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Idaho Grain Producers Honor Four, Elect Officers at Annual Convention

(Coeur d'Alene, ID) The Idaho Grain Producers Association (IGPA) recognized four individuals for their contributions to the Idaho grain industry and elected new officers as part of a bi-state annual convention held December 1-3 in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho.

The 2009 Oregon-Idaho Grains Conference featured three days of keynote speakers, educational workshops, and an exhibit hall of agribusinesses in addition to an awards presentation and naming a new slate of officers for 2010.

Honored by Idaho's wheat and barley farmers were University of Idaho Lewis County extension educator Ken Hart, University of Idaho Nez Perce County cereal agronomist Larry Smith, Magic Valley agriculture reporter Cindy Snyder, and former farmer and grain leader Evan Hayes of Soda Springs.

Hart, Associate Professor for the University of Idaho Lewis County extension office, received the IGPA's "*Outstanding Extension Educator*" award for his long-time service and volunteerism with Lewis and Idaho County grain producers.

Receiving the "*Outstanding Extension Educator/Lifetime Achievement*" award was Larry Smith of Nez Perce County. Smith, a 29-year cereal agronomist for the University of Idaho extension system, recently retired with an exemplary record of support and dedication to grain producers in the North-Central Idaho area.

Snyder, an agriculture reporter for the Magic Valley Times-News and Capital Press, was honored with the "*Outstanding Agriculture Journalist*" honoring her commitment to accurately and effectively relaying the story and activities of Idaho wheat and barley farmers.

The "*Lifetime Achievement*" award was presented to Evan Hayes. Now retired from his Soda Springs-based wheat and barley farm, Evan's service to Idaho's grain industry has spanned over 20 years, including posts as president of the IGPA and National Barley Growers Association, and state director for Caribou County grain growers.

In addition to the awards presentation, the IGPA formally installed its 2010 executive officer team. The elected officers include president Scott Brown (Soda Springs), vice president Clark Kauffman (Filer), Secretary-Treasurer Joseph Anderson (Genesee), past president Eric Hasselstrom (Winchester), and executive member Clark Hamilton (Ririe).

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