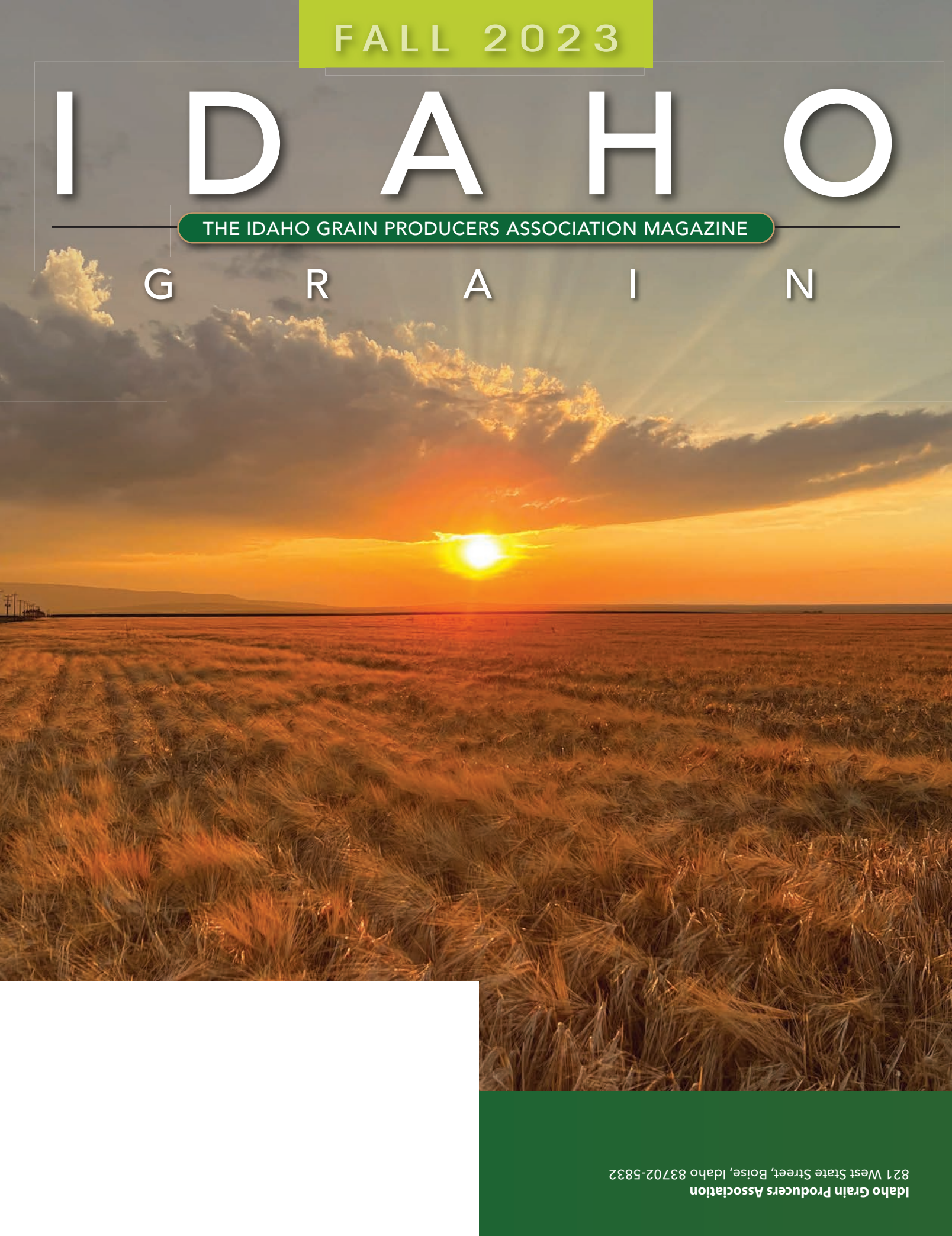


FALL 2023

# IDAHO

THE IDAHO GRAIN PRODUCERS ASSOCIATION MAGAZINE

GRAIN





# VIEWS



**BY TY IVERSON  
PRESIDENT**

As we find summer winding down, the Idaho Grain Producers Association (IGPA) has been buzzing with activity, working tirelessly to promote the interests of grain producers across the state. From exciting marketing tours to significant advocacy efforts, here's a glimpse of what's been going on at IGPA.

This past June, IGPA partnered with the Idaho Wheat Commission for a memorable wheat marketing tour in Portland. The tour aimed to foster stronger connections between the grain industry and members of the Idaho legislature. We took legislators, industry partners, and grain producers to tour key components of wheat export marketing channels. Participants had the chance to engage in meaningful discussions about market demands, quality standards, and the challenges faced by wheat producers. The experience not only broadened their understanding of the wheat supply chain but helped them understand the role high-quality Idaho wheat plays on the international stage.

In July, IGPA took its mission to the nation's capital by embarking on a successful advocacy trip to Washington DC. On this trip, fellow executive board member Kyle Wangemann and I were able to meet with Idaho's congressional delegation and other key policymakers to discuss crucial issues affecting Idaho grain producers and rural communities and what grain growers need in the upcoming Farm Bill. This trip exemplified IGPA's commitment to promoting the interests of its members and ensuring their voices are heard at the federal level. I wish I had better news to report back on the status of the farm bill, but unfortunately the wheels of the Congressional machine are moving pretty slow at the moment. We're holding out hope to see some version of the bill yet this fall, but time will tell.

I am excited to report that harvest is here in Bonners Ferry, and most of the state. Grain producers across Idaho are gearing up to bring in their crops from the fields. Early reports suggest favorable growing conditions, and the hard work put in by farmers throughout the year is expected to yield excellent results. On our farm, so far our crops are looking to be a bit above average, but it's still too early to know exactly how things will turn out.

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As we move forward, IGPA remains focused on supporting grain producers and advocating for their interests. We are actively planning fall events, including district meetings, a board meeting, Tri-State Grain Growers Convention, and industry collaborations to further advance our mission and opportunities available to Idaho growers.

One change we have decided to make this fall is to cancel our fall board meeting in Boise and combine that meeting with the Tri-State Convention in Coeur d'Alene November 13-17. Not only will this be a significant cost savings for our organization, but we hope that we will get better grower participation if we only have one week of meetings instead of two.

We encourage all Idaho grain producers to stay engaged with IGPA and participate in our upcoming events. By working together, we can strengthen the grain industry, foster sustainable practices, and secure a bright future for agriculture in Idaho.

In conclusion, IGPA has had a dynamic and productive summer so far. From the wheat marketing tour in Portland to the advocacy trip to Washington DC and the anticipation of a promising harvest and busy fall, IGPA continues to be a driving force for Idaho grain producers.

I wish you all a safe and prosperous harvest and look forward to seeing you all in Coeur d'Alene in November. ■



BY STACEY KATSEANES SATTERLEE  
**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

It always does, but especially this year, it feels like summer flew by. June was as busy as they come – between kids finishing up school, preparing for and holding IGPA's budget meeting, inviting legislators and industry partners to the PNW Wheat Marketing Tour in Portland, and hosting the Multi Commodity Education Program in Eastern Idaho, your IGPA staff and leadership were running around nonstop in June (read more about the Wheat Marketing Tour on page 20 and about the MCEP on page 4).

It's worth noting that this year marks the first time that we invited industry partners to join legislators on the Wheat Marketing Tour – IGPA's Industry Engagement Manager Harmony Wright is heading up our new industry partnership program, and while there will be more to come on that, for now I'll say two things: first,

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we're grateful for the businesses that have partnered with IGPA so far and second, we are excited to see where these new partnerships will take us.

This summer at the Satterlee household, my daughter Addison wrapped up her first successful middle school tennis season and my oldest son Jackson committed to the Idaho Golf Association's junior tour – so we've been busy this summer supporting our kids' sports. July and August took us all over the state for golf tournaments – in fact, the state championship tournament was in Pullman at Palouse Ridge (WSU's course), and while we were there, wheat harvest was underway. Palouse Ridge is a tough course comprised of rolling hills, much like the farms in the area – it was beautiful to be surrounded by combines and wheat fields while we walked the golf course.

Jackson came in second place at that tournament and earned enough points to be named IGA's Player of the Year for his age group. So, if any of you would like to join me in getting beat on the golf course by a 12-year-old, give me a call and we'll get it arranged. Then, the third week of August, my younger son Ben and I traveled to Circling Raven for the second round of the Drive, Chip, and Putt, which he qualified for in May. If

you'd like to join me in getting beat on the golf course by an 8-year-old, that can be arranged too.

July also took IGPA leadership to Washington, DC. IGPA President Ty Iverson and IGPA Executive Board Member Kyle Wangemann spent two days on Capitol Hill talking with legislative leadership about wheat priorities in the Farm Bill reauthorization that is currently being negotiated. It's set to expire September 30, 2023, and House and Senate Agriculture Committee members and their staff have been busy drafting. The National Association of Wheat Growers and the National Barley Growers Association have had meetings and fly ins and briefings, working to ensure wheat and barley are taken care of in the next Farm Bill.

This October marks my eight-year anniversary with IGPA. It feels good to continue working on challenging issues and adapting to make the organization stronger. One change we made this year is to combine the fall board meeting, usually held in Boise the first week of November, with Tri-State Grain Growers Convention, this year held from November 14-16. By adding one day of meetings ahead of Tri-State, we're hoping to be more efficient and better use everyone's time – so mark your calendars now and plan to join us in Coeur d'Alene in November! ■

## Multi Commodity Education Program Visits Idaho

You may recall reading about the Multi Commodity Education Program in a previous issue Idaho Grain magazine. The program is an educational exchange program, sponsored by John Deere and run by the National Cotton Council, which offers growers in cotton-growing regions a chance to experience farming in a northern tier state, a part of the country they haven't experienced, and vice versa.

“The Multi Commodity Education Program (MCEP) was initiated in 2006 when our senior Washington office staff noticed different commodity groups coming to DC to meet with their congressional delegation. They always end up getting together with their friends from other parts of the country and the conversation generally leads to what's going on at home, on the farm, and they all realized they really don't understand each other's different situations and challenges” said John Gibson, Vice President of Member Services for the National Cotton Council.



“Those interactions many times play into policy discussions and so we thought, we need to organize

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these guys and bring them together--but how do we do that? So we thought, let's work through the commodity associations," he says.

Working together with several commodity groups including the National Cotton Council, National Association of Wheat Growers (NAWG), National Barley Grower Association (NBGA), National Corn Growers, and the American Soybean Association, John and his team created the Multi-Commodity Education Tour as a place for growers to come together, visit other parts of the country, exchange ideas, learn from one another and really understand their peer's issues, challenges and ways of doing things.

The program takes place every year but alternates between north and south—one year, southern farmers will come north to states like Idaho, Montana or North Dakota while the next year, growers from northern tier states will go south to one of the Cotton Belt regions. The timing of the trip varies each year, depending on production periods—when folks are planting or harvesting.



This summer was Idaho's time to shine. In late June, 16 farmers from Arizona, South Carolina, Texas, Virginia, Tennessee, Oklahoma, California, and Arkansas visited our great state for four days learning about Idaho agriculture—our processes, production, and different crops and industries. With stops along a stretch from the Magic Valley to the Tetons, Idaho was able to showcase the best of what we do in agriculture.

Day one included a trout farm, a working dairy, Milner Dam tour and, a trip to a French fry processing plant. The next few days included stops at Bayer's phosphate mine in Soda Springs, field tours by IGPA board members, sugar beet production, a tour of a hay press and fresh pack potato facility, a tour of Anheuser Busch's malt house, a bison farm and of course, tours of wheat and barley fields. IGPA executive board members and Idaho wheat commissioners hosted dinners each night and represented Idaho ag wonderfully, creating an opportunity for folks to visit and continue to build relationships.

"The amazing thing about the MCEP is that it really gets to the heart of the matter – that relationships are the most important investment we can all make. And that when agriculture goes to lobby a Farm Bill, we're collectively better off if we all understand regional differences and decide we can lobby together instead of against one another. While there are significant differences between Idaho and Texas or Tennessee, for example, the fact is that some issues in farming are the same no matter where you go," said IGPA Executive Director Stacey Satterlee.

"We've hosted the program here in Idaho three times – and while it's a great opportunity to showcase Idaho agriculture, the real value comes from the opportunity for Idaho growers to interact with and get to know these farmers from southern states. Lifelong friendships are built, mutual understanding and respect is developed – what an amazing program to be a part of. We also really appreciate the relationship we've developed with John and the National Cotton Council over the years – Idaho's growers have benefited tremendously from going on the tour, learning about agriculture in the southern U.S., and making connections and friends along the way. We were thrilled to then take our turn and host our friends here in Idaho," Satterlee said.

Reid Nichols, a farmer from Altus, Oklahoma agreed. "I was honored to be part of the recent MCEP to Idaho. From learning about trout production in Twin Falls to having conversations about the challenges of public/private grazing while visiting Soda Springs, we took



a deep dive in to Idaho agriculture and saw first-hand the positive impact on the local communities. And, most importantly, we got to meet some great producers and stewards of the land.”

IGPA long-time members Jamie and Corey Kress were dinner hosts for one of the evenings and see the great value in bringing the program to Idaho this year.

“The MCEP is such a neat program that brings farmers from different parts of the country together to see how different yet similar the challenges we face in agriculture are. This meeting and idea exchange can really unite us all when it comes to farm policy and the trade programs that benefit all of agriculture,” said Jamie.

Brad Williams, a guest from Burlison, Tennessee, offered high praise for the tour to the Gem state. “My visit to Idaho was so

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rewarding. The interaction between our cotton producers and your grain producers let us all understand that we both have similar issues when it comes to defending agriculture rights. Allowing us to see what value your state brings to agriculture was definitely a great experience. I appreciate the opportunity to be a part of such a great program that exposes the beauty and resilience of today's agriculture."

A focus of the tour is to get the group in front of as many producers and other folks in their industries as possible as well as showcasing the different aspects of Idaho geography and how that plays a role in the various crops we produce here.

IGPA Vice President Justin Place said hosting his friends from other states is the icing on the cake for him. "We love having guests to the farm—it gives us an opportunity to share what we do here in Idaho with our southern friends. They have different experiences and ways they do things in the south, but we also have many similarities. We can visit and talk about what's working for one guy or another and each time we come away with different ideas and perspectives. We certainly have common ground so that's fun. It's a learning experience not only for them but for us too – it all comes full circle."



IGPA member Noel Cole participated in the tour when it was hosted down south last year and was able to visit with our guests this year as they toured Idaho. "It was a pleasure having farmers from different parts of the country visit us in Idaho. I love how diverse agriculture really is—and it's always a fun time when we get to talk farm."

Jadee Rohner, Executive Director of the Arizona Cotton Growers Association, said Idaho really made an impression on her. "My favorite part about being in Idaho was admiring the vibrant landscape, historical landmarks and beautiful architecture. I appreciated the opportunity to understand the best management practices in growing grain crops--to the commercial processing of that commodity and its value. I made the comparison that while Arizona uses the phrase 'over 250+ days of clear days and sunshine,' some parts of Idaho describe their climate in 'frost free days.' And, over the course of the week, I learned what qualifies as a desert. It was challenging to not include dust, cactus and mesquite trees in a desert description," she said.



"We were thrilled to visit our friends in Idaho this summer. It was wonderful to see how things are done up in the northern states, what crops are grown and what practices are implemented. One of the best things in my opinion is the relationships built—coming together and seeing our friends, talking about what's working for each of us, how we each do things and how those things are all really relatable to any farmer. It makes you realize we aren't all that different in many ways," said Gibson. ■





## 2023 Salmon and Steelhead Update, Part 2

BY LANCE HEBDON, BUREAU CHIEF OF FISHERIES, IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

In the previous issue, we provided a broad overview of the status of Idaho’s salmon and steelhead dating back to the 1990s when wild salmon and steelhead were listed under the Endangered Species Act (ESA). While there are various goals for salmon and steelhead in the Snake River, the lowest bar we are trying to get over is to rebuild the species to the point where ESA listing is no longer necessary.

Wild fish are the genetic legacy of Idaho’s rivers, and they are also the populations we focus on in evaluating progress toward Endangered Species Act delisting. Hatchery salmon and steelhead fish are also vital because they’re the drivers of sport fishing seasons in Idaho and the Columbia River, as well as contributing to tribal harvest. In this article, I’ll focus on wild spring/summer Chinook Salmon and steelhead returns and specifically the management action of putting juvenile fish on a barge, which is also known as fish transport.

In case you missed part 1 of the article here’s a brief review. In broad terms, the 1990s were bad for Idaho’s salmon and steelhead as very low numbers of adults returned and many species were listed as Threatened or Endangered under the ESA. The situation generally improved through the 2000s and the early 2010s for most species, but gains made in the early 2000s didn’t stick, and from 2017 through 2020 the numbers again dipped down to the 1990s levels for wild fish returns.

### What’s going on with fish barging?

One common question is why are these fish struggling, and what can be done to fix them? There are many factors, both environmental and human-caused that creates challenges for salmon and steelhead. People in the Pacific Northwest have spent decades trying to fix, or mitigate, the challenges facing these ocean-going fish. One of the earliest and controversial actions was putting juvenile salmon and steelhead on fish barges to increase survival through the Columbia River hydrosystem, known as fish transport, to improve adult returns.

One of the earliest and controversial actions was putting juvenile salmon and steelhead on fish barges to increase survival through the Columbia River hydrosystem, known as fish transport, to improve adult returns.

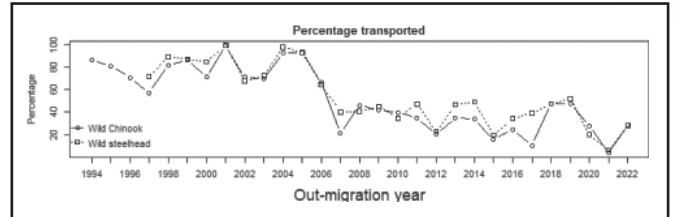


Figure 1. The proportion of wild Chinook salmon and wild steelhead smolts transported by barge from dams in the lower Snake River from 1994 to 2022. Figure from McCann et al. 2022, Chapter 1.

Adult salmon and steelhead returns over the last 30 years shows survival of juvenile salmon and steelhead that are barged as smolts to below Bonneville Dam has not been sufficient to meet ESA recovery goals and rebuild Snake River salmon and steelhead stocks. Although survival of barged fish can be slightly better than smolts migrating in the river when water supply is average or low the difference is not significant or consistent enough to meet ESA recovery goals and rebuild Snake River salmon and steelhead stocks.

The most consistent benefit was for wild steelhead however as we try and balance the system for not only steelhead but also Chinook Salmon, Sockeye Salmon and the other congressionally authorized

purposes of the Columbia River hydrosystem stakeholders in the Columbia Basin pushed for new dam operations attempting to put the majority of juvenile salmon and steelhead over spillways rather than on barges. Below is more background on how we arrived where we are with fish barging.

Barging fish through the lower Snake and Columbia river dams (also known as fish transport) was the primary management action to mitigate impacts of the four Lower Snake River Dams on salmon and steelhead starting in 1985 and continuing through 2006. During this maximum fish barging operations period greater than 80% of Snake River salmon and steelhead smolts were put on fish barges (Figure 1). The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) began evaluating fish barging

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as a mitigation option in 1968 and the US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) declared barging as the primary strategy to recover Snake River salmon stocks in 1985 citing evidence that transport would substantially increase adult returns, this led to hydrosystem fish operations aimed at maximizing smolt transportation.

Fish passage infrastructure and dam operations have changed substantially since fish barging evaluations in the 1980s. For example, before the complete installation of turbines on the Lower Snake River Dams (the last turbine installed at Lower Monumental Dam in 1981) and during the first decade of evaluations, total dissolved gas (TDG) was a significant fish health issue with TDG exceeding 140% during peak spring runoff. As turbines were installed in powerhouses and TDG reduction structures were installed in dams below spillways the TDG issue became much less of a concern.

Juvenile bypass and fish collection systems were not completed at most dams until the 1990s. The first 27 years of fish barging evaluations (e.g., 1968 – 1995) compared the survival of juvenile salmon and steelhead

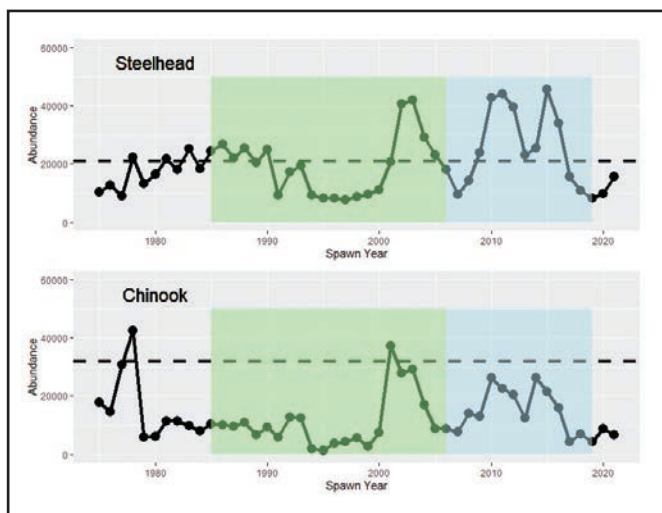


Figure 2. Abundance of wild steelhead (top) and wild Chinook salmon (bottom) at Lower Granite Dam from 1975 to 2021. The horizontal dashed line is the ESA delisting abundance for wild Snake River Steelhead (5 year mean of 21,000) and wild Chinook salmon (5 year mean of 31,750 adults). Shaded pale green rectangle shows the period when barge transportation from Lower Snake River project was nearly maximized (see Figure 8) and the shaded blue rectangle shows when barge transport was 20-40% of total wild smolts.

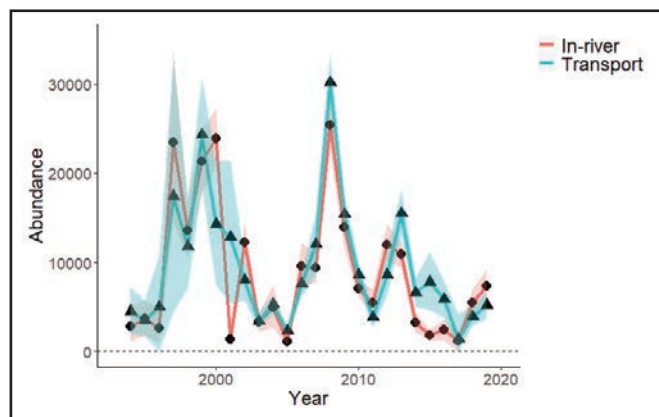


Figure 3. Modeled adult returns of Chinook Salmon by smolt migration year based on 100% transport (fish barging) versus 100% in river migration of 1 million smolts using observed survival rates.

put on barges to juveniles that experienced migration conditions through the lower Snake and Columbia rivers that was extremely unfriendly to migrating salmon and steelhead. As a result, barged fish tended to outperform fish that were not transported; however, sample sizes were small and interannual variability was high (USACE 1985; PATH 1996).

Following ESA listing of Snake River salmon National Marine Fisheries Service (later to be known as NOAA Fisheries) was required to perform an ESA consultation on dam operations in the Columbia River and potential impacts on the newly ESA listed salmon. The resulting 1995 Biological Opinion for the operation of the Columbia River dams required water to be spilled over the spillways (known as surface spill) and fish passage infrastructure improvements as a “spread the risk” strategy to avoid jeopardizing the existence of Snake River salmon and steelhead. The spread the risk strategy was employed with relatively minor changes in the proportion of water routed over spillways from 1995 – 2017.

May is the peak migration month for juvenile salmon and steelhead. Historically May also coincides with spring-runoff in the Snake, Clearwater and Salmon rivers. Variation in spill during May was primarily due to variation in volume of water passing the dam rather than changes in dam operations which lead to different proportions of Snake River salmon and steelhead collected and barged (Figure 1). A Federal Court order in 2005 increased the amount of water routed over spillways (known as spill flow) which lead to more smolts passing dams using surface routes when flows



were low. Also occurring during this period (1995-2005), infrastructure changes at the dams reduced total dissolved gas per unit water spilled and alternative surface passage routes were installed (i.e., temporary/removable spillway weirs). Additionally, fish bypass systems were completed which routed fish around turbines. These changes improved in-river conditions for migrating salmon and steelhead and decreased relative benefits of fish barging and changed the proportion of fish collected and put on barges (Figure 1).

So, what happened with adult salmon and steelhead returns over this time? Figure 2 displays adult salmon and steelhead returns with color-coded fish barging operations. The green shaded box covers the period of maximum fish barging, the blue box covers the “spread the risk operations”, and from 2017 forward is the new operation focused on pushing more fish over the spillway and putting less fish on the barge.

To help visualize the differences in survival between fish that were barged and fish that were spilled over a dam and migrated in the river we put together a figure that compares what would happen to a hypothetical 1 Million smolts that were either 100% barged or 100% migrated in the river from Lower Granite Dam and turn those into comparable adult returns. This is possible because we have known survival over time of tagged groups of fish that migrated in-river or were put on the fish barges. In Figure 3 we see that wild Chinook Salmon would have returned similar numbers of adults over the time series whether all fish were barged or all fish were left to migrate in the river with the exceptions of 2001 and 2013-2016. In some years,

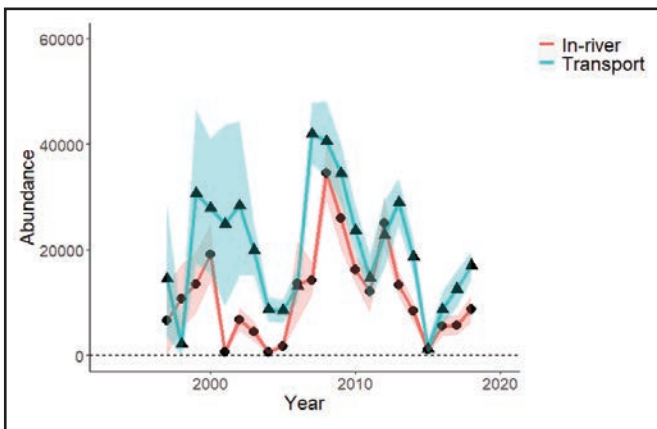


Figure 4. Modeled adult returns by smolt migration year based on 100% transport versus 100% in river migration of 1 million smolts using observed Smolt-to-Adult return rates for wild Snake River Steelhead.

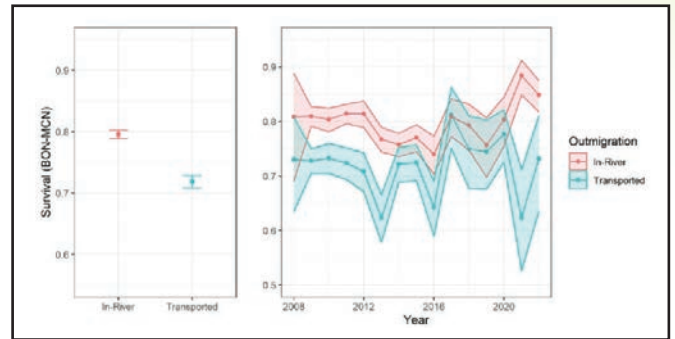


Figure 5. Upstream survival from Bonneville to McNary Dams of adult Snake River A-Run steelhead that were transported (blue) and migrated in-river as juveniles (red). Figure from Scheer (2022).

in-river migrants would have out-performed an all fish barging scenario including the years 2000, 2002, and 2012. Wild steelhead showed a different pattern where significantly more steelhead would have returned from 1997 – 2005 if all steelhead were barged (Figure 4), which was what happened in those years as most wild steelhead were transported during this period (See Figure 8). However, the advantage of fish barging declined after spillway passage was provided during low flows after 2005.

People focus a lot of the discussion on how well juveniles survive through the hydrosystem but the real metric that matters is how many adults return. One additional consideration that offsets barging benefits is that barged fish don't survive as well during upstream migration as adult fish from the ocean back to Idaho (Figure 5). From 2008 to 2022, wild steelhead that migrated in the river survived about 7% to 10% better than fish that were barged. There are a range of potential causes for the reduced adult survival but this pattern is even more extreme for Sockeye Salmon where fish that migrated downstream on a barge had only half the survival migrating upstream compared to fish that migrated in-river as juveniles.

Balancing the competing uses of the Snake and Columbia river dams is a challenging endeavor. Over the last 30 years the region has shifted mitigation efforts for juvenile salmon and steelhead from maximum fish barging, to spread the risk action, to the most recent focus where operations are designed to push a high proportion of the juvenile salmon and steelhead smolts over spillways. The maximum spill operation is relatively new and it will be years before we know the impacts of the operation on future adult salmon and steelhead returns. ■



REPRESENTATIVE  
**Lori McCann**



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**Tell us a little bit about where you grew up and where you live now.**

I was born in Milwaukie, OR and grew up there. Both of my parents were teachers. In the early 70s, my dad was offered a high school coaching job in Lewiston, so my parents and the four of us kids migrated to Idaho. I fell in love with the small community of Lewiston.

**Education?**

I graduated from Lewiston High School and went right to work. I went back to college when I had small children and graduated from the University of Idaho with a bachelor's degree in education.

After that, I taught in the legal and paralegal program at Lewis Clark State College (LCSC) in Lewiston for 15 years. Eventually, I left the college to help with the ranch.



**Tell us about your family.**

I've been married to my husband for 30 years. We have a blended family – I had two kids and he had two kids, so together we have four children, three boys and one girl. We also have 11 grandchildren, ranging in age from one to 29. They're all fun and unique. I also have a very strong faith and that's been a great blessing to me.

I have the privilege of working with my family. We have a cattle operation that is truly family run. We have a commercial cow/calf operation and a registered red angus herd. There's a lot of data and paperwork required with the registered cattle, and it's been fun to have my granddaughters help with that data collection. My favorite thing is getting my family together and working cattle – I am the chief brander.

I also drive a red semi called Ruby – you'll see me getting a load of hay with four or five grandchildren and a couple of dogs in the sleeper cab. I haul cattle,



I can pull a double with a trailer, and I can whip 110,000 lbs of truck and product down the road. I'm often the only woman out there, but I can hold my own.

We also have a commercial real estate business in Lewiston and manage some commercial properties. And my husband is a practicing attorney. We love being busy!

**What do you do in your free time?**

I'm passionate about education. I just finished a two-year term as the LCSC Foundation Board President. Our primary goal is to raise funds for scholarships. I have a real soft spot for LCSC and U of I.

I'm also on the board of Idaho Business for Education, which bridges the gap between the business community and the education system. This perspective allowed me to be heavily involved in getting Launch off the ground. I truly believe in career and technical education, and Launch is a win/win for business and for kids. [define Launch] I also serve on the Workforce Development Council and enjoy my work there.

I also serve on the Idaho Community Foundation, and as a 4-H extension advisor through the University of Idaho. All these things are tied to education and agriculture, where my true passions lie.

**What do you do for fun?**

I love to spend time with my family. We go boating and fishing together. I love to read. Anything history-based, or about the constitution or our founding fathers is interesting to me. It's funny – my dad was a history and government teacher, and growing up I didn't care much about history. Now I can't get enough of it, and I imagine dad is smiling about that.

**What one word would you use to describe yourself?**

Busy! And grateful.

Continued on next page



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**Why did you decide to run for office?**

I decided to run for the legislature because I saw things I didn't like, and I learned as a youngster that you should put your money where your mouth is. I shouldn't sit back and complain – I should step up and try to make a difference.

I'm certainly not there for the money – but I can honestly say serving in the legislature is the most fulfilling job I've had. I love it when I can help a constituent.

**How do you approach the work of the legislature?**

I don't come to the Statehouse with a personal agenda. I want to make a difference for the state and for my constituents.

I believe most answers are somewhere in the middle, and very rarely in the fringes. I'm a practical, common-sense conservative. I try hard to find solutions to real problems.

**What are some of the things you hope to accomplish during your time in the legislature?**

Two things come to mind. The first is addressing Idaho's liquor license conundrum. The communities of Lewiston and Moscow have had one new liquor license in the last 40 years. That's not right. Our smaller



communities can't compete with larger populations, so businesses aren't choosing to come in, and they can't compete without the ability to sell liquor. We have to find the right balance between not having too many licenses available, but letting our smaller communities have access to some. We need to find common ground – by bringing people together, I believe we can find a solution that works for everyone. I'm committed to doing that.

The second is finding solutions to the large animal veterinarian shortage Idaho is facing. I serve on the Large Vet Task Force. Idaho is running toward a crisis. Fifty percent of our large animal vets are over 55 years old and headed for retirement. Young kids aren't looking at large animal vet positions – it's more lucrative and easier on the body to work with small animals like dogs and cats. Kansas has a good model, where they've enticed large animal vets by offering to pay off a portion of their student loans over five years. We need to come up with a solution to this problem, maybe something similar would work here.

**What committees do you serve on?**

I'm the Vice Chair of the Education Committee, and I serve on the Agricultural Affairs and Commerce & Human Resources Committees. All three committee assignments are important to me and my background.

**What challenges do you think the state faces?**

I can think of three significant challenges facing our state. The first is our workforce. We've got to fill



the pipeline to meet the economic drive in our state. Businesses are realizing the problem and are eager for solutions – that’s one of the reasons so many businesses supported the Launch program. I was so pleased to support Launch and help get it across the finish line. Whether it’s nursing or diesel mechanics, we need people with these skills coming out of our schools, ready to work.

Second, the Republican party in Idaho is fractured. We have got to get it under control. We don’t need infighting – we need to find common ground and solutions.

Third, we’ve got to do a better job of addressing the behavioral health needs of our citizens. Recently, the state has invested some money into Idaho’s behavioral health systems – but Lewiston and Moscow still

need investment in their facilities. I don’t want our smaller, more rural communities to lose out to larger communities – I’m advocating for that and hoping to make it happen. I’ve also talked with doctors who see a significant need for more juvenile behavioral health care options.

**What do you love most about Idaho?**

I love Idaho. I love the beauty of our state and the big spaces. I love where I live – from my house, in 10 minutes I can be to my office in downtown Lewiston, or in 30 minutes I can be in the mountains. I love the geographic diversity of our state, we’ve got everything from desert to lush fields. And I love how down to earth the citizens of Idaho are. I love the people and the communities here – it’s a great place to raise a family. ■

# NRCS Farm Bill Programs Can Help Grain Growers Achieve Conservation Goals

BY MINDI RAMBO, USDA NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE, IDAHO

With a new Farm Bill on the horizon, there will be plenty of exciting changes in the coming years. In the meantime, the USDA’s Natural Resources Conservation Service will continue to assist customers following 2018 Farm Bill policies.

**A Tradition of 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 with their natural resource concerns,” said Curtis Elke, State Conservationist for NRCS Idaho. “We are excited to be part of a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to fund new, historically underserved, and cutting-edge producers in addition to our traditional customers, who have been terrific advocates for the benefits of our conservation practices.”

For 88 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.

NRCS currently has an array of tools to help producers who want to install conversation practices on their



operations. The General Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) and Classic Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) were given some added flexibilities and a “bridge” between those two programs was added by the 2018 Farm Bill. This “stepping stone” between standard conservation management and enhanced management is the Environmental Quality Incentives Program – Conservation Incentives Contract (EQIP-CIC).

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Josh Miller, Acting Assistant State Conservationist for Programs for NRCS Idaho, said “Our EQIP, EQIP-CIC and CSP programs build upon each other, enabling us to work with grain growers whether they are irrigated or dryland farmers. Get in touch with your local USDA Service center to learn how we can help you achieve you conservation, sustainability, and profitability goals at the level that makes the most sense for your particular situation.”

## 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.

## EQIP - CIC

EQIP-CIC is an enrollment option created by the 2018 Farm Bill. It provides an opportunity to implement limited EQIP practices focusing on a list of specific options. Another aspect that sets EQIP-CIC apart is that the selected practices do not have to be implemented on the entire operation, can be on only a portion of it. EQIP-CIC contracts last a total of five years, with



management practices receiving an annual payment and supporting practices paid when they are completed.

## 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 can benefit from CSP. 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.

## ACEP

For those looking to ensure that their farmland stays farmland, the Agricultural Conservation







Easement Program (ACEP) is a voluntary conservation program that protects agricultural land from conversion to non-farm uses. It also conserves and restores wetlands. Agricultural Land Easements (ALE) are a program enrollment option that keep working lands available for agriculture by protecting the farming uses or protecting grazing uses of grasslands and related conservation values. ACEP-ALE provides matching funds to eligible entity partners to purchase agricultural land easements. An ALE is a permanent easement that is recorded on your deed and stays in effect even if ownership changes. It contains provisions that protect agricultural use by limiting non-farm development. NRCS may contribute up to 50 percent of the fair market value of the agricultural land easement as determined by appraisals. If you are protecting grasslands of special environmental significance, NRCS can contribute more—up to 75 percent of the fair market value of the agricultural land easement.

To learn more about EQIP, EQIP-CIC, CSP or ACEP, 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 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 2024

#### Idaho

- EQIP Sign up 1: October 6, 2023
- EQIP Sign up 2: April 5, 2024
- CSP Sign up 1: March 1, 2024
- ACEP-ALE: Oct 13, 2024

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## IGPA GROWER PROFILE

# Tim Freeburg

WORLEY, IDAHO



### Tell us about your farm.

I farm about 6000 acres, all leased land. It's fairly diverse with timothy hay, bluegrass seed, winter and spring wheat, and canola. Occasionally, I raise garbanzo beans.

### How and when did you get into farming?

I grew up farming. My Dad and Grandpa farmed together when I was a kid and I was always around learning about it – the process, methods, what works and what doesn't. I worked my first full harvest running a combine at 12 years old, so I just finished my 33rd consecutive harvest.

### When was the operation established?

My Grandpa and Dad started farming together in the Plummer area back in the early 1980's. They had both worked for other farmers over in the Tekoa area so it was always a part of life.

Due to some interesting circumstances (my Grandpa having some health issues and my Dad deciding to pursue his diesel mechanic business full-time), I began farming on my own back in 2001. It was a steep learning curve but I didn't have to deal with the generational battle a lot of farmers have. I was free to try new technologies and farming practices with no resistance.

### Tell us about your family; who is on the farm?

Now it's just me and my 3 boys, Alexio (10), Angelo (7) and Nito (5) living on the farm. They are great boys and already helping out in any way they can. I've also been blessed with an amazing work crew that keeps the operation running strong.

### Tell us about is your upbringing?

I grew up in a small family, with my only sibling 6 years older than me, so I was basically an only child and was very independent as most farmers are. Farming, hunting, fishing and sports were huge in making me who I am today. I came to know my faith in God at a young age as well and I attribute that to the amazing life I have lived so far.



### How do you market your grain?

I try to be pretty diverse with marketing. I don't have a specific strategy, but I like to do a mix of hedge-to-arrive (HTA) grain contracts and cash sales. I typically only market 50 percent of projected grain before harvest but have been very conservative after over selling in 2021.

### Is there anything unique about your operation?

The diversity of crops is a little unique, at least in this area. We often start hay harvest in June, roll right into bluegrass harvest and then on to wheat, so we are harvesting all summer long.

### What conservation practices do you employ?

I use minimum tillage on my grain crops and perennial crops only get tilled about every five to seven years. About five years ago, I started doing a lot of drain tiling and that has made a significant improvement on erosion control.

**What are the biggest challenges in your operation?**

At this stage of life, time management is the biggest challenge. Most farmers wear many hats and I'm no exception. I'm currently homeschooling my boys, coaching their baseball teams, doing most of my own accounting, and serving on the PNW Cooperative Board of Directors. I've had to learn to delegate farm work to my employees and trust that they will do a good job so I can keep doing the things I'm passionate about.

**What are the guiding principles of your operation?**

My faith in God is what guides my farm operation as well as how I live my life. Dryland farming is a very risky business, but I have peace every day knowing my farm is in good hands, as I've seen it come to fruition many times over the years.

**What brings you the most satisfaction?**

Watching the crops grow, especially in abundant years. Once the spring planting is done, which is usually the first part of May in North Idaho, there's so much joy in checking fields every day and watching them progress. I like implementing something new on my farm every year, whether it's a new crop, variety or farming practice, so evaluating what was a success or failure is fun for me as well.



**What do you do for fun?**

Well, everything I do is pretty fun but I like to keep adding to the list. About four years ago I got my pilot's license, so flying my plane is the newest adventure and allows me to spend more time in the Idaho backcountry any chance I get. But a few others include elk hunting, fishing, coaching baseball for my boys and exploring in the mountains on side-by-sides.

**How did you get involved with IGPA?**

I think back in 2008 I was asked to take over as county president and have been involved ever since.

**What do you like most about being involved in IGPA?**

I like having a strong organization I can be a part of that will keep Idaho agriculture running for years to come. Most farmers are pretty content sitting by themselves in a tractor, but IGPA allows us a great opportunity to have our voice heard and stand up for our industry in a rapidly changing political environment. Along with that, the connections to industry partners and other farmers all over the state are amazing.

**What challenges face the U.S grain industry and the grain industry in Idaho?**

The rising cost of production is a big concern of mine. Our fertilizer, fuel and off-coast rates keep increasing while the price of wheat can't seem to maintain a higher price. The PNW raises some of the highest quality wheat in the world so I know there will always be a demand for it, but farmers need to be compensated fairly in order to maintain a sustainable business operation.

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

There's a lot of uncertainty in the world political environment right now, but the bottom line is everyone needs to eat. Idaho is one of the few pro-farming states and I think if we fight to preserve that, we will emerge as the top wheat producing state in the country and our wheat will be in high demand all over the world. ■

# Idaho Wheat and Idaho Grain Producers Association Host 2023 Legislative Tour Focused on Wheat Exports

Through the support of grower dollars, Idaho Wheat Commission (IWC) and Idaho Grain Producers Association (IGPA) hosted members of the Idaho Legislature and wheat industry partners during this year's PNW Legislative Export Tour. This tour provides law makers with an in-depth look at Idaho's wheat industry, from production and research to policy issues like dam preservation and the importance of waterways as an avenue for transportation.

During this tour, legislators from across the state were able to visit the Wheat Marketing Center in Portland, where they got to see firsthand the research and testing that goes on behind the scenes to promote wheat grown in Idaho and the Pacific Northwest. Conversations with representatives from U.S. Wheat Associates and a tour of the United Grain export facility highlighted Idaho's wheat in overseas markets, a critical component of Idaho's economy as 50% of Idaho's wheat is exported. A stop at Shaver Transportation and a tugboat ride down the Willamette River was a memorable way to talk about barging and the value of the Columbia Snake River System.

"This event provided a valuable platform for both organizations to educate legislators and industry partners about the significance of the river transportation system to Idaho wheat growers," said Ty Iverson, President of IGPA. "It also gave an opportunity to showcase the important work conducted at the Wheat Marketing Center. Collaborative efforts will help promote and address the needs of wheat growers."



Ensuring their concerns are heard and considered in legislative decisions." "IWC partners with the Wheat Marketing Center to offer the highest quality wheat to our customers and to provide opportunities for our customers to learn how to get the most out of U.S. wheat classes for their end use products," said Bill Flory, IWC commissioner and WMC Board Chairman. "This tour and the one we do in January with growers provides a hands-on experience for participants to see what happens to wheat after it leaves the farm and why customers require certain quality characteristics in the wheat they purchase."

This year's participants were Senators Carrie Semmelroth (D; Boise) and Tammy Nichols (R; Middleton). Representatives Jack Nelsen (R; Jerome), Christopher Mathias (D; Boise), Dan Garner (R; Clifton) and Clay Handy (R; Burley). Chanel Tewalt from Idaho State Department of Agriculture and others within the Idaho agriculture industry also joined IWC commissioners and staff as well as the IGPA executive board members and staff on tour. ■

## Governor Little Appoints New Wheat Commissioner

Governor Brad Little appointed Cliff Tacke, Greencreek, to serve a five-year term as a commissioner of the Idaho Wheat Commission. Tacke replaces Bill Flory, Winchester, representing Idaho's wheat growers from Adams, Boise, Clearwater, Gem, Idaho, Lewis, Nez Perce, Payette, Valley, and Washington counties in District 2.



"Cliff brings a unique set of experiences with him to the Commission," said Britany Hurst Marchant,

Idaho Wheat Commission Executive Director. "As a Commission, we take what we've learned from previous commissioners and add the wisdom, experiences, and perspectives of newly appointed commissioners in our discussions and decisions to serve Idaho's farm families better than we have been. I'm confident Cliff's insights will benefit the Idaho Wheat Commission and Idaho's wheat-growing families."

Cliff and his wife, Sue, grow wheat, barley, hay, and mustard in Idaho County where they have farmed for several years, first with Cliff's father and now with their son, Clark. ■

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# Wheat and Milling Organizations Support Recent Wheat Donation And Protecting U.S. International Food Security Program

BY U.S. WHEAT ASSOCIATES

Organizations representing Pacific Northwest wheat growers and the U.S. milling industry are celebrating the latest Food for Peace donation of 28,000 metric tons of U.S. soft white (SW) wheat (above). On August 15, 2023, longshoremen at the Port of Longview, Wash., loaded the wheat on the U.S.-flag vessel “Liberty Glory” now bound for the Arabian Peninsula in the Middle East to help alleviate one of the worst hunger emergencies on the planet.

U.S. wheat farmers, U.S. Wheat Associates (USW), the National Association of Wheat Growers (NAWG), and the North American Millers’ Association (NAMA) have been partners in U.S. international food assistance programs for 70 years. Since 2020, in fact, the American people have donated more than 1 million metric tons of wheat and millions of dollars in food aid every year. The soft white wheat donation loaded Aug. 15 was grown in Washington state, Oregon, and Idaho.

The U.S. has a long history of administering the largest, most diverse, reliable, safe, and effective food assistance programs in the world. Today, the worst hunger crisis in a generation makes U.S. support of food aid programs more important than ever. Yet humanitarian programs like USAID’s Food for Peace program are under intense pressure from some policymakers seeking to cut program funding and divert resources away from emergency hunger needs. In July 2023, USW, NAWG, and NAMA sent a letter with 128 other organizations urging lawmakers to support international food aid programs.

## From American Farmers to the World

Full funding for Food for Peace and other U.S. food assistance programs is critical to addressing the substantial humanitarian feeding needs around the world. Food for Peace demonstrates the success of starting American foreign policy at home, with American farmers and industry, and ending with food in the hands of those who need it the most.

“The U.S. food and agricultural community are unique stakeholders in the international food aid



conversation,” Kansas wheat farmer Ron Suppes said in congressional testimony after visiting Kenya and Tanzania on a trip to monitor U.S. wheat food aid programs in 2017 (photo above). “I want to see us continue our trend of excellence in providing food aid to the countries that need it most.”

Additionally, wheat growers and the milling industry applauded the introduction of the American Farmers Feed the World Act in June 2023. This legislation would “put the food back into food aid” by restoring Food for Peace to its roots as a purely in-kind commodity donation program and requiring that at least half of all Food for Peace funds be used to purchase American commodities and ship them overseas, minimizing administrative costs and restoring accountability and transparency.

“U.S. millers are proud of the role they play in alleviating world hunger through food aid. Today’s wheat shipment is a moving reminder of the need to both protect Food for Peace from harmful budget cuts and support the American Farmers Feed the World Act to ensure Food for Peace funding goes toward feeding as many people as possible in this time of unprecedented hunger,” said NAMA Senior Director of Government Affairs Kim Cooper.

“This recent donation of U.S. wheat symbolizes our commitment to combating hunger and fostering global



food security,” said Nicole Berg, a Washington wheat farmer and Past President of the National Association of Wheat Growers. “During a journey to Kenya and Tanzania in 2019, I saw firsthand the effects of these life-changing programs and U.S. commodities. In testimony before Congress I shared the story of a man I met there who emphasized his community

is always so happy with the high quality of the U.S. food and wheat flour they receive. NAWG encourages lawmakers to protect funding for Food for Peace and include the American Farmers Feed the World Act as part of the Farm Bill to help feed the world with high-quality American wheat and continue paving the way for excellence in food security and assistance.” ■

## Idaho Wheat Commissioner Among New Officers Seated at U.S. Wheat Associates Annual Board Meeting

Clark Hamilton, Ririe, will serve as the vice chairman of the U.S. Wheat Associates (USW) for fiscal year 2024. Clark was elected during the USW board meeting in February in Washington, D.C. He previously served as the secretary/treasurer of the organization. The terms for the USW executive officers team run from July to June.

Hamilton and his wife, Kristi, own Hamilton Triple C Farms, a 6,000-acre diversified family farm in Eastern Idaho that they operate with their two sons. Hamiltons grow four wheat classes, barley, potatoes, pulses, canola, and alfalfa.

“I feel incredibly fortunate to be able to do what I love every day and work alongside family,” Clark said. He joined his dad on the farm more than 30 years ago and now his two sons work with him full time. “Success, for me, is keeping our farm sustainable so that my grandkids, who love to ride in the combine with me and their dads already, can continue this legacy we’ve built together. I believe it is my responsibility to improve and preserve the future of farming so my grandkids will have the option to make a living and a life on the farm.”

Hamilton is currently an Idaho Wheat commissioner, appointed by Governor C.L. “Butch” Otter in 2015 and reappointed by Governor Brad Little in 2020. From 2010-2013 Clark was a member of the executive board of the Idaho Grain Producers Association (IGPA) and was elected president of IGPA in 2013. He was a USW board member from 2015 until his election to the USW executive committee last year. Hamilton was a board member of the Ririe Grain and Feed Cooperative for many years and remains active in volunteer leadership roles in his community.

USW is the export market development organization for the U.S. wheat industry, promoting the reliability, quality, and value of all six U.S. wheat classes to



wheat buyers, millers, bakers, food processors, and government officials in more than 100 countries. Clark has represented the United States wheat industry on several trade missions around the world and has hosted many trade teams on his farm in Ririe from Asia and South America. “Through these experiences I have seen firsthand the importance of the personal connection between the wheat producer and the customer. Despite all the technology in the world today, nothing beats a handshake and a shared meal,” said Hamilton. “Our relationships with overseas customers are critical in this increasingly competitive global market where U.S. wheat is rarely the lowest cost source. Growers have to be more involved in these efforts because we know our product better than anyone.

Michael Peters of Okarche, Oklahoma was seated as the 2023-24 chairman of US Wheat Associates (USW) board of directors along with the board’s other new officers at the annual meeting in Minneapolis, Minnesota earlier this summer.

Peters accepted the USW chairman’s gavel from 2022-23 Chair Rhonda Larson of East Grand Forks, Minnesota. Jim Pellman of McClusky, North Dakota starts his term as secretary-treasurer. ■



# Idaho Wheat Commission Increases Wheat Grower Assessments

During the Idaho Wheat Commission (IWC) special budget meeting on June 7, 2023, commissioners unanimously approved a wheat assessment increase from \$0.035 to \$0.045 per bushel beginning July 1, 2023. The last wheat assessment increase was in 2012.

“If we are going to continue to invest in our future and the work we are doing as a commission, we have to recognize that costs are increasing, and we have to step up and meet those costs,” said Clark Hamilton, Idaho Wheat Commission Chair and Ririe farmer. “It’s not easy to accept, but raising the assessment is needed to move forward and continue the important work done by the commission on behalf of the industry for the past 65 years.”

IWC is a self-governing, quasi state agency, whose mission is to develop markets for Idaho wheat growers, invest in wheat research, and provide outreach and education to Idaho’s wheat-growing families. IWC fulfills its mission through an assessment paid at the first point of sale by the state’s wheat farmers. The increase in assessment will allow the commission to continue providing critical programs designed to increase grower profitability and sustain Idaho’s wheat industry for generations to come.

“I am and have always been fiscally conservative,” said IWC Vice Chair Wayne Hurst of Burley. “I hate raising taxes, but I think it is justified and defensible to increase the assessment by a penny at this point. As a grower, the return I receive from my checkoff dollars is significant and as a commissioner, it is important to maintain that return on investment for other growers.”

IWC leverages grower dollars to support other industry organizations, including the Idaho Grain Producers Association, National Association of Wheat Growers, U.S. Wheat Associates, and the Wheat Marketing Center. Additionally, IWC funds an array of research projects through the University of Idaho, Utah State University, and the United States Department of Agriculture Agricultural Research Service (USDA-ARS).

“As a commission we have been able to operate within the three-and-a-half cent assessment since it was last increased in 2012, but the costs of doing business

are higher,” District 1 commissioner, “Genesee Joe” Anderson, commented. “We see the impacts of inflation everywhere; as a result, the timing is right to increase the assessment by one cent.”

Idaho wheat farmers plant 1.2 million acres of winter and spring wheat each year and harvest, on average, 100 million bushels of wheat. The assessment was increased from \$0.02 to \$0.035 in 2012 and at the same time the Idaho Legislature granted IWC the authority to increase the assessment up to \$0.05.

“I firmly believe the Wheat Commission is doing beneficial things for Idaho wheat farmers,” commented Commissioner Cory Kress of Rockland. “Those investments are costing more, but the benefits should also increase in tandem. As commissioners, we’ve come to the conclusion that raising the assessment is what has to be done to continue doing those things that benefit farmers and that result in a positive net return for the farmers who pay the assessment.”

Britany Hurst Marchant, IWC Executive Director, agreed. “Unfortunately, dollars today just don’t go as far as they did ten years ago or even two years ago. To be able to maintain the mission of the Commission and continue the programs for growers and the industry – market development, research, and grower outreach and education – the assessment needed to be increased.”

IWC increased their operating budget by one percent for the 2024 fiscal year, but inflation has increased the operating costs and budgetary requests of partner organizations for programs important to the wheat industry. The increase of the assessment will prevent IWC from reducing investments in these critical programs.

“This is not a decision the Commission took lightly or made quickly,” Bill Flory, IWC commissioner and farmer from Winchester reassured. “These funds keep Idaho growers competitive and profitable in a very dynamic world market. The Wheat Commission has always taken the fiduciary responsibility to our growers seriously and will continue to do so into the future.”

The one cent increase will generate approximately \$900,000 more per year for IWC. ■





## Spring Wheat Variety Survey

The Idaho Wheat Commission conducts planting surveys in November and July to understand which varieties have been planted throughout the state. Survey questions ask for three pieces of data: name of the varieties, acres planted by variety, and county of plantings. The information shared is confidential and data is aggregated across counties in each production region. Production is reported as a percentage of the total acres



reported on the survey. Many industry stakeholders use data collected in the wheat survey. Breeders judge the acceptance of their varieties, seed dealers judge the amount of seed they need to produce, grain buyers see which districts are growing desired varieties, and growers are informed of new varieties being grown in their area.

If you are growing spring wheat in Idaho, we need your participation. Use this QR code by opening the camera app on your smartphone and holding the camera over the code to open the survey.

Thank you to all who participate. ■

## Idaho Wheat Commission Service Ends for Bill Flory

Bill Flory completed his second term as a commissioner for the Idaho Wheat Commission (IWC) on June 30, 2023. Bill was first appointed to the Commission in 2010 by Governor C.L. “Butch” Otter. He was reappointed in 2013 and again in 2018. He represented wheat-growing families in Adams, Boise, Clearwater, Gem, Idaho, Lewis, Nez Perce, Payette, Valley, and Washington counties.



Bill is a graduate of the University of Idaho where he earned a degree in business finance. He has been farming since 1976, managing a fourth-generation diversified farm in northcentral Idaho near Winchester growing four classes of wheat, as well as malt barley, oats, bluegrass, canola, garbanzo beans, and hay. Bill has been involved in a variety of local, state, and national agricultural activities for more than 40 years, including serving as the president of the Idaho Grain Producers Association, president of the National Association of Wheat Growers, and as chairman of the Idaho Wheat Commission twice. Bill was the board chairman of the Wheat Marketing Center in Portland, Oregon for several years and on the U.S.

Wheat Associates board of directors. Flory is a member of The Bennett Farm Foundation and serves on the founding board of the Soil Health Initiative. He is also a member of the Barker Trading board of directors at the University of Idaho. “Bill Flory has served extremely well, and we are grateful for his dedicated service to the Idaho wheat industry,” said Wayne Hurst, IWC Chairman.

During his tenure as a commissioner, Bill was committed to spending wheat grower dollars wisely. Ensuring growers throughout the state received a return on their investment through research, education, and market development was a priority for Bill. “Balancing fiscal responsibility while focusing on improving the industry and ensuring sustainability for Idaho’s wheat-growing families was a trademark of Bill Flory,” said Britany Hurst Marchant, IWC Executive Director. “Bill would often say, ‘all politics are local’ but he also saw the global picture and was a tremendous ambassador with overseas customers on behalf of wheat grown in Idaho and across the United States.”

“Bill is passionate about agriculture, and he has served diligently as a commissioner for Idaho Wheat,” said Clark Hamilton, past Idaho Wheat Commission Chair. “He is a true gentleman and provided an insight and experience that was a benefit to the entire industry, not just the farmers he represented in District 2. He was always a pleasure to serve with.” ■

# WHAT YOU CAN DO WITH PROTECTED VARIETIES

PROTECTION	BROWN BAG (SAVE BACK SEED)	RESALE	PROTECTION TERM
NO PLANT VARIETY PROTECTION ACT (PVPA)*	No limit on how much seed a grower can save and sell	Seed sold commercially must be sold by variety name	None
PVPA AND TITLE V**	Grower may save enough to plant on farm but no saved seed can be sold	No resale allowed unless intended use on own farm plans change and then only by variety and certified seed	20 years
PVPA BUT NO TITLE V	Grower may save enough to plant on farm	No resale allowed unless intended use on own farm plans change and then only by variety	20 years
PATENT	Grower cannot save seed for any planting or commercial purposes	Not permitted	20 years
SEED SALES AGREEMENT***	Typically no save back seed	Typically no resale, based on individual agreement	Specified in agreement. Typically for one- time use of seed purchased

\*PVPA created a voluntary program to provide patent-like rights to developers, breeders and owners of plant varieties to encourage development of new varieties, recover research costs and allow 20-year protection.

\*\*Title V was an amendment to the Federal Seed Act, with the same protections as PVPA except the variety must be resold as a class of certified seed and by variety name.

\*\*\* Seed Sales Agreement overrides all other protections



## Scholarship Recipients

The Idaho Wheat Commission funds scholarships to help students in their pursuit of higher education towards careers in the agriculture industry. The mission of Idaho Wheat Commission is to develop markets for Idaho wheat growers, invest in advancement of wheat research, and provide wheat grower education. This year we had two award recipients who will use their scholarship money for the 2023-2024 academic year.

### Hayden Maupin

My name is Hayden Maupin, I'm from a small town in Eastern Idaho called Ashton. I grew up on a multi-generational farm that grows certified seed potatoes, wheat, barley, and alfalfa. Some of my hobbies are snowmobiling, dirt biking, and fishing with my friends. After I graduate from Utah State University with a degree in Agriculture Systems Technology with an emphasis in farm and ranch operations, I would like to return to my family's farm and work my way up to ownership. I



really appreciate the scholarship and am grateful to the Idaho Wheat Commission for sponsoring this scholarship.

### Stryder Childs

My name is Stryder Childs, and I am from Caldwell, Idaho. I was born and raised in agriculture and have known no other way of life. From a young age, I can always remember changing water, riding in the tractor, and loving life on the farm. My family and I grow wheat, corn, and mint in the Treasure Valley. I am currently attending Utah State University, majoring in Agribusiness, and minoring in Agronomy. Farm management and the business of agriculture are the fields I wish to pursue. I want to thank the Idaho Wheat Commission for this generous scholarship and the chance to help me improve my education in agriculture. This blessing will not be wasted as I will put it to use in helping give back to the thing we all love, agriculture. ■



## Idaho Wheat Commission Unveils New Logo

The agriculture industry plays a vital role in our society, providing us with food and resources necessary for our daily lives. Recently, Idaho Wheat Commission (IWC) unveiled a new logo that symbolizes the state's agricultural excellence and commitment to providing top-quality wheat. This new logo is an exciting development for IWC and marks a significant step forward for the commission, providing a renewed focus on promoting the industry and ensuring its continued success. ■





# One for the Books! Record Barley Crop Verified for Mix Miller Farms

## New Barley Yield Contest to Begin in 2024

BY LAURA WILDER, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, IDAHO BARLEY COMMISSION

2023 planting started late for most Idaho barley growers due to an usually cold, wet spring and most didn't have high hopes for 2023 crop yields; then, with improved growing conditions by late June things started to shift.

Scoular Barley MVP grower Dustin Miller of Mix Miller Farms near Jerome said, "this year's barley yields were a surprise." After not being able to get in the fields until April, planting three weeks behind schedule, he anticipated a mediocre harvest this season. "The barley started really filling out in early summer though and the high yields definitely exceeded expectations."

"The combine was reading yields of 200 to 240 bushels per acre so we thought the sensor was off," he said. "We have a scale on our grain cart so we recalibrated, finding the combine was only .3 percent off. We then knew we had a great crop and contacted Brett Wilken with Scoular to see the field." This field for Mix Miller Farms was verified at a yield of 200.97 bushels per acre for irrigated spring barley, establishing an official record barley yield for Idaho growing Coors M-179. The Millers grow for Scoular Barley MVP and Coors.

Since there is currently no state or national barley yield competition, Wilken decided to verify the yield using the same protocol as is used for the National Wheat Yield Contest managed by the National Wheat Foundation and use this barley yield as a baseline for starting a National Barley Yield Contest in 2024. In 2022, Scoular's Barley MVP Program had 13 growers exceed 200 bushels per acre but it was an informal verification process.

The verification process patterned from the National Wheat Yield Contest used on the Miller's field included:

- Squaring off a rectangle block 1000' x 233' in the field that was exceeding 200 bushel on the yield monitor.
- The block was over 5 acres.
- Harvested 3 passes 2.92 aces, yield was 206.3 on initial check.



Scoular Barley MVP growers (L to R), Preston Miller, Dustin Miller and Ken Miller of Mix Miller Farms have established a record spring barley yield and look forward to a National Barley Yield Contest in 2024. Darren Miller is not pictured.

- Harvested the balance of the field, overall average was 200.97.
- 1075 bushel off 5.348 acres.
- Witnessed by Kathy Williams with Idaho Crop Improvement plus Brett Wilken and Doug Keeling of Scoular. Williams enjoyed being a part of the process and rode the combine during a portion of the harvesting.
- Variety: Coors M-179
- Test Weight 55.05 lbs

"By promoting barley production through a yield contest, we can create excitement around the crop and encourage growers to adopt new production practices that can lead to better yields and increased profitability," Wilken said. "This can lead to increased demand for barley as a crop, which can benefit not only farmers but also the entire barley industry, including feed, food and malt."

"In addition to promoting the crop, a barley yield contest could also provide an opportunity for networking



and knowledge sharing among growers, researchers, and industry professionals, Wilken added. “This could help foster a sense of community around the crop, which can further enhance its profile and encourage greater adoption. Overall, starting a barley yield contest could be a valuable way to promote the crop and encourage greater adoption, while also fostering innovation and knowledge sharing within the industry.”

Miller agrees. He said, “a National Barley Yield Contest would be fun for growers and give incentive to improve production practices and increase yields. We will definitely be trying to out do ourselves and keep the record!”

According to Miller, “higher yields have become necessary to remain profitable due to continually higher input costs.” He credits switching to a new planter with narrow seed spacing five years ago to improved yields on their farm. “We are using 20 percent less seed while increasing yields and improving plant health,” he said.

“We’ve been working to improve our barley production for 30 years. It’s nice to see our efforts pay off.”

Idaho is the top barley producing state in the U.S., growing 34 percent of the nations crop in 2022. Barley is a major crop in the world and the U.S., yet there has never been a process to collect, verify data and recognize farmers who produce excellent, high yielding barley in the U.S. or Idaho. Both wheat and corn have processes to establish record yields, but barley currently does not.

“This year will establish a baseline and give farmers a target to exceed moving forward,” said Wilken “Scoular would like to promote a National Barley Yield Contest moving forward and will work in cooperation with the Idaho Barley Commission to establish the contest to begin in 2024.”

For more information about Scoular Barley MVP, contact Brett Wilken at [bwilken@scoular.com](mailto:bwilken@scoular.com). To give input on a National Barley Yield Contest, contact Laura Wilder at [lwilder@barley.idaho.gov](mailto:lwilder@barley.idaho.gov). ■

## JC Olson Appointed as New Idaho Barley Commission Industry Representative

The Idaho Barley Commission (IBC) has appointed JC Olson, Barley Products Group Manager for Scoular, to a three-year term as Industry Representative for the Commission effective July 1.

IBC is governed by a board of four Commissions – three growers from throughout the state appointed by the Governor, and the Industry Representative selected by the three grower commissioners. Olson will be eligible to be reappointed for one additional term in three years. The three grower commissioners are Josh Jones of Troy, District 1; Mike Wilkins of Rupert, District 2; and Allen Young of Blackfoot, District 3.

Olson, based in the Twin Falls Scoular office, brings a wealth of knowledge and deep passion for the barley



JC Olson of Scoular has been appointed to a 3-year term as the Industry Representative for the Idaho Barley Commission.



JC Olson helping host a Japanese food barley team in Jerome in 2018. He brings a wealth of barley industry knowledge and experience to his new role as Industry Representative for the Idaho Barley Commission.

industry to the board. In his current position where his sole focus is barley and barley products, he is focused on delivering solutions and opportunities to the marketplace by commercializing sustainable trends in the food and ag industry.

Continued on next page



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He is also the Emerge Program Manager for the company where he oversees project development for their first of its kind barley processing facility in Jerome making a unique barley protein concentrate and barley syrup.

“I am excited for the opportunity to support the nation’s top barley growers while protecting our robust malt industry and promoting access to markets for this versatile crop,” said Olson.

Olson earned a B.S degree in Animal Science from Utah State University, an M.B.A in Food and Agribusiness from the Royal Agricultural College in Cirencester, England, and an M.S. degree in Applied Economics from Utah State University. He has also been active in his community and the barley industry serving on the Jerome Board of Directors and Executive Committee, the Jerome County Fair Board, the National Barley Improvement Committee, and with 4-H and other community organizations. ■

## Jason Boose and Kathy Satterfield Presented Idaho Barley Service Awards

During their June meeting in Aberdeen, the Idaho Barley Commission (IBC) recognized two individuals with the Idaho Barley Service Award for outstanding service to the Idaho barley industry. Outgoing Idaho Barley Commission Industry Representative Jason Boose was honored, along with Kathy Satterfield of USDA-ARS in Aberdeen.

Boose, Regional Manager for the MolsonCoors Barley Program, was selected as the IBC Industry Representative in July 2019 and served in the post until June 30.

Boose has worked in the industry since 2009 when he started his career as an Elevator Specialist for Miller-Coors. He worked his way up in the company through Elevator Supervisor and Regional Supervisor positions to his current role where he is responsible for managing teams and operations, as well as barley procurement for the company in Idaho and Wyoming.

Besides his responsibilities as an Idaho Barley Commissioner, Boose served as an IBC delegate to the U.S.

Grains Council where he was a member of the Western Hemisphere A-Team, as well as a National Barley Improvement Committee member where he was involved in federal barley research advocacy.



Jason Boose, left, was presented the Idaho Barley Service Award by IBC Chairman at the June IBC meeting in Aberdeen.

Satterfield started working at the National Small Grains



Kathy Satterfield, center, was presented the Idaho Barley Service Award by Idaho Barley Commissioners (L to R) Josh Jones, Mike Wilkins, Allen Young and Jason Boose at the June IBC meeting in Aberdeen.

Research Facility in Aberdeen in September 1989 with Dr. Phil Bregitzer. In 1990, she was hired full-time with Dr. An Hang, the cytogeneticist and curator of the Barley Genetic Stock Collection under the University of Idaho Research Support Agreement. In 2001, her position was converted to the USDA and she became a permanent USDA employee. When Dr. Hang retired in 2007, the barley breeder at the time, Dr. Don Obert asked her to work on the Barley and Oat Breeding Project where she remains today working with Dr. Gongshe Hu.

Satterfield has been instrumental to the overall success of the USDA Barley Breeding Program and has led efforts on a number of food barley lines. IBC recognized Satterfield for 34 years of service in Aberdeen and especially applauds her work with the USDA-ARS Barley Breeding Program.

The Idaho Barley Commission expresses great appreciation to Boose and Satterfield for their thoughtful, dedicated service to the Idaho Barley Industry. ■

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