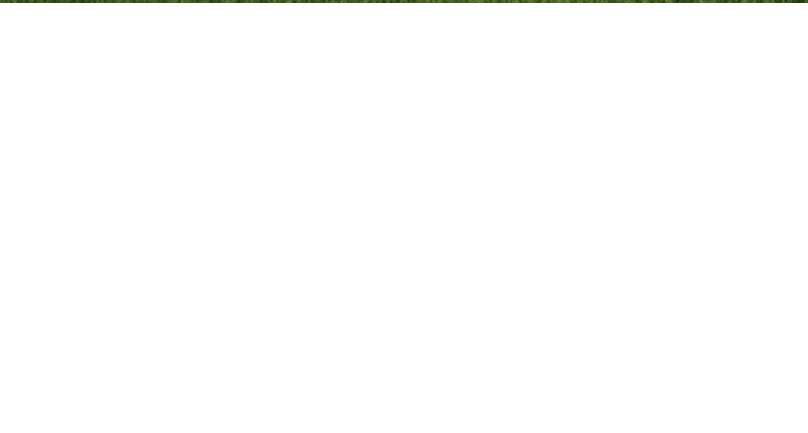
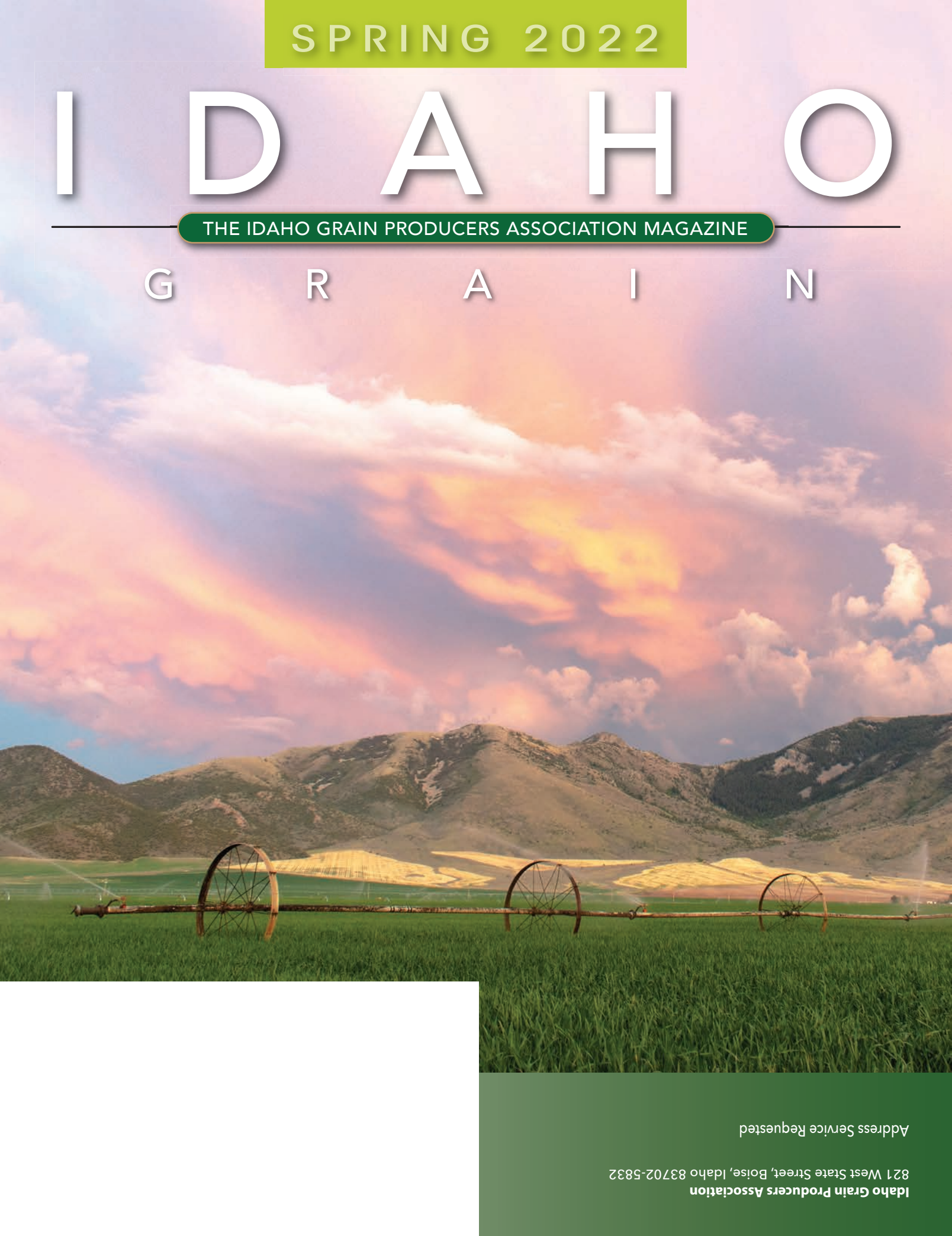


SPRING 2022

# IDAHO

THE IDAHO GRAIN PRODUCERS ASSOCIATION MAGAZINE

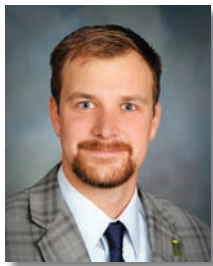
# GRAIN



Idaho Grain Producers Association  
821 West State Street, Boise, Idaho 83702-5832  
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# VIEWS



BY LUCAS SPRATLING  
**PRESIDENT**

I began serving on the Idaho Grain Producers Board in 2013, filling in for a fellow grain grower for one meeting-- one meeting that educated me on the need for farmers to advocate for our livelihoods and I never looked back. It's with tremendous pride that I now represent Idaho's grain farmers as IGPA's President for the current year. I want to thank the leaders who have come before me--leaders who have continued to build a solid foundation from which the organization has derived its clear goals to secure Idaho farmer's livelihood. IGPA would not be the organization we are without our outstanding team, which keeps our grassroots organization informed about the everyday events that impact our agriculture communities. Our team's knowledgeable and structured leadership helps IGPA stand out on state and federal levels as they advocate for the farmers they love to serve.

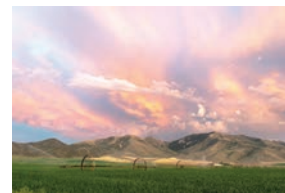
This legislative session is sure to be interesting, with a tremendous budget surplus, redistricting, and elections on the agenda. The session will provide us with opportunities to increase funding for an infrastructure that desperately needs to be replaced, not patched, and hopefully the chance to find ways to keep water here in Idaho with funding for recharge projects around the state. Stacey and Wyatt will be busy during this ever-evolving session--a session that will ultimately have many associations requesting additional funding, and even with a surplus, some will go home unhappy with the eventual outcome. But, if everyone left the session happy, that would suggest something had gone awry with our political system.

On the national level, our board has a never-ending list of issues that present themselves as we navigate this new administration and its political goals to capture carbon. This focus on climate change will significantly influence the new farm bill currently taking shape. As Idaho farmers, we are already taking measures to improve our soil health, and we want to make sure that those and other sustainability efforts do not go unnoticed. That is precisely what Jamie Kress and Ty Iverson are doing as they work for us in Washington DC with the National Wheat Growers Association – and what myself and Idaho Barley Commissioner Allen Young are doing with the National Barley Growers Association. By being members of the Idaho Grain Producers Association, you help give our entire organization a strong voice in local and federal politics, helping shape future policies.

I look forward to serving Idaho's grain farmers and helping to keep this grassroots organization strong. ■

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EDITOR'S  
EDITOR'S NOTE  
NOTE 



BY STACEY KATSEANES SATTERLEE  
**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

I've been lucky to have engaged with two Leadership Idaho Agriculture (LIA) classes in the past few weeks – first, LIA Class 41, after a non-traditional schedule due to Covid, spent a week in Boise and graduated in January. Then, Class 42 was in Boise and graduated in February. It's inspiring and exhilarating to see growers commit to this program and come out on the other side changed. More confident. Ready to lead.

IGPA has long supported leadership development, whether through LIA or our own mentorship program, which has been on hiatus the past two years, but we're looking forward to reinstating this fall. We also have opportunities to send growers to national leadership trainings – whether it's Syngenta's Leadership at its Best, the Bayer Leadership Program, or Barley Industry Leaders of Tomorrow (BILOT), we are always looking for opportunities to get Idaho growers additional leadership training. And all our leadership training endeavors are supported by the Idaho Wheat Commission and the Idaho Barley Commission, who both fund a portion of those programs. As an aside, if any of these programs pique your interest, please let me know! You can learn more about LIA and see what you'd need to do to put together an application here: [www.leadershipidahoag.org](http://www.leadershipidahoag.org).

IGPA understands how important it is to develop leadership skills among our grain-grower members. It's a long-term investment in the health and vitality of our industry. We need growers who are equipped with the skills and desire to serve in many capacities – whether at the county level, on the board of directors, or on the executive board. Staff was recently updating our board directory – there are quite a few vacancies we're going to work to fill over this next year, so if you're willing to serve, please let us know! We need lots of good folks to serve on IGPA's policy committees as well.

We also need growers who have the experience, knowledge, and passion to serve as commissioners on the Idaho Wheat Commission and Idaho Barley Commission. IGPA does the groundwork in publicizing commission seats coming open, gathering qualified and interested names, vetting candidates, and submitting three names to the Governor for a final decision and appointment.

And finally, from January to March-ish as we work with legislators at the Statehouse, I'm reminded how important it is to have solid community leaders who are willing to run and serve in the legislature. It's a pretty thankless job – but I'm so grateful for the good, thoughtful people who serve throughout the state. I hope that all the leadership development the grain industry has invested in will pay off with more grain-grower legislators in the future. ■



## Cautious Optimism Over Fish Forecast

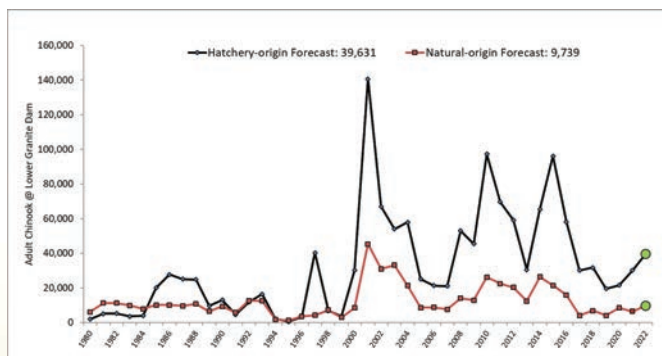
Since the mid-1990s, NOAA’s NW Fisheries Science Center has monitored a number of factors that affect ocean conditions, that then impact Pacific salmon numbers.

Their ocean indices combine oceanographic data to capture the changing ecosystem. These indicators characterize ocean conditions experienced by juvenile salmon entering the northern California Current in Washington and Oregon. They rate each indicator in terms of whether the relative impact on the marine survival of juvenile salmon is “good” – green; “fair” – yellow; or “poor” – red.

Of the chart’s recent results, NOAA said: “Our ocean ecosystem indicators ranked second best in the 24-year time series (2008 ranked first). The indicators on the stoplight chart of ocean conditions are mostly green, signaling productive ocean conditions for juvenile salmon and other marine species.” Read more here:

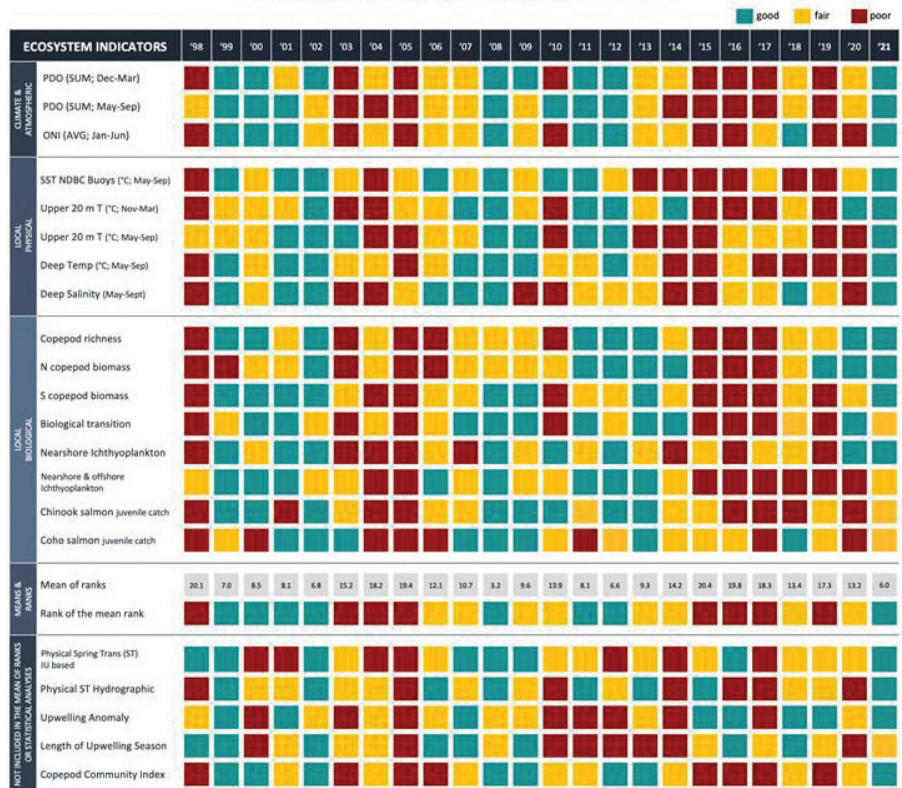
<https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/west-coast/science-data/ocean-ecosystem-indicators-pacific-salmon-marine-survival-northern>

And, as you can see below, the predicted numbers for Spring Chinook and Sockeye look promising. ■



Natural and hatchery-origin Chinook Salmon. 1980-2021 are actual returns, 2022 is the preseason forecast.

### OCEAN CONDITION INDICATORS TREND



The above stoplight chart is produced by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). As you can see, there’s some cause for optimism.

Columbia River Adult Salmon Returns: Actual and Forecast *				
		2021	2021	2022
		Forecast	Return	Forecast
Spring Chinook	Upriver Total for Spring Management Period	75,200	91,736	122,900
	Upper Columbia (total)	13,000	n/a	n/a
	Upper Columbia natural-origin	2,200	n/a	n/a
	Snake River Spring/Summer (total)**	40,000	52,274	73,400
	Snake River natural-origin**	11,100	9,480	13,200
	Mid-Columbia (by subtraction)	22,200	n/a	n/a
Summer Chinook	Upper Columbia Total for Summer Management Period	78,800	56,800	57,500
Sockeye	Total Annual Return	155,600	151,765	198,700
	Wenatchee	27,300	41,219	19,200
	Okanogan	127,300	105,493	175,700
	Yakim	200	3,531	3,500
	Deschutes	100	n/a	100
	Snake River	700	890	200

\* Components may not sum due to rounding.  
\*\* 2021 return is based on standard TAC run reconstruction methodology. IDFG does not support the TAC methodology and has provided alternate estimates of 47,949 total adults, including 6,975 natural origin.

While there are some bright spots, as you can see from the chart above, there’s still more work to do to increase the number of salmon returning to Idaho.

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## NRCS Conservation Programs: Explained

BY MINDI RAMBO, USDA NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE, IDAHO

Talk of Climate Smart Agriculture is everywhere these days. What it is; how to do it; how it can benefit the planet; and even what it may cost. All of the new data and buzz words can be confusing. However, what is not confusing is the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service’s (NRCS) commitment to helping grain growers. For more than 80 years, NRCS has been providing assistance to help agricultural producers tackle their most pressing natural resource concerns, whether it be soil health, water quality and quantity, or nutrient management, among a host of options.

Thanks to the 2018 Farm Bill, NRCS has some enhanced tools to help producers who want to install conservation practices on their operations, especially ones that have been identified as Climate Smart. The General Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) and Classic Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) have been given some added flexibilities and a “bridge” between those two programs has been added. This “stepping stone” between standard conservation management and enhanced management is the Environmental Quality Incentives Program – Conservation Incentives Contract (EQIP-CIC).

“EQIP, EQIP-CIC, and CSP are all ways we can work with ag producers, including grain growers, whether they are irrigated or dry land operations,” said Lori Kassib, Assistant State Conservationist for Programs for NRCS Idaho. “These programs build upon each other, enabling us to work with farmers to help them achieve their conservation, sustainability, and profitability goals at the level that makes the most sense for their particular situation at different stages of their stewardship plans.”

### EQIP

EQIP provides financial and technical assistance to agricultural producers to address natural resource concerns. It is the workhorse of the Farm Bill programs NRCS manages. In Idaho, EQIP accounts for more than 75% of NRCS’s Farm Bill funds. It is also the program farmers, ranchers and

non-industrial timber producers are most familiar with. EQIP’s cost sharing feature allows for the installation of conservation practices that benefit not only the operation, but the surrounding area – good fences are not the only way to be good neighbors.

As of January, NRCS identified 28 existing EQIP as Climate Smart or drought mitigating. NRCS conservationists have been recommending many of those practices for decades before climate concerns were on the popular radar.

### EQIP - CIC

EQIP-CIC is a new enrollment option created by the 2018 Farm Bill. It was piloted in four states in 2021 and is in the process of being rolled out to all states in 2022. This new program provides an opportunity to implement limited EQIP practices focusing on a list of Climate Smart practices. Another aspect that sets EQIP-CIC apart is that the selected practices do not have to be implemented on the entire agriculture operation, but rather a specific portion of it. EQIP-CIC contracts will last a total of five years, with management practices receiving an annual payment and supporting practices paid when they are completed.

Continued on next page



A man in a green shirt and cap stands in the center of the advertisement. To his left is a grid of 28 red wheat seeds arranged in 7 rows of 4. To his right is a single stalk of wheat. In the top left corner, a map of the United States is shown with the state of Idaho highlighted in a light brown color. The background is a light, textured surface.

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- Amending Soil Properties with Gypsum Products
- Prescribed Burning
- Cover Crop
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- Dust Control on Unpaved Roads and Surfaces
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- Field Operations Emissions Reduction
- Irrigation Water Management
- Anionic Polyacrylamide (PAM) Application
- Mulching
- Forage Harvest Management
- Prescribed Grazing
- Grazing Land Mechanical Treatment
- Nutrient Management
- Feed Management
- Pest Management Conservation System
- Wetland Wildlife Habitat Management
- Upland Wildlife Habitat Management
- Early Successional Habitat Development-Mgt
- Soil Carbon Amendment
- Site Assessment and Soil Testing for Containments Activity
- Soil Health Testing
- Soil and Source Testing for Nutrient Management
- Carbon Sequestration and Greenhouse Gas Mitigation Assessment
- Agricultural Energy Assessment

Continued from previous page

“We see a world of possibilities in EQIP-CIC,” Kassib said. “And, we are anxious to get to work making those possibilities a reality.”

**CSP**

The Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) is the largest conservation program in the United States. Thousands of producers across the country choose to enroll in the program because it helps them build on their existing conservation efforts while continuing to strengthen their operations. Whether a farm is looking to increase crop resiliency, further reduce erosion or improve on-farm energy efficiency, NRCS can custom design a CSP plan to help them meet those goals. If a farmer is already taking steps to improve the condition of the land, chances are CSP can help them find new ways to meet those goals.

Grain growers, in particular, can benefit from all that CSP has to offer. There are many enhancements specifically related to crop production. Enhancements are management activities that go above and beyond the minimum practice requirements to help achieve a higher level of conservation. Examples of enhancement options available to grain producers include cover crops to improve soil health and productivity, buffers to enhance water quality and water management activities to improve water efficiency. In addition, changes to CSP now allow for adaptive management options to better respond to market and weather conditions, allowing producers to choose enhancements, or bundles of enhancements, that best fit their circumstances.

**Recent Program Updates**

Historically underserved participants are eligible for advance payments to help offset costs related to purchasing materials or contracting services



through EQIP. Historically underserved participants may elect to receive an advance of not less than 50 percent of the EQIP conservation practice payment amount. Participants who receive advance payments must expend the funds within 90 days of receiving the advance. Historically underserved groups include: Beginning, veteran, socially disadvantaged (African-American, Asian-American, Hispanic, Native American), and limited resource farmers and ranchers.

In January, NRCS updated CSP to allow an agricultural producer to immediately apply to re-enroll in the program following an unfunded application to renew an existing contract. In the past, acres or participants that were not re-enrolled had to wait two years to reapply.

**Helping People Help the Land**

“Since our inception during the Dust Bowl as the Soil Conservation Service, NRCS staff have been the technical experts in helping agricultural producers be highly informed, thoughtful stewards of the land that they care for and which provides all of us with food, clothing and shelter,” said Amie Miller, Acting State Conservationist for NRCS Idaho. “We are excited to now be part of the larger national and worldwide conversations on how land management practices we have worked with scientists and farmers on for decades can benefit our world.”

To learn more about EQIP, EQIP-CIC or CSP, contact your local NRCS office. An NRCS conservationist will visit with you and evaluate the natural resources on your land. NRCS will then present a variety of conservation practices or system alternatives as part of an overall conservation plan. The conservation plan is a roadmap

Continued on next page



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Continued from previous page

to help you address those concerns or management goals that improve or protect the natural resource conditions on your land.

Application deadlines for Farm Bill programs through NRCS vary depending upon the state. However, states may hold additional application periods during the year if additional funds become available. Your local NRCS office will have details.

### Program deadlines for Fiscal Year 2022

#### Idaho

- CSP Classic, March 11, 2022

- EQIP/EQIP-CIC, Nov. 5, 2021; April 29, 2022

#### Oregon

- CSP, Tentative March 2022
- EQIP, Nov. 19, 2021
- EQIP- CIC, Feb. 11, 2022

#### Washington

- FY22 CSP Classic / FY23 CSP Renewal, March 31, 2022
- EQIP, Oct. 7, 2021
- EQIP-CIC, Jan. 24, 2022

## Gellings Named State FSA Director

IGPA was thrilled with the announcement of our friend and former IGPA President Matt Gellings as the new State Director for USDA’s Farm Service Agency. Gellings was appointed by President Biden and joined the team on Jan. 18.



Gellings, a fourth-generation farmer, has lived and worked in Idaho Falls his whole life. He and his family grew wheat, alfalfa, and malt barley as well as running a cow/calf operation.

“I always said that if I failed at farming, I would move to Boise and 45 years later here I am,” said Gellings.

After several years serving on the FSA state committee, through both the Obama and Trump administrations,



Gellings said it was his time. “I am honored to serve in this position and represent my fellow farmers. I felt like this was the right time--time to have a farmer in this position. It’s so important and to have the experience of the state committee under my belt, I felt ready. I walked into the office on the first day and knew everyone here. “



Gellings said he has high hopes for his time in Boise and he wants to make a difference. “Farmers are the eternal optimists. I really look at this as a great opportunity. We are so short staffed, but we see the light. We see the offices opening back up so farmers can come in and get the services they need.”

Gellings and his wife Kathy moved to the east side of Boise where his criteria for a house was a two-car garage and hers was a pool for the grandkids.

“And if I could ask one thing of our IGPA members,” said Gellings, “it would be just to give a thank you to your FSA staff. They work hard for our Idaho farmers and ranchers to keep them informed of our programs and opportunities and a thank you would go a long way.”

You can contact Director Gellings at his Boise office at (208) 378-5650.



# NAWG Adopts Climate Policy Positions

The National Association of Wheat Growers (NAWG) Board of Directors recently adopted climate policy positions based on the work and recommendations of a new internal grower-led committee. Several political and business actions led the association to focus on climate policy in 2021. After the 2020 election, it became clear there would be an increased focus on climate issues by the new Administration and the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives. The Biden Administration re-committed to the Paris Climate Agreement, making commitments to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and reduce global warming. Congressional leadership also committed to passing legislation to facilitate meeting the United States' commitments. Specifically, the US committed to:

- Cutting greenhouse gas emissions 50-52% below 2005 levels by 2030
- Reaching a 100% carbon pollution free power sector by 2035
- Achieving a net-zero economy by no later than 2050

Additionally, there was an expanding number of voluntary carbon programs that were soliciting growers' participation. Wheat customers are increasingly focused on reducing supply chain greenhouse gas emissions through supply chain projects, or through voluntary carbon markets. Large international food companies (and wheat users), such as PepsiCo, General Mills, Mondelez, Grupo Bimbo, and more, have all made commitments to reach net-zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050. For the food companies to reach their goals, supply chain emissions (also known as Scope 3 emissions), like those from wheat production must be reduced, or carbon sequestration must be increased, or both.

With both Congress and the Administration focusing on climate issues and growers hearing about new voluntary carbon opportunities, NAWG leadership decided to appoint a Special Climate and Sustainability Committee. The direction of the committee was to provide policy recommendations to the NAWG Board of Directors. The committee met throughout the summer and provided policy recommendations to the Board in November 2021. The committee's discussion built upon existing NAWG positions that stress the need for any carbon or climate programs to be voluntary, incentive based, allow for early

## NAWG'S CLIMATE POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS



The importance of crop insurance and not linking additional conservation practices/requirements to crop insurance.



Support for the Growing Climate Solutions Act as an educational tool to provide growers with information about voluntary carbon markets.

Growers should be eligible for tax benefits for carbon sequestration and other conservation.



USDA and Land Grant Universities should be involved in developing a standardized carbon measurement.

University Extension should help producers navigate the legal complexities of voluntary carbon market contracts.



Supporting the inclusion of wheat in all production systems including when used as a cover crop.

adopters of conservation programs to participate, and allow for growers to see an equitable return on their participation in any carbon programs. NAWG also had the opportunity to testify before the House Agriculture Committee in September 2021 to advocate these positions and share NAWG's ongoing discussions on voluntary carbon markets. The full recommendations can be found here, but recommendations focused on:

- The importance of crop insurance and not linking additional conservation practices/requirements to crop insurance.

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- Support for the Growing Climate Solutions Act as an educational tool to provide growers with information about voluntary carbon markets.
- Growers should be eligible for tax benefits for carbon sequestration and other conservation.
- USDA and Land Grant Universities should be involved in developing a standardized carbon measurement.
- University Extension should help producers navigate the legal complexities of voluntary carbon market contracts.
- Supporting the inclusion of wheat in all production systems including when used as a cover crop.

The NAWG committee also developed a paper outlining the different wheat production practices that growers use across the country that align with soil health and regenerative agriculture principles. Wheat growers are already undertaking many actions to manage diverse

crop rotations: keeping the ground covered, reducing tillage and developing management strategies to efficiently utilize resources. Key to achieving many of these management strategies are continued access to crop protection tools, technical assistance to design conservation systems, crop insurance to insure investments in your crop, ongoing agricultural research, and financial assistance and incentives from Farm Bill conservation programs.

With the increasing interest in reducing greenhouse gas emissions and carbon sequestration, we should expect this policy debate to continue into the 2023 Farm Bill. Farm Bill conservation programs are providing financial and technical assistance that many of the voluntary carbon programs and agricultural supply chain projects are relying on for adoption of new practices. As NAWG prepares for the next Farm Bill, it will be important to understand how the food companies are engaging in Farm Bill development and their priorities for new or expanding conservation programs. ■

## GOVERNOR PROFILE



GOVERNOR

# Brad Little



### SUPPORTING IDAHO AGRICULTURE

A cowboy at heart who loves westerns and prefers John Wayne to Clint Eastwood, Governor Little has a heart full of pride for our beloved state and the western way of life. As Idaho’s 33rd Governor, and a native Idahoan, Gov. Little’s roots run deep – especially in agriculture in our state. He’s also a funny guy and is quick to make a joke or two at his own expense.

“I had no idea Goldfish crackers were made with Idaho wheat! That’s the most important thing I’ve learned all day,” he says with a grin.

Little’s grandfather made his way to the Gem State from Scotland beginning a family legacy of raising sheep and cattle, which continues today. The family ranch land is near Emmett, where the Governor and his wife of 43 years, Teresa, still live in a home that has been in the family for 90 years.

When Little left for college at the University of Idaho, he wasn’t sure what his future might hold. As the youngest of three, he didn’t know if coming back to the family ranch was an option.

“I had an advisor at U of I who saw potential in me,” Little says. “He pushed me to take harder classes, like bio and organic chemistry. I graduated with a degree in agribusiness.” It did work out that Brad and Teresa could return to the ranch and Little worked as a managing partner in the operation until his son, David, returned.

The couple raised their two boys, David and Adam, on the ranch, and are thankful to have them and their families close by. After spending time with Governor Little, it became very clear that family is his top priority.

“I want Idaho to be a place where kids can stay here to work and raise a family, or if they do leave for a while, there are still opportunities to come back to if they want,” Little says. “Both of our boys went off to be CPAs for a bit, but have brought their families back, which Teresa and I are really thankful for.”

“I worked them so hard growing up on the ranch I didn’t think either of them would want to come back,” Little says with a laugh. David and Kelsey live on the ranch with their three boys, and Adam and Angela are in the Boise area with their three children.

“It’s been fun to see the six grandkids working on the ranch helping during branding time, or when we ship sheep with Teresa’s family. They love to spend time there and help whenever they can.”

When it comes to hobbies, the Governor says that’s an easy one. “We love spending time on the ranch with the grandkids. It’s my favorite hobby.”

**Political Dreams**

Service to others has always been important to the Little family and accordingly, they have been active



members in several industry associations including the Idaho Cattle Association and Idaho Wool Growers Association, with the Governor serving as vice president with IWGA. He also served on the board of directors for the Idaho Association of Commerce and Industry for 20 years and as chairman for a while.

In his early years of politics, Governor Little would go to Boise to testify on behalf of or against legislation

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**SY Teton** Grain Craft Preferred  
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affecting the cattle and sheep industries. Becoming involved in industry politics gave him experience and access to mentors who saw him as a leader.

“I remember Phil Batt asking me to run for Senate at one point, but the boys were still young and at home,” Little recalls. “Then we were up branding calves on Freeze Out Hill, and I received a call that Gov. Kempthorne wanted to appoint me to a vacant seat in the Senate. I had run out of excuses, so I said yes.”

When asked about his priorities for the future, the Governor says he wants to be part of the solution to the extraordinary growth our state is currently seeing.

“The secret is out. Idaho is an amazing place to live and work and raise a family, and it seems like everyone has taken notice. While that is a great thing, it also provides challenges for us to figure out. We’ve —got to look at housing and infrastructure and schools in light of all of this growth. It’s a huge challenge but also a huge opportunity, and one we are willing and ready to take head on,” he says. “We in Idaho appreciate the western way of life and I hope to maintain that for future generations,” he says. This may explain his love of John Wayne and his movies.

### A Heart for Agriculture and Education

Agriculture as an industry has always been important to Idaho, and while there will always be challenges, this is an exciting time.

“We’re doing a better job at creating opportunities for people to stay in Idaho, and in agriculture,” he says. “Six years ago we didn’t have any meat processing plants, and this year we are on track to have five family-owned cattle processors. We are keeping the value here. We are adding value to ag products, rather than just shipping out the raw commodities.”

“In addition to livestock processing, we have the largest barley malting facility in Idaho Falls,” he adds. “We also have dairy processors adding value to milk products. Anytime we can add value, that is positive for our industry and our economy.”

IGPA Executive Director Stacey Satterlee says having Governor Little at the helm is a benefit to all of agriculture, including the wheat and barley industry in our state.

“Governor Little is a man of integrity. He knows Idaho. He knows agriculture. And he knows and understands



the people of this state and what is truly important to them. We are proud to work alongside the Governor as we continue to promote Idaho agricultural products to the nation and the world.”

Not only has job creation, conservative tax measures and balancing the budget been important to Little, but education has been a top priority.

“We want to recruit and retain good teachers here in Idaho,” he says. “We were able to raise starting teacher pay and include health insurance as a benefit for teachers as well.”

### Getting the Job Done

Little describes himself as curious. “I like this job,” he says. “It’s important to me to work on policies that benefit Idahoans. We have a lot of challenges ahead with managing the growth, workforce, housing and resources in our state, and that’s where I will continue to put my focus—creating opportunities for the next generation to stay in Idaho or come back here to live and raise a family. Kids may not have the same jobs as their parents, but there will be jobs available to them here.”

The Governor is a humble man who doesn’t like talking about himself or taking credit for things he has accomplished, which is apparent in one of his favorite quotes. “I think it was Ronald Reagan that said “There is no limit to the amount of good you can do if you don’t care who gets the credit,”” he says. “And that’s true in anything.”

When asked what his favorite Idaho wheat and barley products are, the Governor, without missing a beat, replies “now that I know they’re made from Idaho wheat, Goldfish crackers – and barley soup, of course.” We’re sure Rep. Clark Kauffman will agree with that! ■



SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE

# Scott Bedke

**RUNNING FOR LT. GOVERNOR**



If the longest serving Idaho Speaker of the House Scott Bedke, who has served 10 years to be exact, is one thing, it's passionate. Passionate about the things he holds dear including family, friends, education, water and the state of Idaho. He says the words he would use to describe himself are intense and thoughtful, and "I don't spook easily."

These things are clear when sitting down to talk with him.

The speaker is a 4th generation Idaho native, growing up on a ranch in Oakley where he and his family still run cattle today. A graduate of Oakley High School and then Brigham Young University, Bedke and his wife Sarah raised four kids on the ranch and now are the lucky grandparents to 14 who range in age from 12 down to eight years old. Speaker Bedke mentioned four of his grandsons are all eight-years-old and laughed at the fun and trouble those kids probably will get into in later years growing up together.

Speaker Bedke met Sarah in an accounting 201 class while both were students at BYU—he tells us their first date was to a basketball game. The couple moved back to the ranch in 1981 to live and work full-time.

"I was probably on the path to law school but decided to return to the ranch. We are living in a global market now; it's not your Dad's business anymore and I wanted to be part of that innovation," he says.

The Speaker has been involved in politics from the beginning of his career with groups like the Idaho Cattle Association and Farm Bureau. "Being that our ranch is on public land, we are always having to show that we are being good stewards of the land and keeping up on land policy. You have to be able to tell your story," says Bedke.

"Idaho is the fastest growing state in the nation and it's one of the best places to live, work and raise a family. I understand why folks are moving here—it's a great place to be. But I also want to keep Idaho like the Idaho I grew up in where those values are still upheld."



"I started out in politics as the President of ICA, then got into the legislature when there was an opening," he says. "But I had to think long and hard about how I wanted to make a difference. If I'm going to be away from the ranch I better be 'making dust.'" What the Speaker says he also has come to realize is that the folks in the legislature are just people; people who (for the most part) want to make a difference.

"I ran for the position of Speaker of the House the year I broke my ankle and was basically worthless at home," he says jokingly. He was elected to the top leadership position by his colleagues and feels honored they trust him enough to not misuse that

position. "My job here is to leave the place better than I found it."

"I have served on many committees including JFAC, Education, Transportation and Natural Resources. I realized early on that I needed to become an expert in these areas so I could be of service to my constituents.

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You have to persevere when you don't know it all right away."

### A Passion for Education

A true advocate for education, Speaker Bedke is a product of Idaho public schools. He attended school in Oakley up through his high school years and, when asked if he could recall any teacher in particular that had an impact on his life, he doesn't miss a beat. "Mrs. Haines. She was a 5th grade teacher and the librarian at our school and later, taught English at the high school. She quite literally changed the trajectory of my life. She took me under her wing and introduced me to the joy of reading and I read all the library books. I realized at a young age education is the key and great educators can impact students in ways they may never even know." Speaker Bedke goes on to say that he kept in touch with Mrs. Haines for many years and even sent her his first campaign documents and had her help edit them. "She cared and she saw something in me in my early years and that stuck with me forever," he says.

### A Vision for Idaho

As with most Idaho natives, Speaker Bedke wants the Idaho he grew up with to be there for his grandchildren and longer. "I want to keep Idaho Idaho—our Idaho values which include family and a good work ethic."

"Idaho is the fastest growing state in the nation and it's one of the best places to live, work and raise a family. I understand why folks are moving here—it's a great place to be. But I also want to keep Idaho like the Idaho I grew up in where those values are still upheld."



He says he hopes that he has provided his family a solid foundation and doesn't want anything to limit their opportunities. "Idaho is full of opportunities and promise—there's so much more we can do to make Idaho the best place to live and I hope my family and yours will be able to see that all come to fruition. I want people to be able to realize their own interpretation of the American dream and hard work can really take you there."

A lover of Coke over Pepsi, savory over sweet and country music over rock, Speaker Bedke says if he could have dinner with one person it would be "Thomas Jefferson—or any of the founding fathers really. So much history and lessons to be learned, that could be a very informative dinner."

The Speaker's bottom line: "I want to be able to meet people where they are. What are they passionate about and what can I do in my role to help make this Idaho we all love the best it can be for them and their families."

Speaker Bedke is currently running for Lt. Governor and plans to continue his campaign work into the summer and fall. ■





# New Wheat Flour Lab To Help Promote U.S. Wheat Exports To South America

ORIGINALLY PUBLISHED IN THE U.S. WHEAT ASSOCIATES WHEAT LETTER BLOG, DECEMBER 13, 2021

U.S. Wheat Associates (USW) sees a robust growth opportunity for U.S. wheat exports to South America. To meet rising demand for bread, snacks and other wheat foods, regional flour millers are hungry for information they need to purchase a wider range of high-quality wheat classes.

U.S. wheat must compete in Colombia, Peru, Chile, Brazil and other South American countries with imported Canadian and Argentinian wheat. Technical training and comparative analysis to demonstrate the advantages of U.S. wheat classes are important parts of USW's work in the region. However, those efforts are somewhat constrained because a substantial portion of the funding for activities was needed for travel costs to conduct activities in sometimes limited facilities in each country or at U.S. educational institutions.

## ATP Funding Yields Innovative Idea

A potential answer to this challenge arrived in 2019 when the Agricultural Trade Promotion (ATP) program, administered by USDA's Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS), was created to help U.S. agriculture build new export markets. Under ATP, USW's regional South American office staff in Santiago, Chile, proposed an innovative promotional concept to establish a regional flour milling, cereal chemistry and baking laboratory in cooperation with a respected university.



Through pandemic-related delays and customs challenges, USW and its project partner, *Universidad Mayor*, worked steadily to build a facility on the university's Santiago campus and equip the lab with a test flour mill, wheat and flour analysis instruments and bread ovens. On Dec. 3, 2021, USW and the university dedicated *Laboratorio De Analisis De Granos Harinas Y Panificacion* at an event attended by Chile's Minister of Agriculture, U.S. State Department and FAS officials, the university rector and executives with several Chilean flour mills.

"We are very pleased to open the first lab of its kind in this region with *Universidad Mayor*," said Miguel Galdós, USW Regional Director, South America. "We know that technical managers at South American flour mills have more influence today on the types of wheat their mills need to purchase. USW will be able to help more of those managers understand the differential advantages of U.S. wheat classes by conducting programs at this regional lab. At the same time, having access to consistent and reliable testing and analysis will lead to improvements in production processes and help improve the quality of regional wheat-based end products."

## More Efficient, More Effective

"Before now, South American millers would have to send wheat samples to a commercial company in Guatemala for analysis, so this lab adds much more

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## Advertorial

### SPRING WHEAT TIPS FOR IDAHO GROWERS

Spring is right around the corner, and Idaho wheat growers are setting the stage for a profitable growing season.

No matter what class of spring wheat you grow, there are a few best practices to keep in mind:

1. Variety selection is key. Minimize risk by choosing several varieties (and multiple classes), and pick those best suited for your geography, farm and management techniques.
2. Timing matters. Be prepared to begin planting as early as your soil conditions, and Mother Nature, allow.
3. Know your end users. Understand the market, choose preferred varieties and strive for the quality your customers expect.

While varieties perform differently by environment (see No. 1 above), we suggest growers consider several "go-to" WestBred® wheat varieties that perform well across a range of Idaho growing conditions.

#### Northern Idaho Growers:

##### Soft White Spring Wheat Varieties

- WB6211CLP – NEW!  
Available in limited quantities for 2022

##### Hard Red Spring Wheat

- WB9303
- WB9668

#### Southern Idaho Growers:

##### Soft White Spring Wheat Varieties

- WB6211CLP – NEW!  
Available in limited quantities for 2022
- WB6430

##### Hard White Spring Wheat

- WB7589
- WB7696

##### Hard Red Spring Wheat

- WB9668
- WB9707

For additional information on WestBred wheat varieties, contact WestBred Regional Business Managers:

- Nathan Clemens, Pacific Northwest North Region, at 509-570-8696 or nathan.clemens@bayer.com
- Trenton Stanger, Pacific Northwest South Region, at 530-681-8288 or 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 those conditions on the grower's fields. Bayer, Bayer Cross, WestBred and Design® and WestBred® are registered trademarks of Bayer Group. Clearfield® is a registered trademark of BASF Corporation. ©2022 Bayer Group. All Rights Reserved.



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efficiency in its support for regional customers,” said Mark Fowler, USW Vice President of Global Technical Services, who participated in the dedication event.

As a partner in the new lab, USW purchased and installed all the equipment using ATP funds, while *Universidad Mayor* built the lab and will cover fixed costs. USW Santiago in return will share equal access with the university to the lab for technical support activities supporting U.S. wheat exports to South America and remain the lab’s only private partner for 15 years.



### Golden Opportunity

After attending the dedication event, USW Vice President of Overseas Operations Mike Spier called the new lab “a golden opportunity” to demonstrate the competitive baking advantage of U.S. wheat classes compared to wheat from other origins.

“With the ever-changing travel restrictions and quarantines, USW hasn’t been able to organize in-person technical activities for several months,” Spier said. “The lab provides everything USW Technical Specialist Andrés Saturno needs to get back to demonstrating the superior end-use baking performance of U.S. wheat classes to partners in Chile and other customers in USW’s South America region.”

### Impressive Team and Project

For USW Chairman Darren Padget, a wheat farmer from Grass Valley, Ore., the dedication event was his first overseas trip to meet with customers in more than two years and his first visit to South America.

“I was very impressed by the enthusiasm of the regional USW team and among the guests at the dedication for this new lab,” Padget said. “I understand why,



partly because we visited a supermarket in Santiago and saw the types of bread consumers purchase and how they shop. In Chile, consumption is very high, and they buy most of their bread for the day by the piece. Consumers there and across South America are looking for excellent quality products with a ‘clean label’



– very few additives. I think this lab will help USW demonstrate how flour from our wheat helps millers and bakers meet that demand.”

The evidence of that was on display at the dedication event as artfully crafted bread products and pizza refreshments baked by Master Baker Didier Rosada and his wife Kathy Cruz using flour milled from U.S. wheat. USW frequently works with Rosada’s Red Brick Consulting company to conduct baking seminars in Spanish-speaking countries. The week of the dedication, Rosada and USW held a workshop using

U.S. wheat flour for customers representing 75% of Chile’s milling industry.

Traditional preferences and the landed price of imported wheat will remain a competitive challenge for U.S. wheat in South America. But the complete value of U.S. wheat becomes more obvious to customers through demonstration and training. Now there is a dedicated facility for that work, giving USW the opportunity to interact with regional customers more frequently and invest more of its funding to show them the unique advantages of U.S. wheat. ■

## Thresher purchased by The Arthur Companies

Thresher Artisan Wheat, which had a big presence in Southern Idaho, has been acquired by The Arthur Companies. Growers might have noticed a transition to new branding and the elimination of the Thresher name in December, as the new owner took over Thresher’s eight locations in Newdale, Blackfoot, American Falls, Rockford, Moreland, Idaho Falls and Pocatello.



**The Arthur Companies**

The Arthur Companies is a family-owned, diversified agriculture business headquartered in Arthur, North Dakota. The Idaho acquisition is its first expansion outside of North Dakota and promises to bring more stability for Idaho growers. According to a press release, The Arthur Companies is committed to investing in the current facilities to ensure efficient customer service, along with creating long-term opportunities for both customers and employees.

“As a more than century-old agriculture company, we will bring a long-term approach to helping producers in the Snake River Valley grow their businesses by leveraging our expertise in marketing, seed and agronomy,” said James Burgum, CEO at The Arthur Companies. “We are focused on stability and success within this new market and believe that our approach to enabling the growth of our customers will allow our company to grow alongside them.”

The core business activities familiar to growers will not change. Through their new facilities in Idaho, The Arthur Companies purchases wheat from farmers then stores, blends and sells the product to flour mills, feed mills and the export market. They also process wheat for the cereals market through a unique conditioning process to prepare it for food-grade processing.

Additionally, they clean and treats wheat seed to sell to farmers.

Eventually, The Arthur Companies will look to modernize operations, improve operating capacity, and evaluate opportunities to handle other commodities in its Idaho facilities. Seth Heidorn, Director of Wheat at The Arthur Companies, says the company will use its first year in the market to learn as much as possible from customers on how to further serve their needs.

Idaho growers can expect some immediate impact from the sale, as well.

“In Idaho, we’re able to quickly expand destination markets through existing Arthur Companies relationships to ensure competitive prices for our farmers,” Heidorn said. “On the agronomy side, with our partner, Trace Genomics, we’re now offering soil biology testing in Idaho to provide an advanced soil analysis to help growers make better agronomy decisions.”

Heidorn adds that building lasting relationships with customers is a top priority for The Arthur Companies.

“We’ve worked with many generations of customers over the years and understand the importance of our grain elevators to the local famers, our employees, and our communities,” Heidorn says. “Our long history in the grain business gives us a unique perspective to look at the Idaho market with a long-term view and invest to benefit current and future generations of customers in the region.”

For more information about The Arthur Companies, visit [arthurcompanies.com](http://arthurcompanies.com). ■



It can sometimes feel awkward to ask those around us about mental health.

## Starting the Conversation

- I've noticed you've been stressed lately, do you want to grab some coffee and talk for a bit?
- This harvest season seems like it's been exceptionally hard for folks, how are you handling things?
- I heard you say the other day you're feeling overwhelmed, what can I do for you to ease some of your work load?
- I had a few spare minutes and thought I would call and see how you are doing?

## Next Steps

- Treat the person with respect and dignity - Listen nonjudgmentally and respect their privacy
- Have realistic expectations - Offer love and support but avoid offering solutions; acknowledge that their feelings are valid
- Give the person hope - Remind them that there is hope for a more positive future
- Offer practical help - Provide resources for professional help and additional support, offer to help with overwhelming tasks



# Idaho Wheat Commissioner Elected to U.S. Wheat Associates Officer Team

Clark Hamilton, a third-generation farmer from Ririe, was elected secretary-treasurer of U.S. Wheat Associates (USW) during the USW winter board meeting in Washington, D.C. in January. USW is the export market development organization for the U.S. wheat industry. Hamilton is currently the vice chairman of the Idaho Wheat Commission. He and his wife, Kristi, own Hamilton Triple C Farms, approximately 6,000 acres of diversified family farmland that Clark and Kristi operate with their two sons, Jordan and Logan, and a full-time employee, Mitch Landon.



“I’ve got a good team,” Hamilton said when asked how he balances leadership roles with his occupation. “I couldn’t do this without that good team.” Hamilton previously served as executive officer of the Idaho Grain Producers Association board and on the board of Ririe Grain and Feed Cooperative, as well as in several church and community service and leadership positions. “I’ve always felt like it’s important to be involved in our industry, that if we want to preserve this way of life it’s important for us to be involved and keep that industry strong,” Hamilton explained.

It was while serving in those roles that Hamilton became very familiar with the local, state and national issues impacting agriculture, particularly wheat. “I often say that everyone’s got a lot of problems when they sit down at the dinner table, unless they don’t have any food. Then they have one problem,” Hamilton said. The necessity of feeding the world and seeing the result of his hard work is what keeps him planting.

Connecting with overseas customers tops Hamilton’s list of priorities in his new role. “I decided to run for office because I sincerely believe that the success and profitability of wheat growers depends on developing and protecting our export markets.” Hamilton is hoping to build farmers’ customer base and deepen overseas relationships during his time on the board. “Growers have to be involved because our relationships with overseas customers are critical in this increasingly competitive global market where U.S. wheat is rarely the lowest cost source.”

Hamilton wants to make one thing clear: he’s here to listen and then follow through. His message to overseas customers is simple, “We’re listening to you,” he said. “Going forward, I am going to listen to our customers to ensure USW is adapting to meet their needs.” He made a similar promise to growers and USW leadership and staff, “I am going to listen to USW staff to be sure the Board of Directors is providing the guidance and support they need to carry out the organization’s mission.”



Hamilton and the rest of the USW officer team will begin their new leadership roles for the 2022-2023 fiscal year at the USW board meeting in June. ■

## Idaho Wheat Commissioner Appointed to Lewiston's Port Commission

Joseph "Genesee Joe" Anderson of Lewiston was selected in a vote by Mike Thomason and Jerry Klemm to join them in serving as a commissioner for the Port of Lewiston. Anderson will represent the Port of Lewiston on the City of Lewiston's Urban Renewal Agency. Anderson's decision to join the Port commission follows decades of farming.



Anderson has been operating the family farm with his older brother, Jay, since 1983. The Anderson brothers farm about 4,400 acres of owned and rented land in Latah and Nez Perce counties. They grow winter wheat, spring wheat, barley, pulse, and oilseed crops. Their farm in the Genesee area has been in the family since 1902 when his great-grandfather settled there.

"The existing river system, like many other engineering feats including irrigation, the interstate highway system, air travel, space travel, and our food and clean water in this country, may not be perfect, but they represent a steady path toward improvement in man's way of life as we gain knowledge," Anderson said when asked about the value of the river system. "Most changes in our lives come as a result of our desire to improve our safety, comfort, or longevity. The river system represents an efficient way to deliver food to mouths around the world, as well as storing energy in the form of hydropower."

Anderson earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Agricultural Economics and a Bachelor of Science degree in Agricultural Mechanization from the University of Idaho. Anderson has been involved in a number of leadership positions during his career. He completed a five-year term as a member of the Idaho Grain Producers Association executive board, is a member of the Latah County Grain Growers, a 1994 graduate of Leadership Idaho Agriculture, and a graduate of the Wheat Industry Leaders of Tomorrow program. He has also served on the Genesee Union Warehouse Board from 1994-1999 and was an associate supervisor on the Latah Soil and Water Conservation District.

Anderson is currently representing District 1 on the Idaho Wheat Commission, a position he claimed in 2012 and was reappointed to in 2017. The Port of Lewiston welcomed Commissioner Anderson as the new District 2 Commissioner at the Special Port Commission Meeting held in January. Anderson will serve as an appointed Port Commissioner until December 31, 2022. Anderson's appointment fills a seat previously held by Mary Hasenoehrl. ■

## Symptoms of poor mental health to look for in yourself & others

- Persistent worry and/or fear
- Avoidance of others
- Lack of interest or pleasure in activities
- Significant changes in weight or appetite
- Problems sleeping and low energy
- Slow or fidgety body movements
- Difficulty concentrating
- Frequent thoughts of death or suicide
- Substance abuse
- Unexplained changes in physical appearance

## What to Do

1. Ask
2. Be there
3. Stay connected
4. Keep them safe
5. Help them connect to a mental health professional

## Seeking Help

- 24/7 National Suicide Prevention Hotline  
1-800-273-8255 confidential support
- 1-800-FARMAID (1-800-327-6243)  
Hotline: Mon - Fri 7am - 8pm MST
- #farmstateofmind on social media
- Rural Resilience Training  
farmcredit.com/ruralresilience
- ruralmentalwellness.com
- mentalhealthfirstaid.org
- farmcrisis.nfu.org
- qqrinstitute.com
- farm.idaho.gov
- farmstress.us



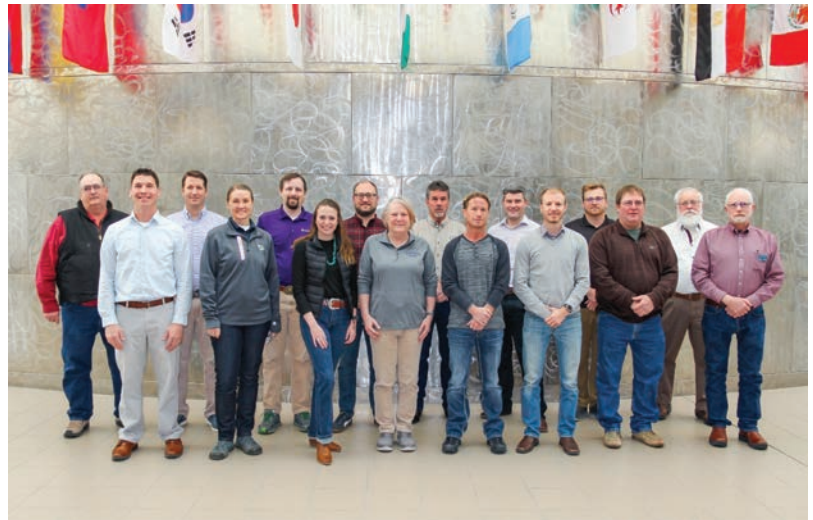


# Kansas State Milling Short Course for Wheat Commissioners & Staff

## IGP-KSU Short Course educates on supply chain & wheat milling

BY GARRETT DUDLEY, IWC RESEARCH MANAGER

For anyone wishing to educate themselves on the opportunities presented in a kernel-to-table view of the wheat industry, the International Grains Program – Kansas State University (KSU) Milling Short Course is about as comprehensive as it gets. I had the chance to take part in this course in January as a representative of the Idaho Wheat Commission. Alongside Cory Kress (District 5) and Clark Hamilton (District 3), commissioners and industry professionals from around the country got a firsthand look at the challenges of maintaining quality throughout the entire milling process. From grain sourcing to tasting the final product cooked up by participants, the IGP-KSU course highlighted the versatility of wheat and its importance in our food supply.



Trainers & participants at the IGP Institute

Program Director Shawn Theile is a miller by choice and his passion for the art of milling permeated the course. As the program’s organizer, presenter, and main educator, Shawn left no stone unturned in his 3-day program. Theile’s teaching at the IGP-KSU Grains Complex has set the standard for industry training; over the last five years IGP has taught 374 courses and counting to participants representing 116 countries. In 2021 alone, a total of 65 courses across 59 countries to more than 1,400 participants were taught through the IGP-KSU program, a testament to Theile’s energy and commitment to milling education.

Our training started off with a birds-eye view of markets and the wheat trade with a presentation by KSU economist Guy Allen. After building a career in the industry as a buyer for Louis Dreyfus Company, Allen expanded his grain trading experience to touch three continents. As Senior Economist, Allen now manages grain marketing and risk management curriculum at KSU. With active ownership on farms in Australia and Iowa, Allen has an intimate understanding of global markets and the history of international trade, as well as the importance of maintaining market share of U.S. wheat exports. Key to this market share is quality, and he set the stage for a focus on quality wheat in the supply chain from day one.

After a classroom preview of the gradual reduction system, the process by which wheat becomes flour, along with a safety briefing, the 14 class participants followed Theile to the milling lab where we began our work. Using experimental table-top mills, we progressed as teams of two through the entire milling process, gradually refining our wheat into flour. First, the wheat moves through rollers that break the wheat kernels, separating the outside layer of bran from the endosperm and germ inside. Endosperm is what we know as flour. Using sifters to separate the different sizes of particles



Large flour slick (right) highlights visual differences of every step in the reduction process.



Commissioner Cory Kress takes a milling lab measurement.

results in any different products, some that are considered final and some that start back at the beginning to yield more usable flour. Not only did we create our own final products on these mini hammermills, but our class size allowed us to mill every class of wheat. Our flour slick, pictured below, was the final task for our group and is meant as a visual representation of milled flour from different stages of the process.

On our second day, we took these experimental milling concepts and applied them to the commercial mill. Part of the IGP-KSU Grain Complex, the Hal Ross Flour Mill is a pilot scale flour mill used for teaching, research, and training the next generation of professional millers. Crucial to our instruction in the mill was Fran Churchill, Milling Professor of Practice, who has spent 10 years teaching at the Hal Ross Mill and another



Fran demonstrates adjustments at the first break roll.



Theile discusses the internal flow of a mill.

25 years as a professional miller. Fran assisted as we put soft white on the mill. Each class of wheat requires slightly different settings in the mill to achieve optimal flour yield, so Fran helped us adjust as necessary to begin producing flour. The Buhler roller mills started to tie our training to actual practice – here we could see how the roller gap adjustments and roller speeds resulted in different outcomes even at the very start of our reduction system.

Fran demonstrated how crucial moisture, protein, shrunken and broken levels, test weight, and overall wheat cleanliness is to the final outcome. Wheat quality and profitable flour production go hand-in-hand. We followed the entire reduction process through to the sifters, where we collected fresh samples for a visual representation of the internal flow of the mill. Everything from beginning moisture to sieve fabric comes into play here as a miller attempts to maximize his or her flour production. Not enough first break flour being produced? Better doublecheck your tempering process! Too much red dog flour? Might want to take a look at the middling reduction settings. Since much of wheat's "millability" is determined from seeding to harvest, quality changes can drastically affect the gradual reduction process as the miller is challenged to consistently achieve the maximum quality extraction possible.

On the final day of our course at the IGP-KSU training, we focused on flour functionality and final product outcomes. Here we learned how different classes of wheat can have vast differences in flour composition – and how those differences can translate to functionality for the baker. Starch, protein, and arabinoxylans (cellulose fibers) all have different functions in flour; more or less of these components can make certain flours

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more appropriate for different types of end products. For instance, higher levels of protein in flour increase the gliadin and glutenin content – that’s what causes the stretchiness and elastic qualities in flour dough. If you’ve ever seen a pizzamaker throw a thin crust pizza in the air, you’ve seen first-hand how crucial protein is to wheat quality. Without the protein content of the wheat flour and its associated gluten strength, those thin and crispy crusts would lose their shape and collapse.

The final process is where the art of farming and milling merges with the art of baking. Our group proceeded to the bake lab where we tried our hand at standard recipes of breads, cakes, and cookies. Interestingly, we drew straws for which flours to use for each recipe, regardless of whether the ideal flour was matched with the appropriate final product. My group inauspiciously tried a bread recipe with a pastry flour. Disastrous! Not a loaf I’d try to sell, that’s for sure!

In all, the IGP-KSU milling course is an invaluable resource for growers, aspiring millers, and passionate bakers. Milling and baking companies specifically seek graduates of the four-year program; most have multiple job offers prior to graduation. For anyone



My standard bread loaf on the left using a soft red pastry flour.

wanting to understand the wheat supply chain from start to finish, along with the role that quality plays in that kernel-to-table process, the IGP-KSU course is the industry standard training. And for Idaho growers who are blessed to grow five classes of wheat – this course highlights that without them - without that grain production expertise – those perfectly crispy breads and flaky pastries would not be possible! 🇺🇸

## Buckwheat - A Threat to Idaho’s Export Markets

### How you can help

Over the last two decades, U.S. wheat exports and global market share have declined due to increased competition from nations such as Russia. Considering about 50% of Idaho’s wheat is exported, preserving and protecting export markets is of great interest here at home. Most of Idaho’s wheat exports are shipped through the Pacific Northwest to customers located in Asia. Cross contamination with buckwheat poses a serious threat to these markets.

Cultivated or domesticated buckwheat is a deadly allergen in Asian countries. It is often compared to peanut allergies, where there are different levels of reaction, ranging from mild rashes to extreme anaphylaxis. The measures the United States have taken to provide allergen safety in labeling, such as zero tolerance for unlabeled allergen exposure, are the same efforts taken in exporting food ingredients. Asian customers are extremely vigilant in preventing contamination and could reject cargos with any traces of buckwheat.

As you prepare for spring planting, please keep in mind the following guidance the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) has provided regarding cover crops for this very reason:

- Use of buckwheat must be excluded from cover crops plantings in rotation or adjacent to fields with wheat production or abstain from growing wheat as a commodity for 2 calendar years after planting buckwheat.

If a delivery to an export elevator is exposed to buckwheat there is **zero** tolerance and elevators may extend their rejection to future deliveries from the producer. Do not expose your farm to buckwheat in any form if you plan on growing wheat or small grains.

To protect and foster the health and prosperity of the Idaho wheat industry, tell your neighbors and friends about the dangers of buckwheat in a small grains rotation, and help grow Idaho’s export markets so we may continue to safely feed the world. 🇺🇸



**Buckwheat is a deadly allergen in Asian countries.**



Avoid planting wheat for at least 1 year after planting buckwheat to ensure a clean crop



Know what is in your cover crop mix — many contain buckwheat



Prevent contamination of wheat in storage and transportation

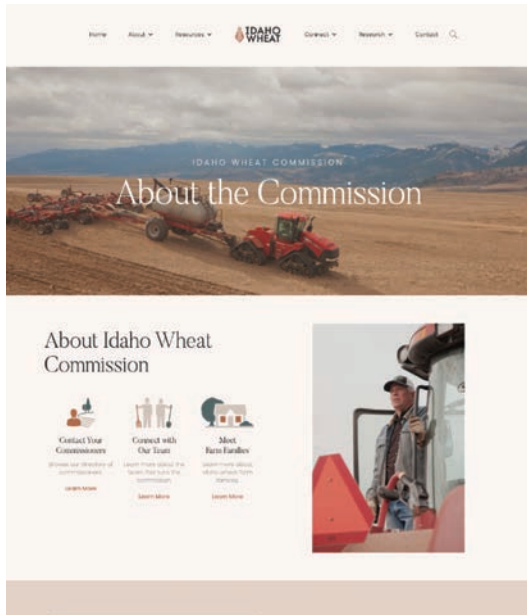
# ***SAVE OUR EXPORT MARKETS***

Ensure wheat for export is buckwheat-free!



Contact Idaho Wheat Commission for more information • 208-334-2353 • [wheat@idahowheat.org](mailto:wheat@idahowheat.org)

# Idaho Wheat Commission Unveils New Website




The Idaho Wheat Commission (IWC) web address, *idahowheat.org*, looks different after the debut of a new, updated website. “It was time,” said Casey Chumrau, IWC Executive Director, of the rollout. “The new site has a simple, modern design with more intuitive and user-friendly navigation.”

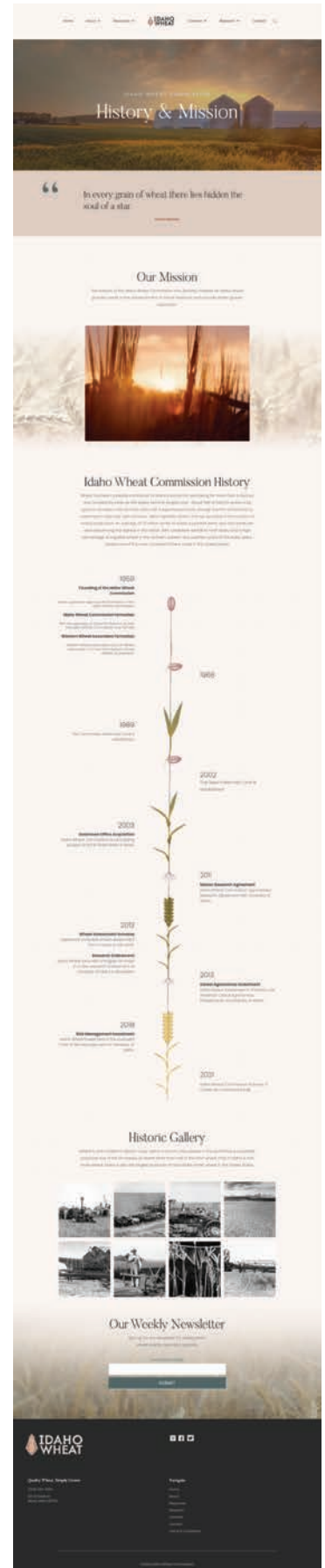
“This new website will be much more beneficial to Idaho’s wheat producers,” added Britany Hurst Marchant, IWC Communications and Grower Education Manager. “It is very functional and has the right amount and mix of information that hopefully growers, customers, and consumers will be able to find what they are looking for quickly and easily.” The new website hosts a searchable archive of wheat-relevant topics, as well as information on up-

coming events, crop reports, research being funded by IWC grower dollars, and results from the semiannual variety survey, among other resources.

Websites become outdated quickly and web design platforms that used to be the best in the industry become dysfunctional and obsolete as technology expands and improves.

As a general rule, websites need to be updated at least every five years to maintain and improve aesthetics and functionality. “Two things we absolutely did not want to happen,” explained Marchant, “First, we absolutely did not want a wheat grower coming to the website and getting frustrated because a link or function was broken and leaving with a bad taste in his or her mouth for the Wheat Commission. And two, we didn’t want customers or consumers to see a dated and outdated website and think it was reflective of Idaho’s wheat producers and wheat industry. Both of those scenarios play up negative and inaccurate stereotypes that we are always trying to avoid.”

The new website, hosted at the same address, *idahowheat.org*, went live in February. 





# Idaho Barley Commission Partners with American Heart Association and Go Red for Women to Raise Awareness of Including High Fiber Barley in a Healthy Diet

Heart disease and stroke cause 1 in 3 deaths among women each year – more than all cancers combined.

Fortunately, 80 percent of cardiac and stroke events may be prevented with education and action. The Idaho Barley Commission is partnering with the American Heart Association – Idaho and Go Red for Women to help educate women on healthy eating choices, including barley's role in a heart-healthy diet. Barley beta-glucan fiber significantly lowers total cholesterol and LDL cholesterol levels reducing the risk of cardiovascular disease.



IBC Executive Director Laura Wilder and Communications Consultant Liz Wilder promote barley as part of a heart healthy diet on IBC social media on National Wear Red Day.

IBC and AHA teamed up for the second Bring on the Barley Recipe Challenge featuring healthy barley salads. The winning recipe was featured as the main dish for the 2022 Boise Go Red for Women luncheon. In addition, IBC Executive Director Laura Wilder is serving on the Idaho AHA Go Red Executive Leadership Team. For more recipes and information about barley, go to [www.eatbarley.com](http://www.eatbarley.com). To learn more about heart disease and prevention, go to: <https://www.heart.org/>.

## Warm Your Heart Sweet and Tart Barley Salad with 5-Spice Honey Vinaigrette



The winning recipe from the 2021 Idaho Barley Commission and American Heart Association "Bring on the Barley" Recipe Challenge was "Warm Your Heart Sweet & Tart Barley Salad" which can be served with a lean protein such as salmon, chicken, beef or tofu for a hearty, nutritious main dish salad. The salad was served as the main dish at the 2022 Idaho Go Red for Women Luncheon in Boise on February 25. The recipe can be found at [www.EatBarley.com](http://www.EatBarley.com) under the salads tab in the recipe section. This recipe was created by Jamie Parchman of Harlequin, Texas.



# Idaho Barley Growers Contribute Nearly a Quarter Billion Dollars to Idaho’s Economic Output Annually – 2021 Yielded Devastating Economic Impact

FROM ECONOMIC STUDY BY RECON INSIGHT GROUP, L.L.C.

Idaho has become the single largest barley producing state in the nation, producing 37% of all U.S. barley in 2021. Most of that barley is sold locally within the state to large malting facilities. Barley production nationally has been in decline for the last two decades, but Idaho’s barley production has remained stable. However, with the drought, supply chain, and COVID-19 related disruptions last year, 2021 saw the lowest barley production of the last decade.

### Average Annual Impacts

Because 2021 was a particularly difficult year, it’s important to look at how barley impacts the state in a typical year, then compare the 2021 contributions barley added to Idaho’s gross state product.

### Direct Production

2021 Idaho barley production levels were the lowest of the decade.

Acres, yields, and prices were all at historic lows, resulting in the value of production being 46% lower than the 2013 peak production value and 27% below the baseline value of production. Table 1 shows the acres, yields, prices, and values of production. This production value is used as direct contributions. Typically, only barley exports are claimed as the direct contributions, however, in the case of barley, all or nearly all production is exported, though it usually goes through some value-added processing in-state before exiting the economy and bringing those new dollars into the state. For the 2021 FY barley generated \$209.3 million in

**Table 1: Idaho Barley Acres, Yields, Sales, and Value from 2017-2021**

Year	Harvested Acres	Yield (BU/AC)	Production (BU)	Price (\$/BU)*	Value of Production*
2017	510,000	95	48,450,000	\$4.75	\$230,137,500
2018	530,000	101	53,530,000	\$5.03	\$269,255,900
2019	530,000	104	55,120,000	\$5.02	\$276,702,400
2020	500,000	110	55,000,000	\$4.92	\$270,600,000
2021	490,000	89	43,610,000	\$4.80	\$209,328,000

\*2021 values are projections. Source: USDA NASS Quick Stats.



direct sales, which translates into \$99.7 million in direct gross state product (see Table 2).

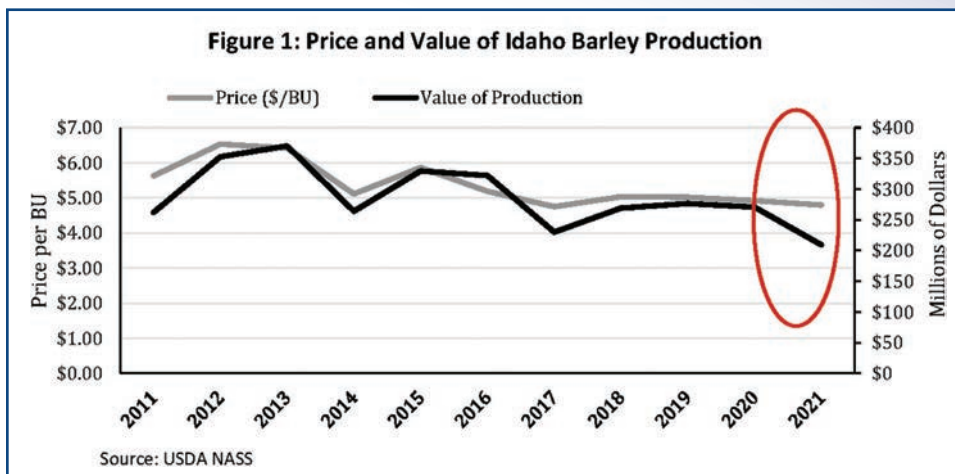
**Direct Coverage Payments (ARC-CO and PLC)**

Coverage payments to Idaho growers in 2021 will not be paid until October of 2022 and are estimated to be lower than they might have otherwise been. Under the 2019 Farm Bill growers are allowed to switch base acres between agriculture risk coverage (ARC) and price loss coverage (PLC) plans. Most growers have historically been in PLC. But given the change in prices vs. the changes in value of output (see the circled area below in Figure 1), it looks as though 2021 conditions would have seen higher payments from the ARC program.

Based on linear regression and given the mix of coverage on barley base acres, it is estimated that 2021 payments to Idaho growers will be slightly higher than \$31 million. Those dollars translate into payments to farm income and are only loosely tied to barley output. It is also important to note that the impacts from these dollars are all captured under the household-to-business contributions (i.e., induced contributions).

**2021 Total Barley Contributions to Idaho**

The total contributions of barley to the state of Idaho are those stemming from both the production and coverage payments. While the sales figures are useful in tracing the transactions in the economy, there is significant double counting that occurs in sales numbers, which must be accounted for. Removing the double counting leave us with the gross state product figures that are used for reporting total contributions, highlighted in Table 2 below. Total 2021 contributions from both production and coverage payments amount to \$216 million, and support roughly 2,150 FTE jobs. While this may not seem significant relative to the entire economy this is significant as it is only one commodity, and most farms will produce more than just one product. It is also



the initial and essential reason why the malting facilities exist in the state. Malt facilities have much lower transport costs because they can locate near their primary input and, because they are in Idaho, they have access to high quality inputs. This is true for Idaho’s dairy’s as well since barley also acts as a feed grain in the dairy supply chain.

**2021 Statewide Idaho Barley Damages**

The difference between the 2021 contributions and the baseline contributions represents the losses to the Idaho

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**Table 2: Total 2021 Idaho Barley Contributions**

	Sales	GSP	Income	Jobs
<b>Direct</b>	\$209,328,000	\$99,651,567	\$38,877,670	473
<b>Indirect</b>	\$108,360,021	\$53,404,017	\$34,608,188	874
<b>Induced</b>	\$116,483,751	\$62,936,873	\$33,663,945	801
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$434,171,772</b>	<b>\$215,992,457</b>	<b>\$107,149,803</b>	<b>2,148</b>



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economy from the market conditions and their negative influence on the barley growers and their supply chains. Table 3 shows the GSP and Employment contributions for both the baseline and 2021 years. The difference is reported in the final column of the table.

While the baseline contributions are close to a quarter of a billion dollars, the 2021 contributions were just \$216 million, \$57.7 million less than the baseline. This means full time equivalent employment in Idaho was almost 550 jobs less than it would have been had barley hit its traditional targets. These losses exist even with the increased 2021 coverage payments that were meant to offset the damages from the price and yield shocks of this past year.

### Conclusions

The economic contributions of barley growers in Idaho continue to be nearly a quarter of a billion dollars in agricultural economic output. 2021 however, was a down year due to drought and market factors that caused prices, yields, and value to be the lowest of the decade. The sector as a whole produced over \$99.7 million in direct

Table 3	Baseline Barley Contributions to GSP	2021 Barley Contributions to GSP	Lost Barley Contributions from 2021 Market Conditions
Direct Barley Contributions	\$130,323,501	\$99,651,567	(\$30,671,934)
Indirect (earned from business-to-business transactions) Barley Contributions	\$69,841,335	\$53,404,017	(\$16,437,318)
Induced (earned from spending for personal activity) Barley Contributions	\$73,479,998	\$62,936,873	(\$10,543,125)
<b>Total Barley Contributions to Idaho Gross State Product</b>	<b>\$273,644,835</b>	<b>\$215,992,457</b>	<b>(\$57,652,378)</b>
Direct Barley Employment	619	473	-146
Indirect (earned from business-to-business transactions) Barley Employment	1,142	874	-269
Induced (earned from spending for personal activity) Barley Employment	936	801	-135
<b>Total Barley Supported Employment in Idaho</b>	<b>2,698</b>	<b>2,148</b>	<b>-549</b>

economic contribution for the state (gross state product). Those added dollars then circulate in the economy, traveling through the barley and household supply chains, supporting nearly another \$53.4 million in indirect, business-to-business, value-added transactions. Employee income is also spent in the state's economy, generating activity in those industries that support household purchases such as food retailers, automotive maintenance, electricity, etc. Those household-to-business expenditures and their associated ripple effects generate approximately \$62.9 million in additional value-added. The entire 2021 barley sector in Idaho is responsible for just under \$216 million dollars in economic activity, supporting just under 2,150 full time equivalent jobs.

As substantial as barley is in supporting Idaho's GSP, it was roughly \$57.7 million dollars lower than the decade long average, suggesting that farmers and their vendors were devastated by the 2021 market and growing conditions. If the 5-6 years trend of barley production spikes continues, 2022 may see some recovery. Sustaining that recovery will be key for 2023 and beyond. Idaho's growth and comparative advantage in agricultural production is a sign that barley will maintain its presence and prevalence within the state but building national and international demand for high quality barley will be essential to restoring the market to its full potential. ■



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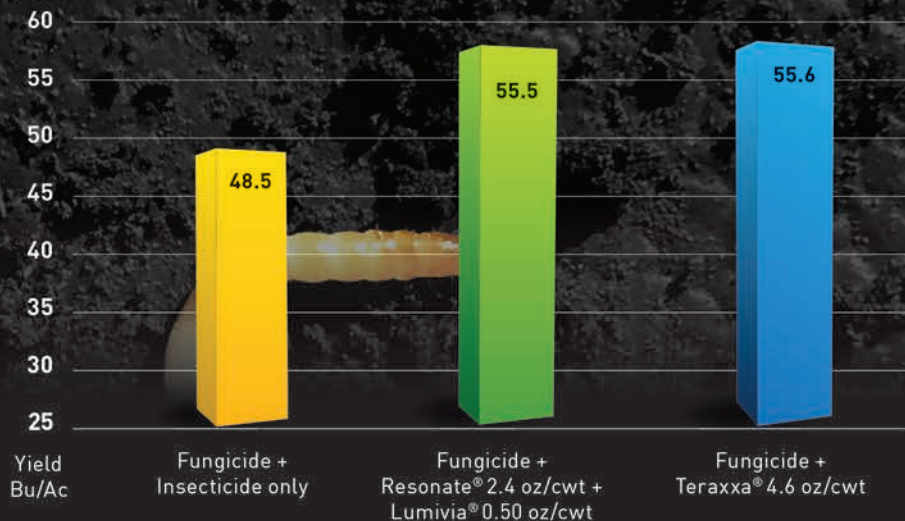


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