric tons, 60 percent of the consumption is noodles. These market characteristics are favorable for the soft white wheat produced in Idaho.

Indonesia was the second-largest importer of wheat in the 2019-20 marketing year, the Philippines was the fourth-largest and Japan was the seventh-largest.

Philippine flour demand has increased by 51 percent between 2004 and 2018. In 2015, more than 162 million metric tons of soft flour was shipped and received in the Philippines. In 2014, nearly 94 million metric tons of hard flour was received.

For Idaho wheat growers, access to Asian markets depends on the Columbia-Snake River System, which allows for barging from Lewiston to Portland. It is essential that those emerging markets remain open to growers. IWC commissioners and staff will continue working with USW to maintain and increase opportunities abroad.

“There's a lot of wheat coming in from Montana and North Dakota that goes through that Port of Lewiston and down the river,” said Anderson. “In fact, 10 percent of the nation's wheat goes down the Snake River, which is not all grown in Idaho obviously, but it still is a huge benefit to all of us to have that commerce that goes through our area.” ■



# Farm Stress Management

BY LANCE ELLIS AND LANCE HANSEN - UNIVERSITY OF IDAHO EXTENSION

It's an understatement to say the world we live in is different world than the one



we used to know. When you consider it from a farmer's perspective of trying to stay in business, produce and sell a crop, keep the family farm and manage unpredictable challenges, the current uncertainty doesn't help the situation.

As ag producers navigate the added uncertainty at this time, it is critical to cultivate a productive mindset to manage stress.

First, in order to solve a problem, we need to identify and acknowledge the problem. Let's start by defining what the potential signs and sources of stress are for producers. We may not necessarily recognize what they are, where they come from, how we are physically responding to them and how it they are affecting us.

## Physical signs of stress

Some of the physical signs of stress that show up in the body include headaches, stomachaches, high blood pressure, racing heart, nausea and feeling physically tense. One example is if you are on edge and feel like you live within a constant "fight or flight" response to the world around you.

While these are physical manifestations, it all starts in your mind, and when stressed you may feel anxious, angry, sad, bitter, depressed and hopeless.

Growers like you are used to making decisions and actions based on data and intuition. What you think and feel will inevitably become your actions and these stress response actions show up in many forms.

These include:

- Losing sleep, not eating or to the other extreme, sleeping significantly more and feeling sluggish or eating too much.
- Losing the drive to get out of bed and face the day because of hopelessness or feeling depressed.
- Becoming withdrawn and losing interest in relationships that normally have been valued and important.
- Increasing use of cigarettes, alcohol or drugs to momentarily numb an unwanted feeling caused by a stress.

- Losing your temper easily, breaking things, yelling, screaming and or worse including causing physical harm.

These actions, emotions and physical body symptoms can be signals to yourself or those around you that your stress levels (or those of someone else) are not at healthy, and a productive change is needed to improve the situation.

There are a lot of unhealthy stressors in our lives, and they differ for each person and for each situation. Financial issues are often a common source of stress, but other sources include weather issues, large debt loads, family disagreements, crop yield, commodity prices, equipment issues and other factors varying from one operation to the next.

It is critical to recognize and honestly admit what the sources of stress are in your life, and why, as you move toward creating a productive mindset. This honesty and acknowledgement can help you to develop the tools needed to manage those stresses, rather than them allowing stress to manage you.

Most stresses come from a lack of control or power over a situation. When you lose power or sense of control, then the previously mentioned actions, feelings and body indicators can manifest themselves. This is your body sending a message you are not in a healthy place.

Each of us may have or develop a toolbox of healthy and effective coping strategies to be able to manage the sources of stress we face. Start by identifying the ways or methods (tools) you use to currently manage stress in your life.

Some of the ways we manage stress are negative or harmful in nature, so we want to focus on using healthy tools to manage stress. Consider how you can match a particular management strategy to fit well with a certain need. If you are feeling like you can't identify what healthy tool would help you best to manage a stress, start by brainstorming what might work.

You do not have to do this alone, and people around you are managing stresses in healthy ways you may not have considered. Ultimately, you may need to learn new strategies or adopt different ways to manage stress that you haven't felt necessary to do before.

Continued on next page

# Useful Tools for Your Wellness Toolbox in Times of Farm Stress

1

**Exercise 20 minutes or more daily (walk, swim, ride a bike, etc.).**  
Physical activity enhances feeling good.

Physical

2

**Get a medical checkup with a local health-care provider.**  
Stress can cause or add to physical challenges.

3

**Spend 10 minutes to plan your day and priorities.**  
A few minutes of planning reduces stress and helps you stay focused.

Mental

4

**Take regular five- to 10-minute breaks in your day to relax and recharge.**  
Doing this multiple times a day renews your energy.

5

**Write down three things that you are grateful for daily.**  
Conscious gratitude calms your mood.

Emotional/Spiritual

6

**Share concerns with a counselor or other professional.**  
A listening ear helps lift your burdens.

7

**Take 15 minutes each day for uninterrupted conversation with a spouse or family member.**  
A few minutes of planning reduces stress and helps you stay focused.

Personal/Relational

8

**Get involved or stay connected with a friend or group of friends.**  
Doing this multiple times a day renews your energy.

9

**Discuss needs of the farm operation but do not let them occupy all other aspects of life.**  
Plan other daily work tasks to shift your focus.

Work/Professional

10

**Seek constructive feedback on your farm operation and ways to grow or improve.**  
Others can share ideas or assist in new ways.

11

**Create a family budget and seek to live within your means.**  
This helps give you a sense of financial control.

Financial/Practical

12

**Select three healthy habits you will try to practice daily.**  
**Start today!**

## My Wellness Commitment

Circle or list at least three wellness tools you can begin doing today and post this in your home, office or vehicle as a reminder.

1 \_\_\_\_\_  
2 \_\_\_\_\_  
3 \_\_\_\_\_

Sean Brotherson, Extension Family Science Specialist, North Dakota State University

**For more information on this and other topics, see [www.ndsu.edu/extension](http://www.ndsu.edu/extension)**

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# The 5-Minute GRATITUDE PLAN



We know that people who reflect on gratitude are happier, feel valued, and experience fewer health issues. How can we live a more grateful life?

People who give to others, those who “pay it forward” show a greater neural sensitivity in the medial prefrontal cortex, the part of the brain associated with learning and decision making.

- use positive emotional words
- use the word “we” more than “I”

Day \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

On a scale of 1-10, today was \_\_\_\_\_

3 things that went well for me today 1.	I worried about this today 1.
2.	2.
3.	3.
What did I accomplish today? 1.	I didn't need to worry about 1.
2.	2.
3.	3.
What could have made today better? 1.	
2.	
3.	

Continued from previous page

Here are three strategies to help you manage stress in a more productive way.

The **first** tool is to consider how and what you are telling yourself. If a person reacts to stressors with negative self-talk, saying things such as “I mess everything up,” “I can’t make it” or “thinking I am not good enough”; then start by recognizing these are untrue statements, it’s a self-defeating behavior, and it is negative self-talk. Placing unnecessary blame, telling yourself its going to get worse, or feeding into any kind of negative thought process, will cause your body and emotions to respond in kind, and stress levels to increase. This is the point where positive self-talk is critical! Choose words you can tell yourself that are true and allow yourself to step back from a situation in order to regain your power and perspective over what is going on.

When I am facing a challenge, I say in my mind, “it could be worse.” Or in the midst of a hard time I say, “I still have the things that matter most, and everything else is just details.” These positive self-talk words will differ for each of us, but they are essential to managing an unhealthy stress.

The **second** tool for coping is the simplest; stop and breathe. I don’t mean this metaphorically, but really stop what you’re doing when you get stressed out, and take a deep breath, and focus on breathing in and out. It helps to calm your mind, put things back in perspective, and allow you the opportunity to start to regain control over what you are thinking. For example, how many times have you been driving a tractor all day, and your mind dwells on negative self-talk, and / or sources of stress which get the better of you? When this happened,

you were not thinking about how you were breathing, and instead became anxious, irritated, hopeless, or even angry. But, if you stop and take a few deep breaths, and allow your mind to calm down, you can start your positive self-talk and a more productive mindset.

The **third** tool for stress management is acceptance. A helpful quote by Mary Engelbreit says, “If you don’t like something, change it; if you can’t change it, change the way you think about it.” This tool of choosing to accept an unchangeable stress as part of the world, enables you to move forward, so you are no longer being held back with negative emotions, feelings or thoughts.

Either yourself or someone in your life may be experiencing overwhelming stress, and may not have the tools or ability to handle what they are going through. It’s times such as these that reaching out for help, either for yourself, or someone else is critical. Realize they are at risk from the stress in their lives and could possibly be considering suicide. This is the time that reaching out for help could save a life. Realize you are not alone, and there are many resources available to prevent a tragedy.

The National Suicide Prevention Lifeline is 1-800-273-8255, and the Idaho suicide prevention hotline is (208) 398-4357. There are local resources available for immediate crisis events through first responders, hospitals, and the department of health and welfare.

Farming and ranching is a challenging world to live in, and sometimes it becomes more than what a person can handle. There are people who understand the challenges you are facing firsthand and are willing to help. For help accessing resources you are welcome to email the Lance Ellis at [ellis@uidaho.edu](mailto:ellis@uidaho.edu) or call the Fremont County Extension office at (208) 624-3102. ■

## IN BRIEF



James “Jim” M. McDonald, Sr. of Grangeville passed away at his home on May 5. He was an Idaho Wheat commissioner from 1997 to 2008 and the recipient of our Distinguished Service Award in 2008. Jim served as chairman of U.S. Wheat Associates in 2003.

This is a behind the scenes look as Casey J. Chumrau, IWC’s new executive director, made her favorite zucchini bread recipe on April 24 during #QuarantineKitchen. Check out the IWC Facebook (Qualitywheatssimplygrown) or Instagram (IdahoWheat) accounts to see how it came out!



IWC celebrated National Agriculture Day on March 24 in appreciation all of the food producers across the country, especially our commissioners, wheat growers, researchers, elevators and other industry partners.



# Investing in Quality: In the Field and at the Mill

The Idaho Wheat Commission invests growers' dollars in research to address issues in the field and improve quality in food products.

For the current fiscal year, research priorities include low falling numbers, Italian rye grass control, herbicide resistance, wireworm control in cereals, fertility and timing on end-use quality and sustainable cereal cropping systems.

The three pillars of IWC's mission are to invest growers' dollars into market development, research and communication and education. About one-third of growers' dollars are put into projects that will hopefully bring value back to their operations through breeding, disease control and other benefits.

"The Wheat Commission historically has always worked very closely with the [University of Idaho], providing a substantial amount of funding," said "Potlatch" Joe Anderson, commissioner emeritus for IWC and namesake of "Potlatch Joe Anderson Cereal Agronomics Professorship," which was designated at UI in 2016.

Following the "Great Recession," IWC increased funding support for through an increase in the per-bushel assessment to 3.5 cents from two cents after a 25 percent reduction in the University of Idaho agricultural research and extension budget in 2008. The increased



Jianli Chen, Arash Rashed and Juliet Marshall from University of Idaho were among the presenters at Research Review on February 20, 2020.

assessment had support from then-Governor Butch Otter and about 75 percent of growers surveyed at the time.

"I think that turned out to be a pretty good investment of wheat grower money, not only from the standpoint of helping to ensure the stability of those programs where there were endowed positions but to demonstrate that wheat growers were in fact willing to invest their money into projects that were necessary for their livelihood and survival," said Anderson.

Idaho is one of only wheat-producing states with a full-time staff member (Dr. Cathy Wilson, the director of research collaboration) who is dedicated to overseeing and guiding investments into research and collaborating with researchers.

IWC board members evaluate each project for its potential impact on Idaho wheat production and ensure that the growers' interest is always the ultimate objective. Dr. Wilson has worked hard to convince the researchers that applicable outcomes and economic impact are key.

Rather than focusing on just yield, height and weight, UI researchers are also developing varieties that



contain characteristics that best suit certain end-use products. Recently, a variety was created that lays the foundation for wheat grown in Idaho that will result in flour that can be mass produced for ideal end-use in high-quality cookies.

“Agricultural research must be a continuum,” said Anderson. “It is a process by which new knowledge leads to further investigation, more new knowledge and ultimately to solutions to problems or development of opportunities. We must remember that the ‘easy’ stuff has been done.”

Investing in research is a process following an annual review cycle. The process begins in September with a brief progress report for multi-year grants. A call for preliminary proposals for new research projects is also made at this time. All proposals are pre-approved assuring consistency with IWC’s strategic research objectives and that progress is demonstrated for continuing projects. After pre-approval is completed in late November, Project leaders are invited to put forward final research proposals. Final proposals are due January 1 including a budget request.

Board members of IWC and Idaho Barley receive a summary of proposals at the end of January. The annual Research Review event with UI researchers making oral presentations before commissioners (with up to 30 presentations in one day!) is scheduled around the February board meetings.

“While we are constantly in direct contact with producers of different commodities, IWC has been an effective representative for Idaho wheat producers to help UI IPM (Integrated Pest Management) laboratory with prioritizing research,” said Arash Rashed. “Wireworm damage is one example of challenges that Idaho wheat producers have been facing, which is recognized and communicated to us through IWC.”

Dr. Wilson provides UI researchers with a preliminary funding memo to help determine spring planting for filed based research projects. IWC funds 20-30 individual grant awards each fiscal year (including 23 in FY2021). Some multi-year proposals are for ongoing for three or four years, while other projects are completed in a year.

In mid-March, Dr. Wilson shifts her focus to project proposals from outside of UI including USDA, other universities and possible public-private partnerships to get progress reports, budget figures for the next funding cycle and add any new projects.



“I maintain a dialogue with researchers about their projects for months or even years,” said Dr. Wilson. “Research Review functions similarly to ‘Shark Tank,’ with brief presentations containing clear expectations for economic benefit to growers.”

“For projects originating from outside of UI, I invite initial proposals and progress reports at the start of the calendar year and review the progress reports (for ongoing projects) and budget estimates in March,” said Dr. Wilson.

Full proposals for outside projects are due in April. IWC’s budget meeting is in mid-June, so Dr. Wilson works with IWC’s executive director and commissioners to prepare the full Research budget between April and June. Project leaders are notified of grants in early July after adoption of the final IWC budget at the June board meeting.

“I praise IWC strategy and effectiveness in investing growers’ checkoff dollars into research topics that are focused on developing both short-term and long-term innovative approaches to maximize productivity and profitability,” said Rashed. “Our success to date has been a result of this great team work that includes UI, IWC and every individual Idaho producer!” ■



# Retiring Idaho Barley Commissioner Scott Brown Reflects on Service; Urges Grower Involvement

BY LAURA WILDER

As he wraps up two terms and six years of service at the end of June, Idaho Barley Commissioner Scott Brown of Soda Springs reflects on accomplishments of the Commission during his tenure on the board as well as the essential role growers play in leadership for the Commission and other grain industry organizations.



Retiring Idaho Barley Commissioner Scott Brown of Soda Springs.

“The Idaho Barley Commission (IBC) provides crucial services to growers that they can’t do alone including working to develop domestic and foreign markets, funding critical research to address Idaho barley industry needs and improve barley production in the state, as well as providing important and education programs for growers,” said Brown who represents District 3. “We are stronger collectively than individually,” he added. “I have seen first-hand the positive impact that growers can have on moving our industry forward as vocal, outspoken, progressive individuals who are willing to get involved and engage in leadership on boards and through organizations – involvement over complacency always pays off.”

Brown said he put his name up for the Commission seat initially because of his passion for the industry and desire to help, but through serving has also found he has become a better farmer and gained a deeper understanding of ag issues beyond the farm level including a broader perspective on the size and scope of Idaho and U.S. agriculture.

As Idaho has taken the lead in U.S. barley production over the past several years, producing 32 percent of the nation’s total barley crop in 2019, Brown explained the additional important role of the Commission in representing the industry to provide vital information to partner organizations and policy makers to be sure barley is included correctly in programs that help



IBC Barley Commissioner Scott Brown discussing Idaho barley issues with Senator Mike Crapo’s staff in Washington D.C., February 2020.

growers be more successful. For example, Brown represented IBC and Idaho growers through his board seat with National Barley Growers Association at a meeting with USDA in May 2019 to provide information on how barley pricing works and to ask for barley to be included in USDA’s Market Facilitation Program (MFP) as an eligible commodity for payments under the Department’s trade assistance program. As a result of information provided by Brown and other industry representatives, barley was included in the MFP payments and many Idaho growers benefitted.

Brown is also proud of the efforts of the Commission in improving collaboration with other Idaho grain organizations for the greater good of the industry overall, along with strong accomplishments to help barley growers through programs and partnerships in market development and research. The Commission has been able to extend reach and benefit to Idaho through involvement in the U.S. Grains Council, National Barley Growers Association and National Barley Improvement Committee. Brown helped host the first U.S. Grains Council Chinese Barley Malt Trade Team to the U.S. and Idaho last October, educating





IBC Commissioner Scott Brown hosted USGC Chinese Barley Malt Team at his farm, October 2019.

the delegation on Idaho markets and Idaho's ability to produce a consistent, reliable supply of high quality malt. During April, we started to see malt purchases from China because of efforts with this trade team. He also represented the industry on a trade mission to Morocco which he found very rewarding.

IBC Executive Director Laura Wilder said, "Scott Brown has been hard-working and dedicated in representing the interests of Idaho barley growers and advancing the Idaho barley industry overall. He has been a leader and mentor on the board, besides always encouraging younger growers to get involved and step up to leadership roles in industry organizations. He's made a real difference through his energy and passion for the industry and we thank him for his outstanding service."

Brown served two years as IBC Chairman and previously served as President for Idaho Grain Producers Association and President for National Barley Growers Association. He was presented with the Idaho Icon Award jointly by the Idaho Barley Commission and Idaho Grain Producers Association at the Tri-State Grain Convention last November. "Scott has truly left a permanent mark on the Idaho grain industry and beyond," said Wilder.



IBC Commissioner Scott Brown, second from left, presented information on barley market prices to USDA for 2019 MFP payments in his role as a board member for National Barley Growers Association representing IBC.

The Idaho Barley Commission (IBC) is a self-governing state government agency established by the Idaho legislature in 1988 and is funded through the \$0.03 per hundredweight barley assessment. A four-member board of commissioners made up of three barley growers who are appointed by the Governor, and one barley industry representative appointed by the grower commissioners, set the annual budget and program priorities for the commission which are implemented by IBC staff under board oversight. ■

# Idaho Barley Well Represented with National Barley Improvement Committee in Washington, D.C.

Idaho barley industry representatives traveled to Washington D.C. March 8-11 as part of the National Barley Improvement Committee (NBIC) to provide information to congressional offices and government officials about the US barley industry and important research initiatives and work to be needed for the growth and success of the industry.

Idaho Barley Commissioners Mike Wilkins of Rupert, Scott Brown of Soda Springs and IBC Industry Representative Jason Boose of MolsonCoors, Burley, joined with Dr. Juliet Marshall of Idaho Falls, Endowed Research Professor of Cereals Pathology and Agronomy, University of Idaho Department of Entomology, Plant Pathology and Nematology; and Chris Swersey of Salmon, Supply Chain Specialist for the Brewer's Association, for this important information and education activity for federal programs benefiting the U.S. barley industry.

NBIC represents the US barley community of growers; researchers; malting, brewing, distilling, and food end-users; and allied industries. Barley production, and the manufacture and sale of value-added barley products (malt, beer, distilled products, food, livestock, fish & biofuels) have a significant impact on the US economy as a \$685 million/year crop with 64 percent used in beer, 27 percent for feed, 4 percent for food, 3 percent for whisky and 2 percent for seed. Barley is a critical and primary raw material for beer with a \$328 billion/year brewing industry that generates 2.2 million jobs and \$59 billion in business, personal, and consumption taxes



2020 Idaho National Barley Improvement Committee participants (L to R) were Scott Brown, Idaho Barley Commission; Dr. Juliet Marshall, University of Idaho; Mike Wilkins, Idaho Barley Commission, Jason Boose, Idaho Barley Commission and Chris Swersey, Brewer's Association, joined in this photo by a craft brewing representative from Maine.

annually. Large brewers, maltsters, and distillers make a significant contribution to the economy and employ a substantial workforce. In addition, there are now over 8,000 craft breweries, 142 malt plants operating or under construction and 823 whiskey distillers in the US.

Funding agricultural research is an important federal expenditure and needed to maintain and enhance the agricultural economy and job creation. Federal investment in barley research is needed to keep barley a viable option for US growers and to maintain and enhance value-added job generating enterprises in the US. A big thanks to our Idaho delegation in this important effort! ■

## Idaho Barley Industry Mourns Loss of Long-Time Industry Partner Dr. Phil Bregitzer

Dr. Phil Bregitzer who worked at the USDA Small Grains and Potato Research Unit in Aberdeen, for 30 years, died in an avalanche while skiing near the Pebble Creek Ski Area on March 15. He was a brilliant scientist and was recognized by the global scientific community for his excellent communication skills and outstanding research accomplishments. His work using cutting-edge scientific techniques and advanced breeding led to improved barley cultivars for Idaho, the US, and agriculture worldwide. The new barley varieties



Dr. Phil Bregitzer

Dr. Bregitzer released included those with enhanced resistance to barley stripe rust and Fusarium head blight, improved Russian Wheat Aphid resistance, and lower phytic acid to reduce phosphorus waste from barley fed to swine. Genetic tools he created, including methods of plant regeneration from culture, have been widely used by scientists working to increase the understanding of barley genetics. Phil was an excellent mentor to graduate students and post-doctoral researchers, and his influence helped each to advance their careers in science. Phil loved life, cared about people, and was a dear friend to many, including his colleagues at the USDA-ARS in Aberdeen. His upbeat personality, laughter, and leadership will be missed dearly. Phil is survived by his wife, Edee. ■

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