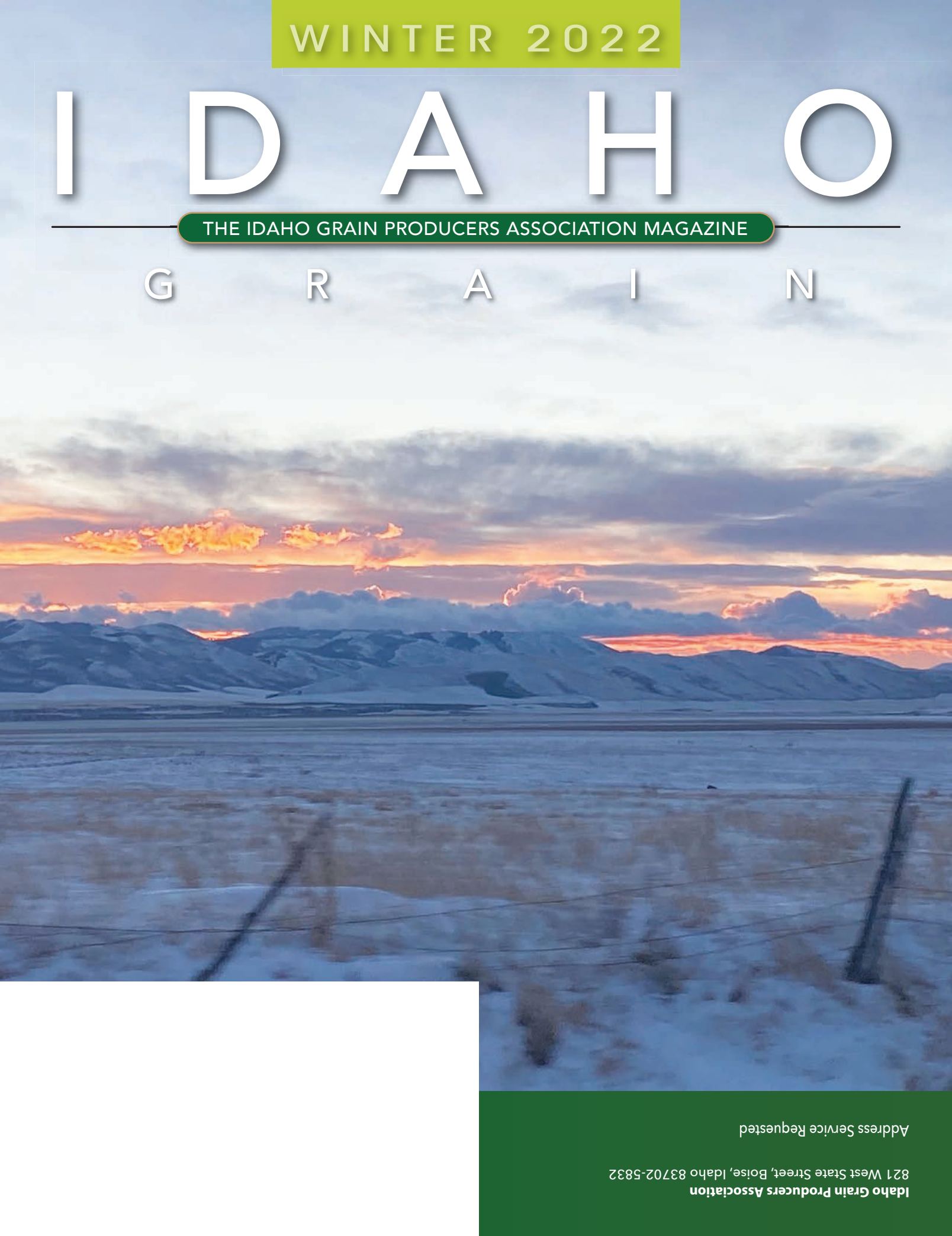


WINTER 2022

IDAHO

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GRAIN

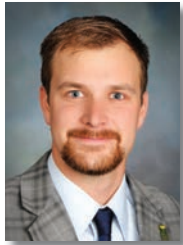


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VIEWS



**BY LUCAS SPRATLING
PRESIDENT**

As we settle into the winter months and adjust from farm to meetings and politics, there will be a significant amount of work required by our team to educate all the new legislators – there are going to be a lot of them! I cannot say enough about how effectively our team works to give us the best representation during the session and amongst legislators. It is not only their effectiveness when working alongside legislators but also with other agriculture organizations around the state that makes our team so successful. I have no doubt we are the best-represented agriculture group in Idaho politics. It will be an interesting session with so many new legislators coming in, and we all need to be ready to help if any issues arise that need our individual voices.

Our team works closely with other agriculture groups, and it may be time to expand our reach and start working more closely with our industry partners to help lay the groundwork for a more united front when working on issues. I recently had the pleasure of going on a farm tour in Tennessee with the National Cotton Council, and not only did I get the fantastic experience of riding in a cotton picker, they also explained how their organization operates. The Cotton Council is in constant contact with all levels of the industry that affect cotton, from processors to end-product users; they all have a voice in making cotton an effective and efficient product. If an issue affects the textiles, the Cotton Council can work together as a more significant voice to advocate for solving the problem. I truly believe we need to explore this area and have a network of communication with all levels of the grain process; if one part is affected, we all are. We have experienced this firsthand with labor shortages and supply chain issues; with the help of others that may have different insights into the problems, we can work together to find practical solutions. It will take time to build these relationships, and our staff is heading in the right direction in starting this process. I predict that once we develop relationships with individuals involved in agriculture and throughout the process of growing, harvesting, marketing, and end-use of grain in particular, we will value each other's knowledge and create long-term strategies to solve problems together.

Naturally, my year as president has seemed brief, with many projects left to accomplish. Still, those currently in leadership positions are the finest and most cohesive team I can imagine to complete projects and take on any new challenges that arise. It will be fantastic to see how the next year comes together, as all the issues we are watching and working on continue to develop. A challenging couple of years lay ahead of agriculture: there will be a new Farm Bill, the ongoing war between Russia and Ukraine, prolonged drought, the need to keep producing record yields, farm labor shortage, and food security. However, we are more than ready to confront these problems and find equitable solutions by working with our national

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EDITOR'S NOTE



organizations. After attending meetings over the last six years, I feel certain that IGPA, along with the National Association of Wheat Growers and the National Barley Growers Association, has adequately prepared for many of these issues and more that may present themselves. Our team absolutely does not live by the saying, “why do today what you can do tomorrow.” This can be seen in our proactive efforts on salmon issues and finding solutions by bringing everyone to the table and having hard conversations. With all these great leaders in all our Idaho wheat and barley organizations, I look towards the future with optimism. ■



BY STACEY KATSEANES SATTERLEE
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

As we approach the end of the year, I find myself reflecting – what did I do that I am proud of this year, what did we do as a family that was great, what was our best moment? Looking back, we made amazing memories with grandparents and cousins this summer. My boys played some great rounds of golf (and I caddied!). My daughter ran a personal best 5k this fall (and I cheered!). We took an incredible family vacation to Hawaii in October, our first time there, where we snorkeled, swam, sunned, explored, read, and ate shave ice. And then – what are we looking forward to next year? Where do we want to go, what do we want to achieve, what good books do we want to read?

I extend the same thought process to work as well; reflecting on the past year, what have we accomplished, what worked and what didn't. It's also a time to start thinking about what the year ahead will look like: what we want to do and what our goals should be. What can we do different and better and more of next time around?

We just finished fall board meetings, the National Association of Wheat Growers fall meeting, and the Tri-State Grain Growers Convention (see more about those on pages 6 and 12) – it's been great to see so many board and committee members this fall. Now we're shifting our focus to the upcoming legislative session. As a result of this year's election, we'll have more than 44 percent of the Idaho House and 54 percent of the Senate being new legislators – we will have our work cut out for us educating them on the ins and outs of IGPA, who we are and what we do.

That said, your membership and your voice are critical to the work we do. We are not an organization separate of our people—we ARE our people. IGPA can be effective only with your membership, your support, your involvement, and your voice. Grassroots efforts and grain grower leaders like you are what this organization was built on.

Finally, as I reflect on this past year, I am so thankful. Thankful for my family, and for friends who feel like family. Thankful to work in an industry I love and with amazing people. I have a lot of gratitude for the work those in Idaho agriculture do and a lot of pride in the work we all do together. May your holiday season be merry and bright! I look forward to seeing you in 2023. ■



2022 IGPA Award Winners

Each year at convention time, IGPA members and partners in the industry nominate individuals for several awards which convey commitment to service in Idaho’s grain industry. These awards are voted on by the IGPA executive board and presented at the annual Tri-State Grain Growers Convention, which was held this year in Coeur d’Alene, Idaho on Wednesday, Nov. 30.

FRIEND OF IGPA AWARD

This award is given to an individual, industry associate, elected official, member of the media, or other person who has demonstrated exceptional support, value and work with and for IGPA over the past year.



WINNER: SEN. VAN BURTENSCHAW

Well known amongst his legislative colleagues, Sen. Van Burtenshaw has a heart and passion for the ag industry in Idaho. A native Idahoan, Sen. Burtenshaw graduated from Terreton High School and then from Ricks College. He later went on to study at BYU in Utah but had the chance to come home to farm before he graduated and says he’s “been in the farming and ranching business my whole life.”

Burtenshaw raises beef cattle in Terreton and works as a cattle broker and a cattle representative for Superior Livestock Auction and says he serves in the Idaho legislature to “preserve our agricultural way of life in Idaho.”

Sen. Burtenshaw was just elected to his third term in the Senate and he also served in the House for two terms. Sen. Burtenshaw has served as the chair of the Agricultural Affairs Committee and was just named



to Chair the Senate Resources and Environment Committee for the coming session. And he’s served on JFAC (Joint Finance and Appropriations Committee) as well. To say the Senator is a busy guy is an understatement.

IGPA Executive Director, Stacey Satterlee, says Van is the kind of guy you’d want to just sit and have dinner with.

“Senator Burtenshaw is a true friend of Idaho agriculture and IGPA. His passion and his business is farming and ranching – so he personally understands the risks and rewards involved in production agriculture. He’s been an incredible leader, serving as the chair of the Senate Agricultural Affairs Committee. He’s thoughtful, efficient, pragmatic, and kind – we’re so grateful to be able to work with him in the legislature and to call him a friend.”

The Senator shares that he ran for office because of family legacy. “It was the seat my father held when he served in the legislature – and I guess that was a reason I wanted to run for the Senate.”

Sen. Burtenshaw and his wife Joni have been married for 41 years and have five children and 17 grandchildren.

“I am committed to agriculture and the water that supplies it. I’ve been involved in aquifer recharge and ensuring we have a system that is sustainable through the years. Ground water users, surface water users, agriculture, businesses and homes all need water, and will need water in the future,” said Senator Burtenshaw.

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“With the current situation in the world, the economy has to be number one,” he says. “Helping business get back on their feet. It looks like it’s going to be a real tough year for ag – and given how important agriculture is to Idaho’s economy, it’s going to be important to help our farmers and ranchers.” He says for the future of agriculture in Idaho we need to be optimistic. “I think the ag economy will recover. And if we can keep ag in business, the economy will do well.”

“I’ve had the pleasure of knowing Senator Van Burtenshaw most of my life. As a friend, neighbor, and constituent of Senator Burtenshaw, I’ve always known him to be a voice of reason for Idaho ag. As a farmer and rancher himself, he’s truly in touch with the pulse of agriculture and understands the challenges and issues. He steps up to those challenges, big or small. Serving in the legislature is often a thankless job. Senator Burtenshaw is not motivated by what is easy or popular but by what is simply the right thing to do. I appreciate the way he supports the industry and those who labor to feed the world,” said IGPA Executive Board Secretary Justin Place.

MEMBER OF THE YEAR AWARD

This award is given to an IGPA member who has demonstrated exceptional leadership and a high level of involvement and commitment to the mission and goals of the association over the past year.



WINNER: CORDELL KRESS

When you think of IGPA members who put in the work day after day and year after year on behalf of the organization, Cory Kress is at the top of the list, which is why he was an obvious choice for this year’s Member of the Year award.

Kress, along with his wife Jamie (outgoing IGPA Executive Board Member) run a multi-variety, 8,500-acre operation in southern Power County and northern Oneida County in the Rockland Valley where they have farmed since 2004. It’s a family affair for the Kresses with kids Tyson and Hailey working alongside their parents. The family enjoys working together managing and operating the farm as well as mountain biking, dirt biking, and snowmobiling. The kids are active in school



activities and sports year-round, keeping the family constantly on the go.

Their operation includes a rotation of winter wheat, safflower, mustard, dry peas and canola. They farm at 5,000-6,200 feet elevation in a desert environment with relatively low precipitation, which requires rotations along with a little help from Mother Nature in the form of timely rain. The Kresses have also implemented no-till production practices into their operation.

According to IGPA Vice President Ty Iverson, Cory is someone with grit and guts who gets the hard things done.

“Cory Kress has become one of the most highly respected leaders in the grain industry,” says Iverson. “He works tirelessly to promote Idaho Wheat and find ways for growers to be successful. What I appreciate the most about Cory is that he is constantly thinking outside the box and trying to figure out ways to improve. As an industry, we must have leaders like Cory who aren’t afraid to ask the difficult questions if we want to survive. I really appreciate all that Cory has done for the growers of Idaho and hope that he will continue to work on our behalf for many years to come.”

After graduating from the University of Idaho with a degree in engineering, Kress worked for several years in the food processing division of Simplot before returning to Rockland to farm. He has served on the Idaho Oilseed Commission and currently holds a seat



on the Idaho Wheat Commission. For years, Cory has also served on IGPA’s Conservation & Environment Committee. His natural abilities as a leader, as well as his willingness to see the big picture, focus on the issues, and come up with solutions made him the perfect choice for the award.

Kress says, “Farmers tend to take for granted our involvement in federal programs like crop insurance, EQIP, CSP, and ARC and PLC among many others. Those things don’t just happen without farmers’ interests being expressed in Washington DC. Involvement in Idaho Grain ensures there is someone at the table fighting for your best interest because there are certainly people on the other side fighting against farm programs. IGPA involvement opens doors to opportunities to talk directly to the people that make those decisions including our elected Idaho officials. I have been proud to be a part of this great organization and am humbled by this award. I appreciate so much all the folks who work in this industry with me and do the hard things every day. “

Kress is a natural connector and understands the importance of building strong relationships throughout



the industry. A few years ago, Jamie and Cory hosted a group of cotton farmers from the Southern U.S. on their farm to educate them about Idaho agriculture and further build alliances with growers of various commodities around the country.

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IGPA Executive Director Stacey Satterlee says Kress is a humble guy with a big heart.

“He would say we should give it to someone else, but we all know that Cory Kress is an excellent candidate for the Member of the Year award. One of the great benefits of this job is getting to work with all kinds of amazing grower leaders. And some are particularly engaged and thoughtful, they challenge and push you, and they become a friend – Cory is one of those growers. And since then, he’s been appointed as a wheat commissioner, and he’s doing an excellent job representing the growers in his district. I appreciate the work that Cory does on behalf of Idaho’s wheat industry and am so pleased to see him awarded Member of the Year.”

Kress is an exceptional leader and the kind of guy folks listen to. His commitment to and continued work is unparalleled. He is committed to educating people on the importance of agriculture and the ag lifestyle; he

is an advocate for ag and the grain industry in Idaho and a mover and shaker in that world. Always asking “what else can we be doing,” Cory never settles for good enough.

IGPA Executive Board President Lucas Spratling summed it up nicely: “Cory is a crucial member of IGPA, and his foresight into issues is a welcome addition when confronting problems. Cory has also been an enormous proponent of IGPA and the importance of advocacy for the representation of farmers.”

PRESIDENT’S AWARD



WINNER: LUCAS SPRTLING

IGPA is proud to recognize our outgoing Executive Board President Lucas Spratling for his outstanding service and hard work to the organization during his tenure as President this past year. Under Lucas’ leadership IGPA was able to continue the good work





we are known for as well as bring to light new ideas and opportunities.

Spratling, a native of Declo, attended Declo High School then on to Idaho State University in Pocatello where he graduated with a degree in business management. He now farms with his parents, wife Laurie and son Orlin in the Raft River area.

The Spratlings live and work in the same area where Lucas’s Grandfather bought the dry farm when his Dad was just 14. Says Spratling, “Dad bought the irrigated portion of the farm in 1986 and we started raising wheat, barley and alfalfa. We rent out land to sugar beet guys for rotation.”

Outgoing IGPA Executive Board Member Jamie Kress says Lucas has been very committed to the organization.

“Lucas has been a very dedicated President. He is someone you can count on from attendance at IGPA business meetings to political and networking events. Lucas is there with great ideas, a great attitude and the desire to move IGPA to the next level.” Kress goes on to say, “His commitment is evident and much appreciated by his fellow board members. I really appreciate the personal time he has sacrificed as he has served Idaho’s grain producers the past five years.”

When asked if farming was always what he wanted to do, the answer was clear. “I guess I always wanted to farm and never really considered anything else. I did think about trying electrical engineering for a minute, but I didn’t like it and decided to study business and continue with farming. I never took any time off from farming, even in college, so I guess I knew I would always do that.”

Working on agricultural issues was also something he always wanted to do. “Being on the executive board has been a great experience. I like having the opportunity to work with people from around the state that are motivated and ambitious and willing to work through problems and find solutions. We have a great staff and just have a great time.”

IGPA Executive Director Stacey Satterlee has worked closely with Lucas over the past year and says he has stepped up to the plate and been an extraordinary leader for the group.

“Thinking back on Lucas’ journey to leadership – he was a Leadership Idaho Agriculture graduate in 2016. Since then, it’s been amazing to see him grow and



take on new roles and responsibilities within IGPA and elsewhere. It’s been great to work with Lucas as a member of the e-board these past five years, and Lucas has been an excellent President. He is engaged and responsive, he is thinking of new and better ways to do things, he is a leader and a doer. IGPA is in a better place because of Lucas’ time as President – and I’m excited to see where he goes from here.”

Spratling says hard work was instilled in him as a kid. “I would probably say my parents and grandparents have had the greatest influence on me. They taught me the value of hard work and dedication to family. It’s all on you every day. If you mess up, you have to deal with the consequences yourself. And just being outdoors and out in the field and out with nature. Growing crops and being on the land is the best.”

When asked how he got started with IGPA, Lucas said: “I got involved in IGPA because a neighbor called and asked if I would sit in on a meeting for him. I enjoyed everyone at the meeting, and they were helpful and welcoming and enthusiastic, so I wanted to put more time in with IGPA. I had been a member for a while, then I was elected to the executive board in 2016.”

IGPA Executive Board Vice President Ty Iverson had nothing but great things to say of his friend.

“Lucas’ leadership will be greatly missed by IGPA as he completes his tenure as our organization’s president.

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His good-natured spirit and can-do attitude have made him not only a great leader for our state board, but also an excellent ambassador for Idaho on the national level. He is highly regarded by growers nationwide, serving on the National Barley Growers Association (NBGA) as well as helping with issues on the National Association of Wheat Growers (NAWG). We will miss having him at the reigns in our board meetings but are hopeful that he will continue to serve our industry in other capacities in the future.”

“It was an honor to be the president of the Idaho Grain Producers and be the grassroots voice of Idaho farmers. It was rewarding to see our organization create change that will benefit us today and future generations,” said Spratling.

“Lucas is a great asset to IGPA and the farming industry. Having served with him on the Executive Board, I’ve witnessed first-hand his great leadership abilities and his sincere desire to help the industry move forward. I appreciate my interactions with Lucas, both professionally and personally, and look forward to many more,” says IGPA Executive Board Secretary Justin Place.

Spratling says in his free time his family likes to ride dirt bikes and spend time exploring southern Idaho. He and his wife also serve their community as wildland fire fighters.

Spratling says communicating with staff and his fellow Executive Board members is generally a funny experience. “We communicate through a group text that is hilarious! In all seriousness, we have multiple levels of communication, and everyone collaborates and gives their opinions and we hash them out until we come to a good solution that best works for the Idaho farmer.”

Jonathan Rosenau, IGPA Executive Board Member says, “It was great to see Lucas take such an active role as president. His positive attitude and hard work are what make him a great leader.”

IDAHO ICON AWARD
Joint Award with the Idaho Barley Commission

This award is given in recognition of an individual, associate or otherwise for their achievement and contribution to Idaho’s grain industry.



IGPA and the Idaho Barley Commission (IBC) are thrilled to join forces and award Rep. Clark Kauffman the ICON Award for his service to the grain industry in Idaho.

IGPA Executive Director Stacey Satterlee says of Rep. Kauffman: “It has been so wonderful having a Past President of IGPA and a former Idaho Barley Commissioner serving in the Idaho legislature – Representative Clark Kauffman has been a real leader and friend in the Idaho House. He’s always willing to lead on issues critical to Idaho’s grain industry – he’s always willing to listen, brainstorm, and problem-solve. I’m also personally grateful for Clark – he’s been kind to me and watched out for me since I took this position with IGPA. The legislature won’t be the same without Rep. Kauffman there – we’re so grateful for him and his service and are pleased to honor him with this well-deserved Icon Award. We wish him and Debbie the best as they move onto their next chapter!”

A native of Idaho, Rep. Kauffman grew up in Filer, Idaho where his Dad started out in farming but then changed careers – so Clark started the whole farming



thing over when he decided to start his career. “I’m a first-generation farmer. I started working for a guy stacking hay and after that he offered me a job farming and milking cows, so he really helped us get started. I guess you could say I have farm roots.”

Rep. Kauffman and his wife Debbie have two adult children (son Andy and his wife Katie and daughter Diana and her husband Robert) along with three active grandsons. “We are busy with the grandkids for sure. We are lucky that we get to see all their various activities like sports and school events.”

“Debbie and I met when I was in the Air Force, stationed in Minnesota, we got married, moved here and have been married over 50 years and have lived on this place most of that time. Our house is on a farm we rented, then we eventually bought it years later. We have 160 acres and grow barley, alfalfa, vegetables, make barley soup, and custom feed 400-500 head of cattle.”

Idaho Barley Commission Executive Director Laura Wilder said, “Clark Kauffman has not only contributed substantially to the Idaho grain industry and Idaho legislature through exceptional leadership and service, but through continuous promotion and marketing efforts to help advance the industry. He has been a big help to the Idaho Barley Commission through providing barley product for barley dishes for a wide range of events, packaging barley samples for use with health professionals and consumers, and in supporting commission activities.”

A graduate of Filer High School, Representative Kauffman went straight into the service after graduating

and says he is a lifelong learner and self-taught most everything. He was in Leadership Idaho Agriculture Class 13 and says that was a great experience and really broadened his horizons on the various aspects of agriculture in Idaho.

He says he ran for office for a variety of reasons. “It was the year that the redistricting happened. One house member retired and one ran for an open senate seat so it left an open house seat. I could blame the Idaho Barley Commission and IGPA for inspiring me to run for office. Having been on the IGPA board and serving on the barley commission, you work around the legislature and wonder what they’re doing over there. I have always heard the saying ‘If you’re not at the table, you’re on the table,’ so I threw my hat in the ring and the rest is history.”

Idaho Barley Commission Past Commissioner and IGPA Past President Scott Brown had only good things to say about Rep. Kauffman as well. “I can’t think of another person more deserving to receive the ICON award than Clark Kauffman. He has set an example for all of us to follow through his service to the Idaho Grain industry. The grain growers across the state have all benefited and reap the reward of his years of service as an Idaho Barley commissioner, the president of Idaho Grain, his service on the National Barley Growers Association board, and the National Association of Wheat Growers board and finally in the Idaho state legislature. I am truly grateful that there are individuals like Clark, who are willing to step up and serve!”

Rep. Kauffman is busy within his community as well, having served as a highway district commissioner as well as roles with the Filer Mutual Telephone Co.,

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Twin Falls County Fair Foundation, American Legion, within his church and on the advisory committee for the Extension Services through UI.

He says the award means a lot to him. “Recognition is always nice and you wonder if you really deserve it. The grain industry, having served on both barley and IGPA boards, is just an industry that has my heart. I sure appreciate the award and am certainly humbled to receive it.”

After serving for 10 years in the Idaho legislature, Rep. Kauffman retired this year. “Time in the legislature is an education you get nowhere else. You learn there are so many aspects of Idaho issues you didn’t even know were an issue. I have really enjoyed the different committees I was able to serve on and it’s helped me to really round out my vision of Idaho and all we have here.”

In his free time, Rep. Kauffman likes to travel, take the grandkids camping (sometimes just in the backyard), sample good restaurants, and go to the grandkids’ activities—sports, schools, music, church.

“Rep. Kauffman is a tremendous friend of IGPA and was always working hard with us to accomplish goals in the legislature that helped benefit grain producers in the present and future. Rep. Kauffman was willing to take on the more difficult lifts in the legislature to help all those in Idaho despite pushback from others,” says IGPA Executive Board President Lucas Spratling.

Rep. Clark Kauffman is a true Idaho Icon, and we’re grateful for his dedication and service to Idaho and Idaho’s grain industry. “What I love most about Idaho is the diversity of climate, north to south. The scenery, desert beauty and trees and mountains in the north. And, of course the people in Idaho are some of the best.”

INDUSTRY SERVICE AWARD

Joint Award with the Idaho Wheat Commission

Given in recognition of exceptional support, value, advocacy and collaboration with the grain industry by the Idaho Wheat Commission and the Idaho grain Producers Association.



WINNER: DAVE DOERINGSFELD

IGPA and the Idaho Wheat Commission (IWC) are pleased to come together and award Dave Doeringsfeld the Joint Industry Service Award for his service to the grain industry in Idaho.

A native of Groton, South Dakota, a small farming community, Dave Doeringsfeld is a country boy at heart. “Growing up in a small town allowed you to get into mischief, but everyone knew you, so the community kept you in check,” he says. “My grandfather was a farmer and owned a truck stop at the corner of U.S. Highways 12 and 37. More than 48 years after moving out of Groton, I still live along Highway 12 in Lewiston,” he says.





Dave and his college sweetheart Cindy have been married for 41 years. Their two daughters (one an architect and the other a special education teacher) are both married and each has a son and a daughter. “We have four grandchildren under four years old – pretty easy to say what we will be doing as we start retirement,” Doeringsfeld jokes.

IGPA Executive Director Stacey Satterlee says she’s known Dave for many years and he has always been an advocate for our industry.

“I’ve had the pleasure of working closely with Dave Doeringsfeld during my time at IGPA as he’s represented the Port of Lewiston – as issues with the dams intensified, so did our work together, including both serving on the Governor’s Salmon Workgroup and giving joint presentations to the Idaho legislature on the importance of the river system to Idaho agriculture. Dave has been an absolute warrior in the fight to defend the dams on the Columbia Snake River System. Dave has a unique position, living and working in Lewiston – these issues are literally at his front door. He lived through prior drawdowns and many different fish management regimes, so can lend a personal viewpoint many others lack. His perspective and knowledge have been invaluable as we’ve worked together to defend the river system that is so critical to Idaho’s grain growers. Idaho’s grain industry owes Dave a debt of gratitude for his tireless work and commitment to this cause – while we’re excited for him to enjoy retirement, he will be greatly missed.”

Doeringsfeld’s education includes a B.S. Business Administration from the University of South Dakota and a M.S. Public Administration from the University of Idaho and says his early education helped shape his future career goals.

“I had a wonderful high school government teacher who shaped my interest working in the public sector. I heard a factoid that less than 20% of U.S. colleges today require a government class in a student’s curriculum. It is unfortunate that our future leaders graduate from college with little understanding of how their government operates.”

Idaho Wheat Commissioner Joe Anderson says Doeringsfeld’s commitment to our industry is unparalleled. “Dave’s leadership at the Port of Lewiston has been invaluable to the Idaho wheat industry. It has been a pleasure to work with Dave and see first-hand his expertise and commitment to the river system and the industries who rely on the river system to get product to market,” he says.



Free time for Doeringsfeld usually includes lots of family time. “We love camping, fishing, and vacationing. I am also involved in the Masonic and Shriner fraternities. Shriners support 22 hospitals across the U.S. that provide orthopedic care to children under 18-years old and at no cost to the family, so they hold a special place in my heart,” he says.

Doeringsfeld says he has loved his career and his current job. “I truly believe serving as the General Manager of the Port of Lewiston is the best public sector job in the state of Idaho. But if I had to change careers, I would take over Mikes job on American Pickers.”

Idaho Wheat Commission Executive Director Britany Marchant sums it up by saying what a good friend to Idaho grain Dave has been over the years.

“I first met Dave when we both sat on a transportation advisory council several years ago. I’ve been learning from him ever since, tapping into whatever insights, expertise, and experience he is willing to share — which is all of it, because he truly is here to serve, and he does it in the most humble, generous, and gracious ways. We’ve been incredibly fortunate to have Dave as an advocate, knowledge source, and friend of the wheat industry.” ■

The U.S. 2022 Census of Agriculture – What to Know

BY BEN JOHNSON, ID STATE STATISTICIAN, USDA NASS



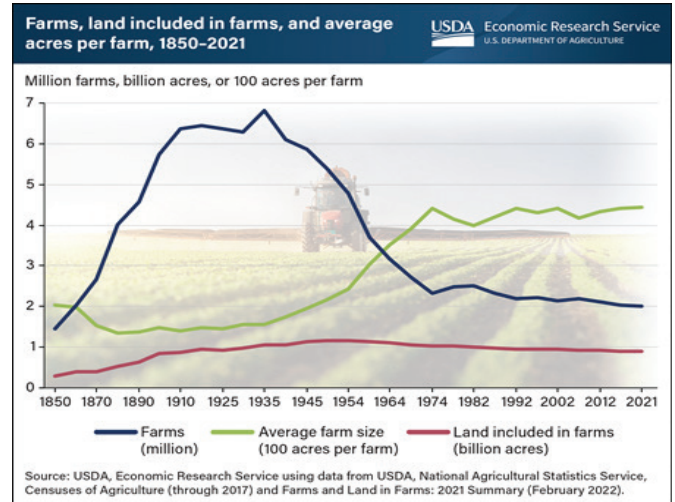
Throughout U.S. history there has been need for reliable and timely information on the agriculture of the nation. In the early days of the young republic, the concern centered largely on obtaining information on better farming methods and results from different cultural practices for greater yield. Requirements for information changed as manufacturing began to move from the farm to shops and factories with the inevitable development of a consuming population. Gradually demand developed for more specific statistics that would serve the needs of the growing marketplace and guide national policy.



That demand for timely, accurate, and useful statistics continues to increase, and at the USDA’s National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS), we are in the business of collecting and publishing agricultural facts on a variety of topics, including acres, production, stocks, commodity prices, production costs, farm income, farm labor and more. We summarize thousands of unique and independent farm and ranch data points into aggregate, confidential data that tells the story of American agriculture.

What is the Census of Agriculture?

Conducted once every five years, the Census of Agriculture is a complete count of U.S. farms and ranches and the people who operate them. It includes every operation – large or small, urban or rural – from which \$1,000 or more of agricultural products are produced and sold, or would normally be produced and



sold, in 2022. The ag census provides the only source of uniform, comprehensive, and impartial agriculture data for every state and county in the nation. It is also an opportunity for American producers to show the nation the value and importance of U.S. agriculture. These vital data influence decisions that will shape the future of their industries in the years to come.

Why is it important?

High-quality statistical information is essential to those involved in agriculture. Farmers, ranchers, policymakers, community planners, agribusinesses, researchers, USDA, and other government agencies use NASS data to grow markets, fund research, determine disaster assistance, and make many

Continued on next page

2022 CENSUS OF AGRICULTURE
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decisions that leverage billions of dollars towards the ag industry.

Good data provide an understanding of current conditions as well as future trends and possibilities. The Census of Agriculture provides an accurate, up-to-date picture of U.S. agriculture, available to the public. By being equally available to all users, NASS data can help to level the playing field.

How do I participate?

NASS recently mailed out Census of Agriculture survey codes for responding securely online and will mail out paper questionnaires in December. Required response

is due by February 6, 2023, and the same law that requires participation also requires your information be kept confidential. Completing the ag census online at accounts.usda.gov is more convenient than ever before. The online form skips questions that do not pertain to your operation and automatically calculates totals. Look for results of the ag census in 2024.

This is the producer's opportunity to share their voice with the community, industry and government about who they are and what they do. It is vital that everyone responds so that all of agriculture is represented, and no one is left out.

For more information, visit www.nass.usda.gov/AgCensus. You can also reach out to Ben Johnson, Idaho's state statistician, benjamin.johnson@usda.gov. ■

National Association of Wheat Growers Gear Up for the 2023 Farm Bill

BY MARIAH WOLLWEBER, DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS AND PARTNERSHIPS,
NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF WHEAT GROWERS

Since the National Association of Wheat Growers (NAWG) adopted their 2023 Farm Bill priorities in late June, they have continued to educate and lobby lawmakers as they prepare for the next Farm Bill debate. The current Farm Bill is set to expire on September 30, 2023, and many Members of Congress have never voted on a Farm Bill. With that in mind, NAWG is hard at work bringing these lawmakers up to speed on our priorities and getting them and their staff familiar with Farm Bill programs.



The programs authorized by the Farm Bill are essential to helping farmers manage risk, improving long-term farm productivity, and investing in rural America. These programs touch almost every sector of the economy and are arranged into twelve titles, including commodities, conservation, trade, food and nutrition, credit, rural development, research and more. We must continue working to ensure the Farm Bill is reauthorized on time to provide growers certainty and make meaningful updates before the current version is set to expire.

Since last fall, NAWG's membership has reviewed the 2018 Farm Bill programs and subsequent ad hoc programs through our internal committee structure and solicited individual grower feedback through a survey

earlier this spring. Our Board of Directors met at the end of June and voted to approve our top ten Farm Bill priorities. NAWG will continue to seek input from our members on programs that are working, areas where modifications are needed and refine our priorities.

NAWG's 2023 Farm Bill priorities include:

- Protecting and enhancing crop insurance to ensure growers have a strong and reliable safety net that provides assistance to wheat growers when needed in times of disaster
- Supporting the financial and technical assistance provided through voluntary conservation programs
- Increasing the reference price for wheat in Title I to cover the cost of production more accurately
- Enhancing USDA's market access and development programs to enhance trade
- Increasing the overall funding authority for farm programs

"The Farm Bill addresses many programs that are critical for wheat growers, and we look forward to actively engaging in the Farm Bill reauthorization process. Sharing NAWG's priorities is one step in this

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process. NAWG has been actively seeking Farm Bill feedback through our grassroots network and various outreach tools, and we will continue to refine these priorities in the coming months,” said NAWG President and Washington state wheat grower, Nicole Berg. “The Farm Bill not only benefits wheat growers but all aspects of American agriculture. It is very important wheat growers’ voices are heard on Capitol Hill and that Members of Congress understand what worked and what can be improved upon as the committees work towards reauthorizing the Farm Bill in 2023.”

As we look towards the next Farm Bill, NAWG’s principal priority will be protecting crop insurance. NAWG has continued to emphasize that additional cuts beyond those already made in the 2014 Farm Bill may jeopardize the partnership between the federal government and the private insurance industry to deliver risk protection to our members effectively. According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Risk Management Agency, nearly 37 million acres, or 78 percent of the country’s total wheat acres, were covered by crop insurance in 2021. Crop insurance is a vital tool to help farmers mitigate risk. It is essential that we do not limit the effectiveness, affordability, and accessibility of crop insurance as it is the primary tool that helps avert cropping disasters.

In addition to protecting crop insurance, NAWG is encouraging Congress to look for ways to enhance crop insurance programs by exploring ways to make higher coverage levels more affordable to urge more participation in crop insurance to address the need for additional assistance in the form of disaster relief. One of the biggest critiques of ad hoc disaster aid programs is the untimely delivery of such assistance and the need to continuously stand up a new program each time aid is appropriated. While a permanent disaster aid program could alleviate some of these issues, we believe strengthening crop insurance is a more appropriate means to do this through one of our most reliable and essential safety net programs.

When considering Title I programs, NAWG recommends increasing the reference price for wheat. The current \$5.50 reference price for the Price Loss Coverage Program (PLC) is not an adequate safety net for wheat production. It neither covers the cost of production nor does it take the rising cost of inputs into account. The reference price should be increased to reflect the current cost of production more accurately. Current prices are abnormally high, over 90 percent higher than the 10-year season-average price. Yet in 2021, when prices were already nearly 20 percent above the 10-year average, the value of production after

receiving no PLC payments, according to USDA, was a negative \$45.64 per acre. We have now seen prices for inputs skyrocket. Diesel is 77 percent higher than the 10-year average, fertilizers are 300 percent higher than last year, and other chemical inputs have doubled or more.

Regarding the Title II conservation programs, NAWG supports continued funding for Farm Bill Conservation programs that work with farmers to improve soil health, increase habitat, sequester carbon, improve water quality and provide many other benefits. Conservation practices can be costly and difficult to implement, and growers need financial and technical assistance to implement new practices and maintain existing practices. The Farm Bill’s voluntary cost-share programs are oversubscribed, with more farmers seeking assistance than funding available. In addition, technical assistance provided through the programs is critical for farmers to undertake new practices that are right for their operations. These conservation programs must include a variety of practices that recognize the different types of production systems in different regions of the country. NAWG supports using Farm Bill conservation programs to continue to work with farmers on a voluntary basis to adopt practices that are appropriate to their region and production system but does not support expanding conservation compliance.

Additionally, crop protection tools are essential for farmers to not only implement climate-friendly cropping practices, but also to maintain the abundant, safe food supply that the United States enjoys. Conservation systems and producing more agricultural commodities on the land in production – being the most efficient we can be – require reliable access to crop protection tools.

The trade title is another key area for wheat growers, with half of all wheat grown in the U.S. destined for export; the Market Access Program (MAP) and Foreign Market Development (FMD) programs play a critical role in helping boost American agricultural exports and increase farm cash income. NAWG recommends doubling the funding for MAP and FMD to bolster these public-private partnerships. The federal component for MAP has been level at \$200 million annually since 2006, and for FMD, it has remained unchanged since 2002 at \$34.5 million. According to a 2022 econometric study by Texas A&M University and IHS Markit, MAP and FMD accounted for 13.7 percent of all the revenue generated by U.S. agricultural exports between 1977 and 2019. The ROI for each dollar invested translates to \$24.5 during this timeframe.

NAWG recognizes several of these priorities would require securing additional budget authority to craft



the next Farm Bill. With that in mind, NAWG is encouraging lawmakers and is committed to working across the industry to ensure increased budget authority to enact a Farm Bill that invests in farmers and the future of American agriculture. In a world faced with increasing global hunger, massive increases in input costs, unprecedented market volatility, and large government expenditures, now is not the time to limit agricultural spending. Additionally, by investing in commodity title and crop insurance, we can work to mitigate ad hoc disaster aid programs in the future. While ad hoc assistance was necessary and appreciated throughout the farming community, addressing these gaps through increased reference prices and strengthening crop insurance growers would be provided additional certainty and more timely assistance for when disaster strikes, or supply chains are roiled by global events. Congressional leaders should come to an agreement to increase the budget authority for the Farm Bill to help safeguard the future of U.S. agriculture.

In September, NAWG hosted a fly-in to continue this in-person advocacy and get wheat growers face-to-face with their legislators. Wheat growers visited over 55 Congressional officers, met with committee staff, and held a panel with senior USDA officials. These meetings played an important role in educating new staff who have never been through a Farm Bill reauthorization and allowed seasoned hill staff an opportunity to learn about how the current Farm Bill programs are working for agriculture.

Along with ad hoc Hill visits, NAWG sent a letter to the House and Senate Agriculture Committee’s Chairs and Ranking Members, sharing their initial 2023 Farm Bill priorities. In addition, Nicole Berg has been invited to testify before Congress three times this year to talk about different components of the 2018 Farm Bill and how programs impacted farmers.

During the testimony on Title I Commodity Programs in front of the full House Agriculture Committee, Berg noted how PLC reference prices don’t adequately cover the cost of production, and how ARC simply isn’t effective for wheat farmers. Additionally, she acknowledged supply chain issues facing farmers, as well as the cost and availability of inputs that are negatively impacting wheat producers.

“It is important that Congress maintains a strong safety net for farmers given the farm economy’s cyclical nature,” said Berg. “Supply chain issues and availability of inputs continue to present challenges for farmers. These challenges include rising prices and availability

for fuel, parts, vital equipment, and crop protection tools that allow farmers to continue using smart ag practices like no-till.”

Her second appearance was in front of the House Agriculture Committee’s Livestock and Foreign Agriculture Subcommittee, which reviewed the Title III programs. Berg highlighted how the international food aid programs play a vital role in stabilizing economies and populations impacted by climate change, famine, and war. She also discussed the critical role trade promotion programs, like MAP and FMD, play in helping U.S. agricultural products remain competitive on world markets and opening access to new markets, which boosts the agriculture economy and helps keep farmers in business.

Most recently, in front of the Conservation and Forestry Subcommittee of the House Agriculture Committee, Berg testified about how the Title II Conservation Programs have been working since the 2018 Farm Bill was enacted. Berg highlighted how the Farm Bill voluntary conservation programs are significant in terms of environmental benefits and assistance to farmers. Technical assistance, planning and engineering and financial assistance in the form of cost share or incentives, provide farmers with the knowledge and economic incentive to be able to make a change in their operation or maintain a conservation practice.

The Farm Bill not only benefits wheat growers but all aspects of American agriculture. Therefore, it is critical wheat growers’ voices are heard on Capitol Hill and that Members of Congress understand what worked and what can be improved upon as the committees work towards reauthorizing the Farm Bill in 2023.

“We cannot do this without our growers’ voices being heard. I encourage growers to meet with or contact their lawmakers in D.C.,” said Berg. “This is where the strengths of our growers as constituents can have the most impact, getting to share their story with lawmakers. Scheduling meetings with your representatives, making a phone call, inviting them to local events, attending their town halls or listening sessions, and sharing the challenges that your business or community has faced provides critical perspectives on the issues that Congress is considering.”

As the House and Senate Agriculture Committees continue to review the 2018 Farm Bill programs, NAWG will work with Capitol Hill to advance these goals as the committee debates and considers the next Farm Bill. ■



Climate Smart Ag

BY CARLY WHITMORE, PUBLIC AFFAIRS SPECIALIST, NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE, USDA

You may have seen the term “climate-smart agriculture” in the news recently, but what does that actually mean? To the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) here in Idaho, it means doing exactly what we’ve been doing since the Dust Bowl – helping people help the land.

Climate-smart agriculture is currently defined as using various agricultural practices that can reduce the effects of climate change on the environment. These can be:

- practices that reduce the amount of carbon released into the atmosphere,
- practices that increase the amount of carbon sequestered in soil, or

- practices that allow producers to adapt their operation to changing weather patterns and natural disasters as a result of climate change – including wildfires, flooding, drought, high heat and severe storms.

While the term “climate-smart agriculture” is new, the practices and concepts surrounding it are not – at least, not to NRCS. Since the Dust Bowl devastated farmers across the American plains and prairies, NRCS has been helping farmers identify ways to meet Mother Nature where she is, and to be productive and profitable at the same time. That is exactly what we’re doing now – only using different terminology.



to help Idaho farmers and ranchers under this initiative. The grant is the largest ever received by the University of Idaho and will be used to support research into making cropping systems more resilient to climate change. More than half of the money in this grant will be provided to Idaho producers to try different climate-smart practices and see what works best for their operations, as well as learn more about the challenges and adaptations that can be made in an ever-changing environment.

The grant to the University of Idaho will directly provide grain growers in Idaho the ability to make improvements and changes to their operation, but it isn't the only Climate Smart Commodity grant that will benefit grain growers in Idaho. Both Oregon State University and the National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD) were awarded Climate Smart Commodity grants

which will benefit grain producers across the United States. From corn to barley to wheat, grain growers in Idaho will have many opportunities to improve upon their operations and try something new – all while learning about climate-smart agriculture from the best of the best.

So, what do these grants mean for you right now? Well, many of these projects are still in their infancy so it will be a little while before we know more. But there are options available right now if you're ready to dive into climate-smart agriculture. You can read up on it at usda.gov for more information or visit your local USDA Service Center to talk to one of our conservationists to see how climate-smart agriculture can work for your operation. ■



Many of the practices historically supported by NRCS in Idaho are now considered part of the climate-smart agriculture movement. No-till and reduced tillage farming, cover cropping, crop rotation, on-farm energy initiatives and more are all part of the climate-smart agriculture movement. Each of these practices helps to adapt your operation to the ever-changing conditions caused by climate change, as well as benefitting the environment.

The climate-smart agriculture movement has not only opened the door for new funding opportunities for grain growers across the country – but especially here in Idaho.

On September 14, 2022, Secretary Vilsack announced the USDA is investing up to \$2.8 billion in 70 selected projects under the first pool of the Partnerships for Climate-Smart Commodities funding opportunity. Projects from the second funding pool will be announced later this year. Ultimately, USDA's anticipated investment will triple to more than \$3 billion in pilots that will create market opportunities for American commodities produced using climate-smart production practices. Through this new opportunity, USDA will finance partnerships to support the production and marketing of climate-smart commodities via a set of pilot projects lasting one to five years.

Idaho will be home to 14 separate groundbreaking projects, with seven of those projects directly benefitting Idaho grain producers. Most notably, the University of Idaho has been granted \$55 million



Largest Grant in U of I History to Incentivize Climate-Smart Agriculture

University of Idaho’s College of Agricultural and Life Sciences is set to receive up to \$55 million — the largest award in the university’s history — to help Idaho farmers and ranchers combat climate change through agricultural practices.



The award, from the U.S. Department of Agriculture, is twice as large as any prior U of I grant. In addition to supporting research on building cropping systems that are more resilient to climate change, the five-year grant stimulates the state’s economy by paying more than half of the funds directly to Idaho agricultural producers.

“While this is a monumental achievement for our university, the big winners will be Idaho farmers and ranchers who are willing to try new approaches to producing food, with the goal of making their operations more sustainable and protecting the environment,” said Christopher Nomura, U of I’s vice president of research and economic development.

U of I’s “Climate-Smart Commodities for Idaho: A Public-Private-Tribal Partnership,” is among 70 projects awarded nationwide for a combined investment of up to \$2.8 billion included in the first pool of USDA’s Partnerships for Climate-Smart Commodities.

U of I’s grant will directly benefit more than 100 Idaho farmers and ranchers. Research will focus on the state’s staple commodities, such as potatoes, beef, sugar, wheat, barley, hops and chickpeas. The grant will drive climate-smart practices on about 10% of Idaho’s active cropland, preventing the emission of up to 100,000 tons of carbon dioxide per year into the atmosphere.

Food producers will be eligible for payments to try a host of climate-smart practices, such as raising crops primarily for soil health benefits, known as cover cropping, or reducing reliance on tillage, which helps soil hold carbon that would otherwise be released as carbon dioxide.

The Coeur d’Alene Tribe Natural Resources Department and the Nez Perce Tribe Land Services Division will be partners in the project, helping to test several climate-smart conservation practices on tribal lands.

“It is our hope that the lessons we learn can help farmers across the reservation adapt their farming practices in a way that benefits their productivity while also benefitting the Tribe’s ability to protect the quality and health of its water and soil in the face of warming temperatures and increased probability of drought,” said Laura Laumatia, climate research and policy analyst with the Coeur d’Alene Tribe.

Jodi Johnson-Maynard, head of the U of I Department of Soil and Water Systems, leads the project with co-principal investigator, Sanford Eigenbrode, a distinguished professor in the Department of Entomology, Plant Pathology and Nematology.

“This project will allow us to pilot a program to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in a way that meets the market demands for sustainably produced products while benefiting our farmers,” Johnson-Maynard said.

“A lot of companies big and small see the handwriting on the wall — that the need for a climate-friendly pipeline is not going away, and if they’re staying competitive in the industry, they’ve got to get on board,” Eigenbrode said.

Both Johnson-Maynard and Eigenbrode have led large-scale climate research grants, which brought in a combined \$23.4 million.

“The principal investigators in this grant both have tremendous expertise in the areas of climate change and climate-smart agriculture and are now building on their previous successes,” said College of Agricultural and Life Sciences Dean Michael Parrella.

Additional partners in the U of I-led project all reside in Idaho and include the Idaho Association of Soil Conservation Districts, Salmon Safe, The Nature Conservancy Idaho Chapter Office, The Wave Foundation, Desert Mountain Grassfed Beef and Kooskooskie Fish, LLC.

Researchers with U of I’s College of Agricultural and Life Sciences are partners in two additional USDA Partnerships for Climate-Smart Commodities grants led by other institutions totaling over \$75 million. ■



Baking Through Generations

How Lehi Roller Mills has maintained popularity and longevity for almost a century

It's a familiar scene: a pale yellow Volkswagen bug drives through a dark warehouse, coming to a hard stop. The camera closes in on an angsty teenager, cigarette in hand, behind the wheel. He pulls a cassette tape from the jockey box, jams it into the tape deck, and punches the 'play' button on the dashboard. The iconic "Footloose" scene of Kevin Bacon breaking town rules and dancing might be the first introduction most consumers in the United States had to Lehi Roller Mills, the site of filming.

Located just beyond the point of the mountain in Lehi, Utah, Lehi Roller Mills was built in 1906 as a cooperative by local farmers. Four years later, George G. Robinson purchased the mill and eventually passed it on to his son, Sherman Robinson, and then his grandson, R. Sherm Robinson. In 2012, the mill was acquired by Ken Brailsford. George's grandson, Sherm, continued to run Lehi Roller Mills until his passing in May 2021. Lehi Mills continues to this day as a family-run business through the children of Ken Brailsford who strive to uphold the legacy of quality the Robinson family instilled more than a century ago.

Since 1906, Lehi Roller Mills has purchased wheat from local, multi-generational family farms. Buying wheat directly from farmers within a 250-mile radius of the mill is one way in which the Robinson and Brailsford families preserve the integrity established by the Lehi cooperative mill at the turn of the twentieth century. Today, Lehi Roller Mills purchases, on average, 500,000 bushels of wheat each year for their Lehi Roller Mills branded bread flour, cake flour, all-purpose flour, and whole wheat flour. In addition to their flour line, Lehi Roller Mills uses their flour in custom-made pancake, waffle, muffin, cookie, cake, scone, and hot cereal mixes. Their bakery products are sought out by home bakers and shipped to retailers all over the United States.

Because Lehi Roller Mills owns the mill and production side of their branded baking mixes, the company can be very particular about what wheat is accepted and the quality of flour produced. "We've been known to turn trucks away if we feel the wheat doesn't meet high standards," said a Lehi Roller Mills spokesperson.



"After all, the first ingredient included in all our products and mixes will always be quality."

There is a lot of history wrapped in Lehi Roller Mills and yet, for more than a century the brand has been able to maintain integrity and trust in the quality of Lehi Roller Mills flours and mixes. "For over 100 years, we've been trusted by parents, bakeries, and restaurants for a single reason – better quality products," said the company spokesperson.

In 2021, Lehi Roller Mills went through a rebranding that changed labeling design and modernized the products, replacing artificial flavors with all natural ingredients. The company also recently upgraded its pneumatic system that moves wheat and flour through the mill, which will reduce blow-outs that force the mill to shut down. Balancing the historical value of the mill and keeping up with modern practices through innovation and technology is a priority for the sustainability of Lehi Roller Mills.

Locally sourced grains, small batch runs, hand-selected wheat, and a difference you can taste are the factors to which Lehi Roller Mills contributes its success and longevity in the milling and baking mix industries. "We are also fortunate to have a loyal customer base that spans multiple generations," the company said. "Our customers have come to know the quality they can expect from our products, and we are committed to delivering on that expectation for many years to come." ■

Fueling the World with Rapeseed: The Untold Story of the University of Idaho and the Development of Biodiesel

BY JOE ANDERSON AND TEMPLE KINYON, EDITED FOR LENGTH

“This is a story that needs telling. I don’t think it has ever been shared, even at the University of Idaho.”
- Joe Anderson

In the early 1970s, in response to U.S. support of the Israeli military during the Yom Kippur War, the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) instituted an oil embargo on the United States. Decreased production meant increased prices and long lines for drivers at the pump. When the shortage resulted in consumers being turned away when the day’s fuel supply was exhausted it became clear an affordable and environmentally friendly alternative to petroleum-based fuel sources was needed.

In 1979, the Department of Defense (DOD) provided a grant to the University of Idaho (UI) to investigate the use of vegetable oil as an alternative fuel for agriculture. The only oilseed crop grown in the Pacific Northwest at the time was rapeseed grown in Idaho. At the urging of growers and processors, UI started the Rapeseed Research Program (RRP) in the early 1970s, so it was logical that UI was the institution selected by DOD for this project, and Dick Auld, program leader of RRP, quickly sought the counsel of Dr. Charles “Chuck” Peterson, UI Professor of Agricultural Engineering.

Chuck’s first stop was the cooking oil section at the grocery store, where he purchased a large jug of vegetable oil, eager and determined to prove or disprove vegetable oil’s fuel potential. UI’s rapeseed research program was in full swing, so exploring the crop’s potential for the emergency fuel project was a logical step. Chuck was first tasked to determine if it was possible to use vegetable oil to extend the use of—or even replace—diesel. His earliest work demonstrated positively that raw vegetable oil could be run in existing diesel engines, however, in only a short amount of time, the engine developed issues with coking (deposits of carbon-rich solids). The engine would have to be torn down and cleaned regularly with the use of vegetable oil. Engine failure was inevitable.

Chuck soldiered on, taking the next step in his research by combining vegetable oil with diesel using a diesel tractor to test the tractor’s ability to run on a 50/50 blend of vegetable oil and diesel. The test worked at first, but long-term use of the mixture also caused coking and inevitable engine damage. Chuck and his research team were forced to consider alternatives to pure vegetable oil, which is when they turned to rapeseed and the concept of transesterification. Transesterification creates a chemical reaction between a fatty acid (vegetable oil) and an alcohol. The reaction produces the alcohol ester of the oil (biodiesel) and glycerin. The cosmetic industry had been using the process for many years to produce their glycerin for soaps and lotions – basic concepts learned in high school chemistry.

Vegetable oils as fuels for internal combustion engines were reported in several countries during the 1920s and 1930s and later during World War II, but not on a grand or continuing scale. It wasn’t until the energy crisis in the early 1970s and the lack of fuel that serious interest in alternative fuel research and production hit emergency status.

Chuck’s research at UI confirmed that an alcohol ester derived from vegetable oil retained combustion and power characteristics similar to diesel fuel with superior emissions. He discovered rapeseed oil could be transformed into high-quality biodiesel and, later, even jet fuel. The research provided a source of biodiesel compatible with most conventional diesel engines and as a result could readily replace fossil diesel sources with little or no engine modifications. With the purchase of a small expeller oilseed press, UI entered the oilseed processing business. Under Chuck’s guidance, a transesterification reactor was manufactured, and UI became the supplier of choice for biodiesel used for research purposes.

Before engine manufacturers agreed that biodiesel was a suitable replacement for petroleum diesel, they required substantial testing and data. By 1992, Chuck’s



research team was conducting road tests pitting a pickup running on 80% diesel and 20% vegetable oil against a pickup running on UI biodiesel. Chuck's team took a pickup on a coast-to-coast trek, running entirely on biodiesel. The truck's stop in Washington, D.C. offered Congressmen the opportunity to see the power and efficiency of biodiesel. After the 100,000-mile road test, UI sent the pickup engine to Cummins, the manufacturer, who found that after running on UI biodiesel, the condition of the engine was better than expected.

Biodiesel proved itself as a serious contender for petroleum-based fuel replacement. It caused no negative long-term damage to diesel engines. It was equivalent to petroleum diesel in engine output. Its emissions were markedly superior to petroleum diesel emissions. All the major engine manufacturers accepted biodiesel as an alternative to petroleum diesel. The research conducted by Chuck, Dick, and their team led to the commercialization of biodiesel and forever changed the fuel industry worldwide and UI became the most reliable national source for quality biodiesel and biodiesel research. ■

A Multigenerational Relationship Between Idaho Wheat and Taiwan

Every two years, Idaho wheat growers welcome the Taiwan Flour Mills Association to Idaho to build upon a relationship that began in the 1960s. This year, the trade delegation signed a letter of intent to purchase just over 66 million bushels of U.S. wheat, a quantity that translates into approximately \$576 million of wheat over the next two years. Taiwan has signed intent letters for four decades and even though the letter of intent isn't a hard contract, Taiwan has always followed through with their pledge. Likewise, wheat farmers across Idaho and the United States have always been able to provide what has been purchased.

“Our legacy organization Western Wheat Associates established a presence in Taiwan in 1966, so we are going on six decades of working with the country's flour millers and food industry,” U.S. Wheat Associates President Vince Peterson said. “In that time, Taiwan has purchased more than 45 million metric tons (1.7 billion bushels) of U.S. wheat. This partnership between TFMA, U.S. Wheat Associates and U.S. wheat producers has been on a great path, and we plan to continue on that path in the future. We truly thank the Taiwan Goodwill Mission for coming to the United States and for its ongoing preference for U.S. wheat.”

Since 1998, Taiwan has purchased \$6.4 billion worth of wheat from U.S. farmers. The Taiwan Flour Mills Association purchases all of the wheat for all 20 flour mills in Taiwan. Taiwan imports 99.9% of their wheat, 80% of imports coming from the United States. Wheat has outpaced rice for consumption in Taiwan. The



country consumes, per capita, roughly the same amount as we in the United States consume.

Idaho wheat industry leaders and representatives joined the Taiwan Flour Mills Association leadership, Taiwan Economic and Cultural Office representatives, and the Idaho State Departments of Agriculture and Commerce in Governor Little's office on September 19 to sign the 2022 letter of intent.

“I want to commit to you that the [Idaho] Wheat Commission and the farmers in Idaho are committed to maintaining this relationship,” said Clark Hamilton, Idaho Wheat Commission Chair and wheat farmer in Ririe. In response, Mr. Tony Shu, Chairman of the Taiwan Flour Mills Association, said, “I want to thank you all for supporting us and I think our cooperation and collaboration in the future will continue.” ■



Trade Teams are Essential to Market Development and Exports

After a two-year hiatus from hosting trade teams brought on by the covid-19 pandemic, the Idaho Wheat Commission (IWC) was thrilled to welcome bakers and flour millers back to Idaho this summer. IWC hosted two trade teams – one from the Middle East and North Africa, the other from South America – as well as a media team from South Korea in July, August, and October, respectively. The purpose of these teams is to promote Idaho wheat and show our overseas customers from where their wheat comes. IWC usually hosts several international teams each year.

A team of young millers from Morocco, Algeria, and Egypt began their tour of the United States wheat industry in Moscow and Lewiston. These flour millers were accompanied by Tarik Gahi, assistant technical director for U.S. Wheat Associates in the Middle East and North Africa region, based in Casablanca. Team members were in their early 20s, representing their family business and expected to take over the family flour mill in the coming years.

“I’m sure U.S. Wheat did the same thing with their parents years ago,” Gahi said. “That’s how you build a relationship . . . that trust is really important.” Visiting the United States allows the millers to learn about and become familiar with the classes of U.S. wheat. An inside look at the entire wheat system from field to port increases market development by comparing U.S. wheat to wheat from other origins.

The team visited the Lewis Clark Terminal and IWC Commissioner Bill Flory’s farm, where they were able to drive equipment, see wheat in the field, and learn more about planting, harvesting, and the production processes on the farm.

The South American team visited southeastern Idaho, with stops from Ririe to Boise, including Hamilton Triple C Farms, the Grain Craft flour mill in Blackfoot and the Idaho State Grain Inspection facility in Pocatello. The members of that team were primarily millers and agronomists from Ecuador and Peru who were focused on the technical aspects of U.S. wheat.

Face-to-face relationships between growers and customers are essential to keeping Idaho wheat in demand in the markets. Ecuador and Peru purchased a combined 573,500 metric tons (21 million bushels)



South Korea media team member at Wheat Marketing Center.

of U.S. wheat in 2021. For reference, Ecuador imports around 1.45 million metric tons and Peru between 1.8 and 2.3 million metric tons of wheat annually.

“My impression is that the United States has the technology and knowledge to produce a very good wheat,” Alejandro Jaramillo, plant manager of Moderna Alimentos in Quito, Ecuador, told Sean Ellis of the Idaho Farm Bureau Federation. “For us, it’s the best wheat in the world. This opportunity to keep in touch with all the companies and the farmers who grow that wheat is very important to us. It’s very important to see how that wheat is harvested, how it’s stored, how it’s transported. It’s important for us to know about all of the conditions of your wheat because we need to be able to control all the parameters to make a good flour for good bread.”

Hosting trade teams creates an opportunity for end-use customers to gain an understanding of every step of the process, from research and development through planting, harvest, quality inspection, and transportation. Idaho’s wheat farmers love to pull out all the stops, to show visitors the care, precision, and detail they put into growing a consistent product that matches or exceeds the specifications customers have come to expect from Idaho wheat.

South American team members were hosted for a farm tour and dinner by IWC Commission Chairman Clark



Hamilton and his wife, Kristy, at their farm in Ririe. “Idaho wheat farmers are concerned about quality and how our product performs for millers and bakers around the world. Quality matters and we want to serve your market,” Hamilton told the trade team members as he asked them in what ways Idaho’s wheat industry could better provide what Peruvian and Ecuadorian consumers want.

“We value your business and it’s a pleasure to have you here,” he said before dinner. “Thank you for coming and building relationships here.” ■



NEMA team at PNW Coop in Genesee.

What the Taiwan Letter of Intent Signing Teaches Us About the Lower Snake River Dams

BY BRITANY HURST MARCHANT, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, IDAHO WHEAT COMMISSION

Last week, the Idaho Wheat Commission joined Governor Brad Little to sign a Letter of Intent with Taiwan Flour Mills Association Chairman Tony Shu and Taiwan Economic and Cultural Office Director General Daniel Chen for the purchase of an estimated \$567 million worth of U.S. wheat by Taiwan over the next two years. Taiwan relies entirely on wheat imports to meet the dietary demands of its 23.57 million residents, roughly 80% of which comes from the United States. The goodwill agreement represents a relationship between the United States wheat industry and Taiwan that spans seven decades.



For Taiwan, a traditional rice country, wheat has become the grain of choice – the consumption of which surpassed rice several years ago – with a per capita wheat consumption rate that holds steady between 119 to 128 pounds per year. At just under 14,000 square miles, Taiwan is smaller than Maryland and Delaware combined, with a population of 4.9 million residents.

The island nation’s geography and climate are prohibitive to maintaining wheat reserves. According to Mr. Shu, the largest capacity mills can store one to three months’ worth of wheat. That is not a lot of security in a world battling post-pandemic supply chain disruptions.

U.S. wheat is not the cheapest option for Taiwan to import, given its proximity to the Black Sea region and Australia, but when asked why Taiwan has continually chosen U.S. wheat Mr. Shu responded with consistency

on three fronts: consistent quality, consistent quantity, and *consistency in transportation*.

Dependability cannot be overemphasized when the wheat on the ocean is counted into your grain stores. The dams on the Snake River are essential to maintaining the reliable delivery of U.S. wheat to overseas customers. The Columbia- Snake River System is the nation’s single largest wheat export gateway, transporting more than 60% of all U.S. wheat exports to market overseas. In 2021, U.S. wheat farmers produced 1.65 billion bushels of wheat.

Without access to barges from the Port of Lewiston to the Port of Portland, U.S. wheat farmers will be forced to turn to inadequate and less reliable transportation sources for the wheat destined for overseas markets. Diverting current waterway freight traffic across the Pacific Northwest would require the use of rail infrastructure that simply does not exist and roadway infrastructure that would need to support an additional 413 semi-trucks every day through the Columbia-Snake River corridor.

While the impacts to anadromous fish cannot be ignored, and efforts should continue to find ways to mitigate those impacts, the importance of the lower Snake River dams simply cannot be minimized. The dams provide numerous benefits, including clean energy and irrigation water, but more importantly, the dams are critical to providing a consistent transportation network to keep wheat exports moving reliably and trade relationships secure. ■



Fall Trade Missions Promote Idaho Barley

BY LAURA WILDER, IDAHO BARLEY COMMISSION

SE Asia Aquaculture Team Visits Idaho

The Idaho Barley Commission hosted a U.S. Grains Council (USGC) Aquaculture Team from Southeast Asia in October to help them learn about using barley protein concentrate in aquaculture feeding rations. The team included aquaculture industry representatives from Indonesia, Malaysia, Vietnam, Thailand, and the Philippines, as well as USGC staff and USDA-ARS staff.

First, the team visited the USDA-ARS and University of Idaho fish culture experiment station in Hagerman where they met with Thomas Welker, research physiologist with the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Agriculture Research Service (USDA-ARS) and Ron Hardy, retired professor at the University of Idaho. Welker and Hardy discussed the history of aquaculture in the U.S. more broadly before providing an overview of current projects taking place in the ARS facilities in Hagerman, including how dried distillers grains can play a role in aqua feed. DDGS are a major coproduct from the production of ethanol from grain and are protein rich.

The team also visited two fish farm operations, Blind Canyon Aqua Plant and Riverence, the largest trout producer in North America to see the differences in small-scale and large-scale operations fish farming operations, as well as learn more about the producers’ nutrition and fish health considerations when choosing feed.

Team members then visited Scoular’s Emerge facility in Jerome where they met with JC Olson and Mike Cici of Scoular. Scoular Emerge has been working to create a new aquaculture feed option: barley protein concentrate. The team at Emerge took the time to hear from the Southeast Asian representatives on



USGC Southeast Asia aquaculture team visits Scoular Emerge facility in Jerome, ID.

what is important to them in their feed and how this new product could help them and their operations moving forward.

The Idaho Barley Commission is a member of U.S. Grains Council and participates in USGC programs to leverage grower dollars toward barley export market development.

Cerveza Mexico Brings Together Craft Beer Production Chain Representatives, U.S. Barley Representatives

The U.S. Grains Council (USGC) invited barley growers, craft maltsters and barley organization leaders from Idaho, Washington, and North Dakota to join its team in Mexico October 20-23 for the Cerveza

Continued on next page

2022 Idaho Barley Crop Stats

IDAHO BARLEY LEADS U.S. PRODUCTION

34%

Idaho's share
of the 2022
U.S. Barley
Crop



59,940,000 bushels

harvested in 2022 on **540,000 acres**
at **record average yields of 111 bushels per acre**, compared
to yields of 89 bushels per acre and
43,610,000 bushels harvested in 2021.

The 2022 Idaho barley crop value is
estimated at **\$454.9 million** with
the average price per bushel at a record
\$7.59 according to USDA NASS data.

2022 Idaho & U.S. Barley Crop

	2021	2022	% Change
Idaho Barley Acres Planted	520,000	560,000	+8%
Idaho Acres Harvested	490,000	540,000	+10%
Idaho Average Bushels/Acre	89	111	+24.7%
Idaho Total Bushels	43,610,000	59,940,000	+37.4%
U.S. Acres Harvested	1,948,000	2,433,000	+25%
U.S. Total Bushels	117,673,000	174,333,000	+48%
Idaho % of U.S. Total	37%	34.4%	-2.6%
Idaho Rank in Total U.S. Barley Production	1	1	No Change

5-Year Average Total Idaho Production: 53,370,800 Bu
5-Year Average Idaho Yield/Acre: 103 Bu/Acre





Continued from previous page

Mexico Conference. Idaho was represented by Idaho Barley Commission Executive Director Laura Wilder, as well as Jake Burtenshaw and Alfredo Avila of Mountain Malt and Burtenshaw Farms in Idaho Falls.

Mexico was the top buyer of U.S. barley and barley products in the 2021/2022 marketing year – purchasing 323,530 metric tons valued at \$219,116,797. Cerveza Mexico provides a unique opportunity each year to maintain and cultivate relationships between barley growers, craft maltsters and Mexican craft brewers. It is an interactive space to taste and talk about opportunities within the craft beer industry and it allows professionals to meet with potential U.S. craft malted barley suppliers. The event brings together people from across the beer production chain: barley producers, importers of craft malt, brewers of homemade and specialty beers, craft maltsters, suppliers of



Southeast Asia Aquaculture Team hears about Scouler Emerge plant operations recently in Jerome.

equipment, machinery, supplies and packaging for the production of beer.

This program helped advance the Council closer to its goal of connecting U.S. craft maltsters with ACERMEX (Mexican Craft Brewers Association) and build relationships for future business. “Last year, the Mexico craft market achieved one percent market share and is expected to achieve 11% industry growth this coming year. U.S. barley and craft malt expo attendees were able to witness this industry’s sophisticated growth which has created an opportunity for value-added U.S. barley and malt products to be of consideration,” said Sadie Marks, USGC manager of global programs. Council-sponsored attendees had the opportunity to meet one-on-one with those who know the craft beer industry best in Mexico. The group met with ACERMEX, learned more about the state of the craft beer industry with the Foreign Agricultural Service and met with Cerveceros de Mexico (Mexico’s National Chamber of the Beer and Malt Industry). ■



U.S. Grains Council hosted U.S. barley growers, craft malters and industry staff at Cerveza Mexico in October.

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Hard Red Spring

WB 9668

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Soft White Spring

UI Stone

UI Pettit

WB 6430

Hard White Spring

SY Teton

WB 7589

WB 7696

UI Platinum

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