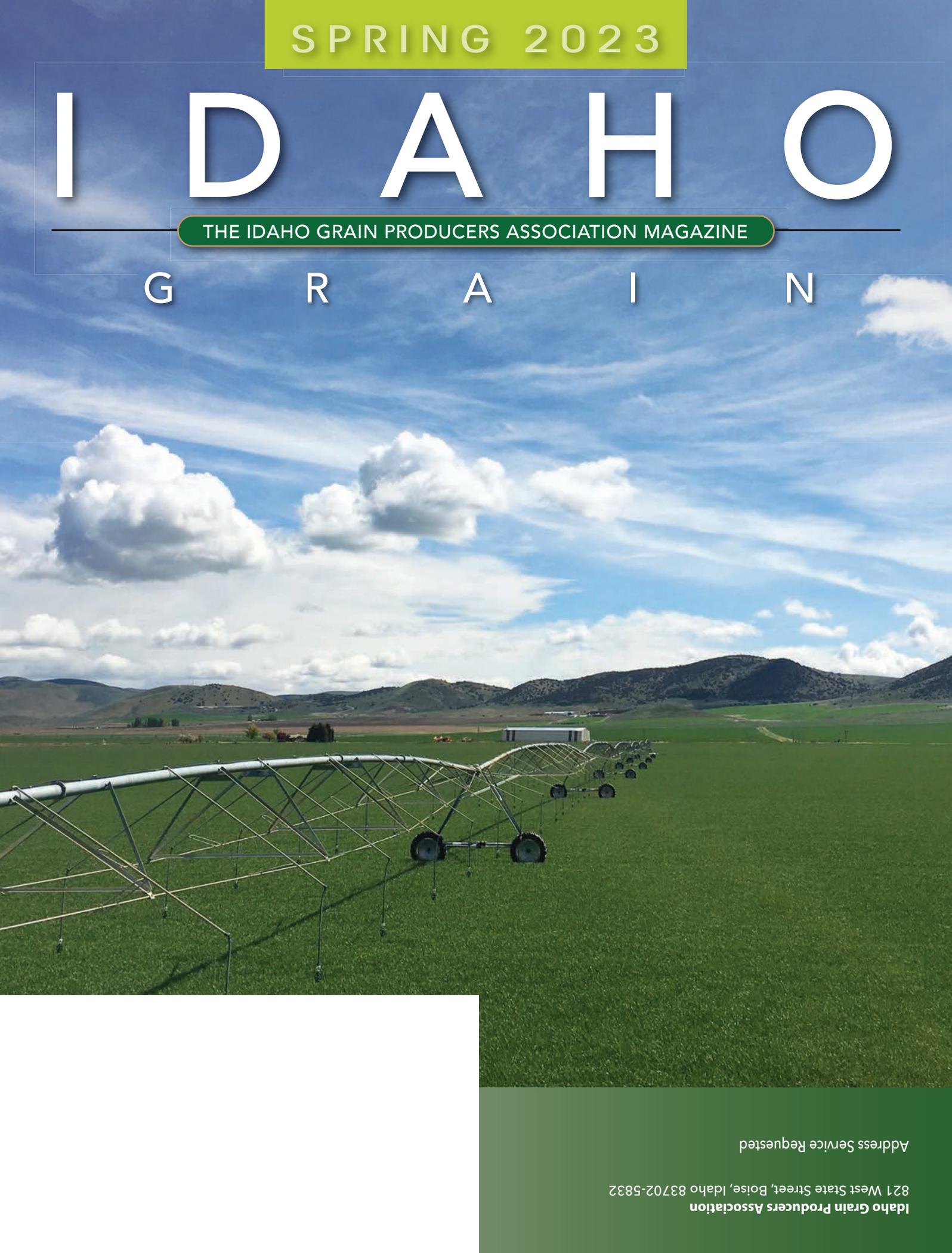


SPRING 2023

# IDAHO

THE IDAHO GRAIN PRODUCERS ASSOCIATION MAGAZINE

G R A I N



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# VIEWS



**BY TY IVERSON**  
**PRESIDENT**

Winter greetings from Bonners Ferry, Idaho, also referred to as “Canada South” by some of my southern Idaho friends! For those of you who don’t know me, my name is Ty Iverson and I was elected to serve a one-year term as President of the Idaho Grain Producers in December. My family and I farm about 3,000 acres of dryland wheat, barley, canola, hay, and grass in seed in the beautiful Kootenai Valley of Boundary County, about 15 miles south of the Canadian Border.

As you probably know, IGPA is a grass-roots organization that focuses on issues affecting the grain industry, from the local level all the way up to the national scale. My first priority as your President is to work with our national affiliates, the National Association of Wheat Growers (NAWG) and the National Barley Growers Association (NBGA) to get a Farm Bill passed this year. IGPA members have been busy in Washington, D.C. for the past two weeks working with these organizations to educate our leaders at the national level on the importance and timeliness of this issue. Our meetings with Idaho’s congressional delegation have been very productive, but NAWG and NBGA have their work cut out for them. The high turnover in Congress the past few years presents a challenge for educating members on the importance of the Farm Bill. In the Senate, 21 out of 100 Senators have never voted on a Farm Bill, and in the House, 201 out of 435 members have never voted on a Farm Bill. Furthermore, only 14 of the 27 members of the House Ag Committee are from NAWG states. This underscores the importance that our national affiliates play in influencing policies developed in DC that affect us on our farms.

While we’ve been busy working on issues in DC, the work never stops here at home in Idaho either. Our Executive Director and Lobbyist, Stacey Satterlee, has been working tirelessly at the Statehouse in Boise on our behalf. We have reached the halfway point of the legislative session (hopefully), and IGPA is closely monitoring legislation related to fencing laws, noxious weeds, and taxes, among many other issues. We are looking forward to our Board Meeting and legislative events in Boise in late February, which will provide us with opportunities to meet and visit with our state legislators.

I’m humbled and honored to be serving as your president for the next few months. My father is a past president of IGPA, and my grandfather served a term as President of NAWG, so you could say that service to the grain industry is in my blood. I feel very fortunate to be surrounded by an incredible staff and executive board as we face the challenges before us in the upcoming year. We work for you, the grain growers of Idaho, so please do not hesitate to reach out to myself or any other board members or staff with any questions or concerns. ■

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# EDITOR'S NOTE



**BY STACEY KATSEANES SATTERLEE**  
**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

What an amazing experience it was last week to have been able to take growers back to Washington, DC again. For the past few years, meetings have either been cancelled, moved to virtual, or we've been unable to access Hill or agency offices – until this year. The work IGPA does with the National Association of Wheat Growers and the National Barley Growers Association in our nation's capital is so important – and it's exciting to see wheat and barley growers from Idaho experience it first-hand. Also, as someone who lived and worked in DC for 10 years, it's fun to show people around the city, take them to the House and the Senate and through the Capitol, and to delicious restaurants. You can read about the growers who participated in IGPA's mentorship program this year starting on the next page. And I'd be remiss if I didn't thank the Idaho Barley Commission, the Idaho Wheat Commission, and NBGA for their financial support of this program. If you're interested in going to Washington, DC with IGPA on our next trip, let staff or an e-board member know – we'd love to have you join us.

In addition to spending time in DC, things have been busy in Boise this spring with the legislative session in full swing. There's a significant number of new faces in the legislature, due largely to redistricting and retirements – there are 40 new legislators among the 105. This made for a little bit of a slow start to the session – but since then, things have really taken off. Members of the Joint Finance and Appropriation Committee have been busy listening to budget presentations and are going to start setting budgets. The state has a \$1.5 billion surplus – so as you can imagine, there have been plenty of legislative proposals on how we spend it, including multiple proposals on property tax relief.

It's funny when I think about it, our schedules are almost the exact opposite. When you all are farming, you're busy so we're not holding board meetings. But from about October to March, generally when you all are out of the field, it's IGPA staff's busy season—our "harvest," if you will—and things are hopping. We are busy every day at both the Idaho Statehouse and in Washington, DC, advocating on behalf of Idaho's wheat and barley growers on all kinds of issues that impact you – from taxes to fences, from Farm Bill to farm inputs. We're also busy communicating about all of that, working to gain grower and industry partner members, and planning and hosting meetings and events. And then, just when things look like they might slow down a little for IGPA staff (and the legislature adjourns), you all are headed back to your tractors for spring work. Though a bit crazy at times, we all seem to make it work together – and we certainly appreciate your support and enjoy seeing you. This spring, as you prepare to head back to your fields, I hope you'll take a minute and join IGPA for 2023—check your mailbox for a mailer or join online now at [www.idahograin.org/membership](http://www.idahograin.org/membership). ■



## MENTORSHIP PROGRAM PARTICIPANT PROFILES

### Steve Samowitz

#### Tell us about your farm.

I started farming in 2007 when I bought my first small farm – then had the opportunity to join up with my in-laws and expand my farming opportunities. I currently farm with my Father-in-Law, Cousin, and kids. We have 10,000 dry land acres in Soda Springs where we grow wheat, barley, and mustard (and weeds).

#### What drew you to farming?

I grew up in Salt Lake City, and I was a city boy. I moved to Idaho in 2003 and became an accountant and worked with agriculture clients. I got to know the industry a little bit. There was an opportunity, with my wife’s grandpa getting out of farming - and we went all in.

#### Tell us about your family.

My wife Stacy and I met in high school and have been married for 21 years. We have three children – Jaren (17), Jackson (15), and Jenna (12). They’re very busy with sports and athletics and we’re busy chasing them around.

#### How do you market your grain?

We contract malt barley through Anheuser Busch and Arthur Companies. We sell mustard to Mountain States Oilseeds. We use our local elevators to help in marketing our uncontracted grain.

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



Our biggest challenge is trying to figure out how to be sustainable. Farming in a drought climate as a dry farmer is a real challenge.

#### What do you do for fun?

I farm! I chase the kids around to all their activities. Our family loves to travel and see new places. When were not too busy with farming and activities we try to travel to a new spot. We also love to ride 4-wheelers and snowmachine.

#### What did you like best about participating in IGPA’s mentorship program and traveling to Washington D.C.?

My favorite thing was seeing the political process in action – I hadn’t experienced this first-hand before. It was very interesting. It was also very cool to see how NAWG operates, to see how many people are invested in my industry, and how many people give their time and energy to move the industry forward. It gives me hope.

#### How do you see the future of the U.S. grain industry and the grain industry in Idaho?

With the ever-growing food needs of the global population the future of the US grain industry will be strong. I think with continued education and innovation, we’ll become more productive and meet the world’s ever-growing food needs. ■



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## MENTORSHIP PROGRAM PARTICIPANT PROFILES

# Larry Hollifield

### How did you get into farming and tell us about your farming operation today.

It's all I've ever done – my dad farmed, and I went to the University of Idaho—after graduation I came back to the farm because I always knew it was what I wanted to do. My Grandpa started the farm – I'm third generation. I farm in Hansen – we grow sugar beets, barley, wheat, alfalfa, dry beans, and corn.

### Tell us about your family.

I have two daughters, ages 14 and 12 – they're great, and while everyone warns you about teenage years with girls, we're having a lot of fun at this age.

### How do you market your grain?

We utilize futures and the cash market, and work through Andersons or Scoular or AgriSource.

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

Labor is a huge challenge for agriculture, myself included. As most farming operations are family-owned, family dynamics can also be a challenge.

### What do you do for fun?

I chase my girls around for their events, both sports and theater. I also love following state politics and insuring Idaho remains great.



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

In addition to becoming more involved with IGPA, I've also been involved with Farm Bureau and Leadership Idaho Agriculture – the best part of being involved is meeting different people and learning different ways to do things.



### How did you get involved with IGPA?

Not sure if it was Alex Reed or Wren Hernandez, Idaho Barley Commission staff, we were in the same LIA class – maybe I've weaseled my way in, either way I'm glad to be here.

### What did you learn/what was most surprising in D.C.?

The experience in D.C. is one I'll never forget. Stacey and Laura did an amazing job teaching us about the process and setting up meetings with Congressional staff. Even with the amount of people we had in our group, they did great guiding us through it all. The thing that surprised me most of all was how young





all the Congressional staff and aides were. Meeting barley growers from other states was fun too. They are impressed with the yield and quality we produce in Idaho. I realized that advocating for agriculture is something we must continue to do and I was glad to have the opportunity to do that.

## How do you see the future of the U.S. grain industry and the grain industry in Idaho?

I'd say I'm neutral on the future – on one hand, we'll always be here, we feed the world. On the other hand, we have real challenges with water and land use pressures. ■

## MENTORSHIP PROGRAM PARTICIPANT PROFILES

# Cody and Noel Cole

### Tell us about your farm.

C: Our farm is Double C Acres in Soda Springs. We are all dryland. As far as how many acres we farm on, I usually say it's not enough acres on good years and too many acres on bad years. We grow spring wheat, durum, malt barley, and are looking into trying some other rotations.

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

C: I've pretty much done it my whole life – I went away to college for a while, decided it was not for me, then came back to the farm to do it full time.

N: I graduated with a BS in Biology and had intentions of going into the medical field, but I fell in love working alongside Cody and the farming lifestyle.

### When was the operation established?

N: We are a generational operation. We farm alongside Cody's parents and our two young sons, Cash (8) and Cam (3). Our boys are learning to pick rocks and despise Kochia.



### Tell us about your childhood.

C: I grew up picking rocks. We farmed as a family with my mom, dad and two uncles.

N: As a young girl I grew up riding horseback following my dad around on a cattle ranch. My family moved away from the ranching lifestyle, and I found a passion for riding dirt bikes and competing in desert races.

### How did you meet your spouse?

N: Cody and I graduated from the same high school but didn't start dating until our college years. We fell

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in love driving backroads looking for rock chucks and hunting for elk sheds.

### How do you market your grain?

C: I do the marketing myself with local elevators and local mills.

### What conservation practices do you employ?

C: We work with the Natural Resources Conservation Service and participate in the Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP) for variable rate seeding and fertilizer placement. Right place, right time, right amount – when you need it, where you need it. Also, we’re big into feeding birds (ask me for pictures the next time you see me).

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

N: With our short growing season, finding crop rotations that work.

C: Logistics to access local markets. Where we sit, it’s a long way to deliver our grain. Input and equipment costs continually rising.



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

N: Our farm mantra is, “Farm like it’s going to rain tomorrow.” We don’t know what will happen tomorrow, but we hope that we will receive timely rains and know that sometimes we face storms that require us to put in extra work.

### What do you do for fun?

C: Farm. We also have dirt bikes, kayaks, and try to play golf.

### Noel, you also participated in the Bayer Leadership Program – what did you like best about that?

N: What I enjoyed most about the program is connecting with other farmers from across the nation that are passionate about this industry. We were given the tools to help us represent the industry in a positive light and connect with others in a meaningful way.





## What surprised you most about Washington, D.C.?

C: The most unexpected thing I learned was there are so many people on the Hill who are young up-and-comers. I can't get over how young all the Hill staffers are. I didn't expect that.

## Why is it important to be involved and promote your industry?

N: One of the biggest challenges agriculture faces is the disconnect from rural to urban areas. Most people don't see tractors on their way to work every day. They

don't know what farmers do – they only see the finished product at the grocery store. I really enjoy telling our farm's story. We're a small family farm that grows a product that could end up on your dinner plate, or on a plate across the world. We're not a huge corporation producing food, we're a small family farm – we still exist, and we're important.

Also, being on social media can be terrifying – I want to be the best representative of our industry, and I want to make sure what I post reflects that.

If you don't already, follow Noel @wheatat5000ft. ■

## MENTORSHIP PROGRAM PARTICIPANT PROFILES

# Eric C. Hansen

### Tell us about your farm.

I'm a Farm Director for Grant 4D Farms, LLC. We're a pretty good-sized operation – we farm about 40,000 acres between Idaho and Oregon, from Rupert to Bakers City. We grow potatoes, sugar beets, barley, wheat, silage corn, onions and hay.

### How did you get into farming and tell us about the operation today.

I grew up on the family farm and I loved it – I drove my first tractor at seven years old and I've been hooked ever since.

### Tell us about your family.

I have two daughters – 14 and 15 years old. My 14-year-old is a cheerleader and my 15-year-old is a volleyball player. Volleyball is her world. I spend a lot of time at volleyball games.

### How do you market your grain?

We watch the grain boards – we sell our wheat through AgriSource, Scoular, and Andersons. All our barley is contracted through Anheuser Busch and MolsonCoors.

### Is there anything unique about your operation?

One thing that's unique about Grant 4D Farms is that we are controlled by a fiduciary board, which means even the CEO Dwayne, who owns the majority of the stock, can be fired by the board. And no one on the board has ownership of the farm. And if anything goes



wrong, the board is also liable because of that fiduciary responsibility. It's a pretty unique set up.

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

Our biggest challenge is labor. We end up needing about 220 H2A workers each growing season – with the new laws in place, it's making it harder and harder

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to get people here to do the job. And we need the H2A workers – there is definitely not enough (or any) local help on the farm.

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

Grant 4D Farm’s mission statement is: To collaboratively grow with and for our customers through producing safe, premium quality food and feed using efficient, sustainable and socially conscious practices by:

- Cultivating a superior workforce
- Professionally managing profitable agriculture resources
- Discovering profitable opportunities through continuous critical analysis

**What do you do for fun?**

I love to wakeboard and snow mobile and go camping. And I love being on the farm, it’s kind of like a vacation every day.

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

Lucas Spratling invited me. Dwayne and Taylor Grant asked me to get involved and have a voice for us. I grew up with Lucas and know him well, so I gave him a call and here we are.



**What did you learn/what was most surprising in D.C.?**

It was a great trip. It’s really powerful to know that we do have a voice as growers and how much of an impact we can have just by showing up and voicing the issues that impact us the most. 

**MENTORSHIP PROGRAM PARTICIPANT PROFILES**

**Ryan Searle**

**How did you get into farming and tell us about your operation.**

I grew up on a family farm, went to Utah to get educated, then came back to the farm in 2011. I operated the farm with my father and uncles until 2019 when I took over the operation.

Our farm is Risk and Reward Farms in Bingham County – the name pretty much sums it up. We farm 2200 acres, growing wheat and potatoes, with an additional 600 acres of custom harvesting. We also operate Wild Adventure Corn Maze and Sunflower Patch – come visit us next fall! <https://wildadventurecornmaze.com/>





**Tell us about your family.**

My wife Bethany and I have 5 children: Caden (17), Ethan (15), Foster (12), Amelia (9), and Levi (6).

**How do you market your grain?**

I do the marketing – cash market to local elevators.

**What do you do for fun?**

I enjoy getting into the backcountry of SE Idaho and Wyoming.

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

Another grower invited me – Adam Young called and asked me to come to a county meeting. Now, I really appreciate the networking opportunities with other growers and industry members that IGPA offers.

I've since had the opportunity to go on the Multi Commodity Education Program tour (sponsored by John Deere through The Cotton Foundation) and learn about different commodities from the southern part of the country as well as the Idaho Wheat Commission's Export Marketing Tour to Portland.

I really enjoyed both of these opportunities. Visiting the Wheat Marketing Center in Portland was extremely important to me as a grower in SE Idaho to see just how much effort is put into helping with our export markets.



Getting a close-up look at how the river system functions with the port in Portland was impressive and a great opportunity that I don't know I could get any other way. I highly recommend growers join this tour and learn more about the benefits of the river system and the how much the Wheat Marketing Center does to help US wheat.

**What did you learn in D.C.? What stood out to you?**

At the core, and we saw it in meeting with our congressional delegation, the reason people are there is to change things for the good. They want to improve things for their constituents.

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

We talk about bringing the next generation back to the farm – that is difficult and will be exponentially more difficult as time goes on. ■





## MENTORSHIP PROGRAM PARTICIPANT PROFILES

# Sedar Beckman

### Tell us about your farm.

We grow barley, wheat, and alfalfa – and raise pure bred cattle. We run pure bred Angus and Linflex cattle, using high intensity grazing and applying manure management in combination with yield map data and soil testing. I farm with my parents – our farm is in Bonneville County, between Roberts and Idaho Falls.

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

My dad was fourth generation farming, though first-generation farming on his own. We’ve always been farming, since I was a little kid. I enjoyed farming growing up, and knew it was what I wanted to do. I was told I needed to go to college before coming back to farm, so I got a degree from the University of Wyoming Laramie – then came back to the farm.

### Tell us about your family.



I have a wife and two daughters, ages 3 and a half and 8 months. My wife and I met in college on a field studies trip, following the Colorado River Ag ecosystem.

### How do you market your grain?

We contract barley with Anheuser Busch and Great Western – for our wheat, play in the futures through a local elevator, Pasleys.

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

Our biggest challenges are water and labor – you’ve got to have water to grow a crop, and you need labor to harvest that crop. We need more of both.





**What do you do for fun?**

I farm – and I feel very lucky to enjoy what I do. On the rare occasion we can get away, I like to take the family camping or on a fishing trip.

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

Matt Gellings, who was the Bonneville County President at the time, got me involved. He got me into the Farm Service Agency (FSA) county committee – in turn, Matt called Stacey and Stacey called me, which led to the Bonneville County state director position. It was good timing, as I was feeling like it was time to get involved and learn what happens beyond the farm.

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

External political factors, especially regarding genetically modified crops and consumer misinformation, have my worried. But overall, I’m optimistic for agriculture – though we have dwindling acres, there’s an increased need for food production. ■



**MENTORSHIP PROGRAM PARTICIPANT PROFILES**

**Jeff Hood**

**Tell us about your farm: size, what you grow?**

We farm about 2,000 acres in Northern Idaho three miles south of the US/Canadian Border in the Kootenai River Valley. We grow wheat, barley, canola, timothy for hay and seed, alfalfa, timber as well as red Angus cattle.

**How was your operation established and how did you get into farming?**

The Houck Family moved to Porthill, ID in 1924 and began farming the land which is still all held by family descendants. Tim Dillin (4th Generation Houck descendant and my second cousin) is the operator and has been on the farm for 40+ years.

Growing up we spent a lot of time on the farm with my grandparents. Over the last 15 years I started spending more time working remotely to spend time with my

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parents. Dad’s passing in 2019 precipitated a transition from Dallas, TX to Idaho full-time where I worked the farm with our extended family.

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

Tim and Julie Dillin live on the farm full-time. My mom Sharon enjoys being at the farm much of the year. She is still an avid gardener and likes riding in the jump seat of whatever may be running. My brother Mike visits and helps when he can. Edward “Duane” Houck is still involved in the operation part time when he visits. Tim’s son Ryan is now back to help too.

### **What is your upbringing/childhood?**

My parents raised my brother Mike and I in Moscow, ID. My dad’s father started the Ford Tractor dealership in Moscow in the ‘40’s. I worked in that business while going to school, with my dad and uncle until it was closed in 1988. Often growing up, we spent time where Mom was born and raised at Houck Farms in Porthill, ID north of Bonners Ferry. I always found the business and operational side of farming fascinating. Going to the farm and spending time with Grandpa, uncles and cousins was a large portion of our upbringing. Time on the farm, in the timber, with family tackling lots of interesting projects all made great memories. My sales and business development roles in the technology industry allowed me to work remotely for many years. At the outset of Covid, I left corporate America to help Mom and spend more time with my wife Stephanie and her daughter Ana.



### **How did you meet your spouse?**

My wife Stephanie and I were married at the farm in 2022. We met on a blind date arranged by Tim Dillin’s wife Julie and Stephanie’s mom Helen—we owe it all to them. Stephanie, her daughter Ana (17) and I have ridden through a lot in life together in 8 years. They are incredibly patient with me and the farm—I wouldn’t do it without them.

### **How do you market your grain?**

A portion of our grain is milled on the farm into Farm to Market Grain products. We market barley to local feed mill operators. Wheat is marketed to ADM and PNW Farmers Cooperative. We have also grown some barley sold into Asian markets.

### **What conservation practices do you employ?**

Wetlands protection is significant here. We actively participate in EQIP agroforestry and erosion prevention programs. Tim and his dad were early adopters for limited/no till practices. We do some cover cropping and have done Timothy strips along drainage ditches under CSP. Crops are rotated regularly to break disease and build soil health. Tim has partnered with the University of Idaho to test plot cereal grains and oil seed crops for nearly 20 years.

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

Family. We have focused for as long as I can remember on making sure the farm stays Houck Farms, a family operation. Care has been taken over the years by Tim and his dad to educate the family landowners when they



visit about current crops, practices, weather, prices etc. so they understand the farming pressures.

I enjoy spending time with my wife Stephanie and daughter Ana. My brother, his family, and Mom have had some good times on the farm. Working in efforts larger than myself—the farm has always seemed that way to me, family fits that too.

On the other side we have worked collaboratively to ensure the landowners are getting a fair rental rate for the assets used in the operation. Transparency and communication provide links to keep the place together so it can be enjoyed by all the family members. Next year is the farm’s 100-year birthday. Many have their hands in Houck Farms and we look forward to celebrating together.

**What do you do for fun?**

I like spending time with family, reading, snowmobiling.

**What did you learn in D.C.?**

It was great to participate in a meeting and see the process for productive well thought out agricultural policy.

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

My cousin Tim Dillin is a past President of IGPA and a two-term Idaho Barley Commissioner. During his time in office, I attended several meetings trying to learn and better understand the industry. I believe in IGPA’s mission--industry protection and market facilitation through policy work are critical to keeping Idaho agriculture healthy.

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

There are many challenges I see including financial pressure, inflation and the cost of doing business. Idaho grain production depends on financial stability. Specialization, adopting new practices, and programs help but market access and national policy are key to Idaho agriculture. Solid succession plans are necessary and built on financially sound business practices.

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

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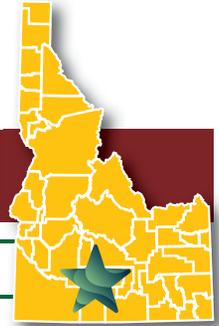
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SENATOR

# Linda Wright Hartgen



TWIN FALLS, ID • DISTRICT 25

Senator Linda Wright Hartgen (R-Twin Falls) has a heart for Idaho. Her thoughtfulness is evident in all she does in her role in the state legislature.

The Senator currently serves as the chair of the Senate Agricultural Affairs Committee and is hopeful of good things to come this session. “I think we can get a lot accomplished if we put our heads down and get to work,” Sen. Hartgen says.

Born in Twin Falls and raised in Filer, Sen. Hartgen attended Filer High School. She and her husband at the time farmed for 23 years in the area and raised sugar beets, corn, grain, hay, cattle and beans—along with three kids. Today the Senator’s family is much larger and includes two step-children, several grandchildren and two great-grandchildren (six granddaughters, one great-granddaughter and one great-grandson to be exact) who keep her busy attending sporting events and other activities. Her family is spread across the west, with two kids in the Eagle/Boise area and three in Colorado.

The Senator went back to school later in life and attended Lewis Clark State College, graduating in business management.



In the early days of her career, the Senator worked as the Twin Falls County Clerk, a jury commissioner and trial court administrator for the fifth judicial district. She retired from this position in 2015.

The Senator reminisces on her childhood saying her love for politics came early. “I had a teacher in the 8th or 9th grade who was very strict and very political—she fascinated me because you never knew which side of the aisle she was on and I thought that was exactly how a teacher should be.”

The Senator has been involved in her community in a variety of ways over the years including having served on the CARES board in Twin Falls (a children’s advocacy group) as well as Bills Place (a place for women transitioning back into life after time in prison), P.E.O. Sisterhood, Chairman of the CSI Foundation, Twin Falls County GOP precinct chair, state and national GOP convention delegate, a Kiwanis member, 4-H leader and a moderator at her church. More recently, just this last fall in fact, she was awarded one of the Idaho Business Review’s Women of the Year awards. And now, she’s a Senator for the state legislature. To say the Senator is a busy woman is an understatement!



Sen. Hartgen’s road to the Capitol started with her late husband who was a legislator. When he became ill, she covered for him for several weeks. He then retired in 2018 and she ran for his seat. She spent four years in the house and then Sen. Heider retired and asked if she’d run for his seat in the Senate.

During her time in the House, Hartgen served on several committees including Judiciary and Rules (where she was vice-chair), Revenue and Taxation and Energy, Environment and Technology. In the Senate now, she serves on Judiciary and Rules, Commerce and Human Resources and is Chair of the Senate Agricultural Committee.

Sen. Hartgen says the state faces several challenges in the years ahead: “I think one big thing we will continue to face is the drought and our lack of water. The ground is so dry it’s going to take a lot to bring us out of this. It’s always a topic people fight about.” She goes on to mention a bill she plans to introduce that would require those electioneering to be further away from polling places, an issue she thinks is important to address.

When asked about what she loves most about Idaho, Sen. Hartgen had a lot to say. “I love learning about



the various parts of the state and really seeing what our great state is made of. There’s a lot more out there than folks realize and I just really enjoy learning all about it. We have such diversity and different industries across the state and the growth is really unbelievable.”

She is quick to admit that her agenda is not a self-serving one. “I am definitely a people person,” she says. “I like to solve problems. But I didn’t come to the legislature with any kind of agenda—I came to do the work of the people.” 

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# Multi-Commodity Education Program

BY KELLIE KLUKSDAL, IGPA COMMUNICATIONS MANAGER

Last October, a group of Idaho grain growers traveled south to the land of cotton on the Multi-Commodity Education Program. This exchange program, sponsored by John Deere through The Cotton Foundation, is an annual event which offers growers in different parts of the country a chance to experience farming in a commodity and a part of the country they're not used to at all.

“The program 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, etc. and they all realized they really don’t understand each other’s different situations, challenges, etc.,” said John Gibson, Vice-President of Member Services for the National Cotton Council of America. “Those interactions many times play into policy discussions and so we thought we need to organize 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 to have a place for growers to come together, visit other parts of the country, exchange ideas, learn from one another and really understand their peers issues, challenges and way of doing things.

“To have this program available where we move people around really helps each commodity’s leadership better understand each other’s issues. We are so fortunate to have a wonderful sponsor in John Deere, who sees the value of this program and has a vested interest in providing education and opportunities to working farmers. We are so pleased to work with their team,” Gibson said.

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 our growers will go south to one of the Cotton Belt regions. It also depends on production periods—when folks are planting or harvesting, so the timing of the trip varies each year.

Participants on the tour last fall had a busy schedule with stops at the National Cotton Council headquarters, a cotton ginning facility, a peanut shelling plant and a rice processing facility, just to name a few of their stops. For our Idaho wheat and barley growers who traveled to Tennessee and other parts of the south to attend the tour, it was certainly an eye-opening experience to be able to see how other commodities like cotton grows, what their rotations are, their tilling

practices, harvesting operations, irrigation practices, and more.

IGPA Vice President Justin Place said it was a great experience and one he hopes to do again.

“This was actually my second time on the MCEP and I learned even more on this trip. This program really digs deep in the material they showcase; they really want to make it a meaningful tour for the guys like me who are traveling to their part of the country. They take such care to put together such a detailed agenda with just some really fascinating stuff. We met at the National Cotton Council headquarters and met with their amazing team who really gave us the deep-dive into cotton production. We also toured a cotton field, greenhouse, and a cotton warehouse and shipping facility. Our stop at the Pemiscot Port Authority (one port on the Mississippi River) was very informative. It was great to see how they use the river system as some of our northern Idaho growers use the Snake River to ship their commodity to market elsewhere. We also saw a cotton ginning facility, a peanut shelling plant and a rice processing plant. They were all so informative. Just so much good information and hospitality down in the south,” he said. “And, of course, amazing barbecue!”

A focus of the tour is to get the groups in front of as many producers and other folks in their industries as possible, as well as both public and private research facilities, so those conversations can happen naturally. “The staff won’t have all the answers obviously and that’s where we rely so much on our producers and researchers,” says Gibson.

Another topic that the tour likes to bring up for farmers is the difference in geographic region and how those differences affect the various crops. And things like the impact the Mississippi River has on their region. “The group that came last fall was here at a very interesting



time when the Mississippi River was at a record low and they got to learn about how that affects everything we do in this region,” Gibson said.

“We really love bringing farmers from other parts of the country, folks up in the northwest and midwest for example, and having them come visit us in the Cotton Belt and really integrate them into our culture and our way of farming down here. It’s so exciting and eye opening for everyone to see how different crops are grown in different parts of the country, how diverse we are as a country in terms of agricultural products produced and what we can do together--what’s similar, what common things or ideas or practices to we share,” says Gibson. “It really does help bridge the gap between the different regions and challenges that producer states have,” he added.

“We were really thankful to both the John Deere and the Cotton Foundation, John Gibson and his team at the Cotton Council of America. It was a great tour and we can’t wait to return the favor and bring our friends from the south back up to Idaho,” said Place.

This summer IGPA and our commodity friends will host a group of farmers from the southern states here in Idaho for a tour of our great state and will feature wheat and barley fields, potatoes, sugar beets, food processing, malting, and more.

“We 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 and learning about agriculture in the southern U.S. and making connections and friends along the way. We’ve also appreciated the opportunity to hosting southern growers and showcase all that Idaho ag has to offer,” said Stacey Satterlee, IGPA Executive Director. “We are so excited to host the tour in Idaho again this summer and look forward to working together long into the future.” 





## Jim Fredericks Selected as New Director for Idaho Fish and Game

BY ROGER PHILLIPS, PUBLIC INFORMATION SUPERVISOR, IDAHO FISH AND GAME

The Idaho Fish and Game Commission recently selected Jim Fredericks to serve as the new director of Idaho Fish and Game. Fredericks has been a deputy director for Fish and Game since 2021 and is a former fisheries bureau chief.

Fredericks, 58, was raised in Moscow since grade school, graduated from University of Idaho with a bachelor’s degree in psychology and a master’s degree in fishery resources. He has spent his entire professional career with Idaho Fish and Game.

“I grew up in the wheat fields outside of Moscow, where I spent a lot of time hunting birds in the fields and trapping muskrats in the area creeks and ponds,” Fredericks said. “In the summers during high school, I worked on a dairy farm in western Washington, mostly putting up hay. After high school, I went to Bonners Ferry, where I worked on a grain farm driving tractor and grain truck during harvest. I wasn’t interested in going to college, and my plan was to be a farm hand and a trapper. It was a great time, and I have really good memories of those years – but it wasn’t long before college sounded pretty good.”

Fredericks started his professional career with Fish and Game in 1994 as a fisheries research biologist before moving up through the ranks as a regional fisheries biologist and regional fisheries manager in the Upper Snake and Panhandle regions. He was promoted to fisheries bureau chief at the Boise Headquarters in 2015 before becoming deputy director.



Fredericks reflected on how his career path changed, but his respect for the agriculture industry has remained.

“Though my farm hand career plan didn’t stick, what did stick was an appreciation of the hard work and long hours, and an appreciation of the people I worked for, their work ethic, and passion for the lifestyle,” he said.

Fredericks made his passion his profession, and his Idaho roots and career throughout the state helped him understand the strong connection between Idahoans and wildlife.

“I’ve been fortunate to live in many places around Idaho – north, east, and southwest. I love the diversity of the state and all the outdoor recreational opportunities that come with that,” he said. “I’ve been an avid outdoorsman my entire life. I participate in all types of fishing, I’m an avid archery elk-hunter, a big game rifle hunter, and a bird hunter. For several years I had hounds, with which I ran mountain lions and bobcats. I’m an avid runner, and have completed several marathons. Ironically, for me running is relaxing, and I run to clear my mind – so these days, I do a lot of running.”

The Fish and Game director is the sole employee of the seven-member Fish and Game Commission, and Fredericks will start on Feb. 19. The director carries out



wildlife management policies set by the commission and runs the day-to-day operations of the agency, which has about 553 full-time positions and an annual budget of \$150 million.

“We are both proud and privileged to have Jim Fredericks as our next director,” Fish and Game Commission Chair Tim Murphy said. “He has had a

successful career with Fish and Game, and we look forward to working with him in the future to manage Idaho’s valuable wildlife.”

Fredericks replaces Ed Schriever, who announced his retirement from the department after a 39-year career at Fish and Game, including serving as director since Jan. 2019. ■

## New Director, Same Mission for the Idaho State Department of Agriculture

BY SYDNEY PLUM, PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICER, IDAHO STATE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Chanel Tewalt was appointed by Governor Brad Little to serve as Director of the Idaho State Department of Agriculture (ISDA) in January. Tewalt previously worked as the ISDA Deputy Director. She began at the ISDA while in college and over 15 years, she served in many capacities including as Chief Operating Officer. In her work at the agency, Tewalt has focused on collaboration with industry partners and on implementation of agency programs with a clear understanding of statutory requirements and stakeholder needs. She also oversaw efforts to reduce regulatory red tape and respond to emergency issues impacting agriculture.



Tewalt grew up on a livestock operation in Klamath Falls, Oregon, which is home to longstanding struggles over water. These experiences and other lessons learned in agriculture, are foundational to the way Tewalt approaches her work at the ISDA. In her role at the agency, she seeks to emphasize balance, transparency and strong customer service.

“As an agency, we understand that there is a careful balancing act to the work that we do.” said Tewalt. “It isn’t just about enforcement, but about making our efforts practical and realistic to the producers and communities that we serve.”

With a wide range of agency programs serving the industry, Tewalt recognizes the importance of providing timely and appropriate services so that customers can continue to produce and market agricultural products and commodities. In her previous roles, she was a key point of contact for interactions with

stakeholder and industry groups, legislators and partner state and federal agencies. Continuing to build those positive working relationships with stakeholders and partners are of primary importance to the Director in serving Idaho agriculture.



Director Tewalt values the strong relationships between Idaho’s grain industry and international trade partners such as Taiwan. While Celia Gould, former director of the ISDA, had strong connections with Idaho’s international partners, Director Tewalt plans to build on that foundation with continued efforts to support the growth of Idaho’s grain industry.

“It is because of Idaho’s incredibly hardworking producers that Idaho’s grain industry is of the best in the world.” said Tewalt. “I’m always proud to help share the stories of Idaho producers and look forward to the continued advancements of Idaho’s grain.”

Director Tewalt is proud to have learned the internal functions of the agency from the ground up, all while obtaining a better understanding of Idaho agriculture and the needs of its stakeholders. Highlighting Idaho’s most important industry and providing recognition to ISDA staff for the incredible role they play in Idaho agriculture are both major priorities to the Director as she takes on this new chapter. ■



## Take This Quick Survey to Share Information on Your Energy Needs!

BY MARISSA WARREN, EMILY HER AND ALEXA BOUVIER, IDAHO GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF ENERGY & MINERAL RESOURCES

The Idaho Governor's Office of Energy and Mineral Resources (OEMR) is planning to use federal funding from the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act of 2021 to develop an agricultural energy efficiency program to reduce energy burdens and energy costs. OEMR is seeking your input to shape the program to meet your needs. Complete this survey to provide your input:



<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/THDJHWK>

**About OEMR:** OEMR coordinates energy and mineral planning and policy development in Idaho. OEMR works to ensure that Idaho's energy and mineral resources are developed and utilized in an efficient, effective, and responsible manner that enhances the

economy and sustains the quality of life for its residents. OEMR serves as the clearinghouse and first point of contact for the state on energy and mineral matters. It oversees the Idaho Strategic Energy Alliance, serves as a



resource for policymakers, and coordinates efforts with federal and state agencies and local governments.



OEMR administers the following energy-related programs:

- State Energy Loan Program, which offers low-interest loans to homes and businesses to complete energy projects.
- Government Leading by Example, which provides energy audits for rural cities and counties in Idaho to identify energy savings opportunities and provide retrofit funding to help lower energy costs and save taxpayer dollars.
- Idaho Awards for Leadership in Energy Efficiency, which honors facilities' achievements in reducing energy consumption over the past year.
- National Electric Vehicle Infrastructure (NEVI) Program, which provides funding to strategically deploy electric vehicle charging infrastructure throughout Idaho.
- Energy Resiliency Grant Program, which provides funding for projects that demonstrate measurable grid resiliency upgrades across Idaho.

Stay connected with OEMR by visiting our website [www.oemr.idaho.gov](http://www.oemr.idaho.gov) and following OEMR on Twitter and LinkedIn.

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### Hard Red Spring

WB 9668

SY Gunsight

### Soft White Spring

UI Stone

UI Pettit

WB 6430

### Hard White Spring

SY Teton

WB 7589

WB 7696

UI Platinum

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# Have Your Cake: The Influence of Emulsifiers in the Baking Industry

BY DR. JAYNE BOCK, TECHNICAL DIRECTOR, WHEAT MARKETING CENTER

The Pacific Northwest Wheat Quality Council (PNW WQC) was established in 1995 to form a coordinated effort among breeders, growers, and end-users to improve wheat and flour quality in the PNW. The stated goal of the organization is to improve the value of all wheat classes for all parties in the supply chain. To that end, the PNW WQC tests the milling and end-use quality of new wheat lines and varieties across the wheat classes grown in the region.

The PNW WQC meets once a year to review new lines and varieties submitted by public and private breeding companies for evaluation. This provides growers and other industry members an overview of agronomic and end-use qualities associated with the upcoming new releases. Each submitted line/variety is milled and evaluated for standard flour quality parameters at the USDA Western Wheat Quality Lab (WWQL). These milled samples are then sent out to several external labs, or cooperators, who produce and evaluate baked goods made with the flour. Those results are compiled and shared at the annual meeting.

Several years ago, U.S. Wheat Associates (USW) proposed including cooperators from key overseas markets to facilitate more direct communication between export markets and breeders. This collaboration is specific to the PNW WQC as most of the wheat grown in the region is exported. As a result, several of these international cooperators have presented their results at the PNW WQC along with domestic cooperators.

In 2019, several domestic quality counsel cooperators observed that Southeast Asian (SEA) cooperators tend to preferentially use emulsifiers in their test cake formulations. Emulsifiers are a type of ingredient used to keep water and fats or oils from separating in foods like mayonnaise and salad dressing. They also help stabilize foams in products like ice cream and cake batter. Most domestic cooperators specifically exclude this ingredient since it has the potential to obscure end-use quality differences.

USW Bakery Consultant Roy Chung describes the use of emulsifiers in the Southeast Asian export market as a necessary tool for companies assessing end-use quality of PNW WQC samples. The primary reason is



that emulsifiers are a common ingredient in commercial cake formulations, so their use in test formulas gives a more realistic perspective of how a specific flour might perform on a commercial processing line. Additionally, using emulsifiers in test formulas reduces potential variations in results generated by differences in techniques among staff members. Staff turnover in overseas quality labs can be high, and the use of emulsifiers can reduce the variation caused by frequent staffing changes and/or less skilled technicians.

In discussing this difference in approach, PNW WQC questioned whether emulsifiers influence the evaluations presented by international cooperators. This is not an insignificant issue for breeders trying to meet quality targets set by the council, as quality rankings have the potential to change dramatically in some cases. As a result, Wheat Marketing Center (WMC) proposed to conduct a study evaluating the influence of emulsifiers in cake formulas on quality rankings of soft white and club wheat samples from the PNW WQC sample set.

The USDA WWQL provided a set of seven flours from experimental lines submitted to the PNW WQC, and USW technical staff provided information on emulsifiers and cake formulations used in SEA. The WMC team baked a set of three cakes for each flour without emulsifiers and another set of three for each flour with emulsifiers. All of the cakes were measured for key quality outcomes like volume, height, symmetry, color, and softness.



Cakes made with emulsifiers had slightly greater cake volume, height, softer texture, and greater overall quality scores compared to cakes made without emulsifiers. Emulsifiers also had the added benefit of reducing the variability in attributes such as volume, cake firmness, texture score and overall quality score, highlighting their usefulness in commercial baking. Despite these quality improvements, the addition of emulsifiers to a Japanese

sponge cake formula did not significantly alter the order of quality rankings of PNW WQC flours.

Armed with this information from WMC, the PNW WQC and breeders can now have confidence moving forward that emulsifiers are not affecting the ability to clearly distinguish the cake quality of breeding lines submitted for evaluation. 🇺🇸

## Janice Cooper Receives Distinguished Service Award

The Idaho Wheat Commission was honored to present the Distinguished Service Award to Janice Cooper for her commitment and service to the grain industry in Idaho. A long-time friend of the wheat industry, Cooper has held various roles during her career which have put her in direct contact with U.S. wheat farmers and customers.

Cooper was the Managing Director of the Wheat Marketing Center (WMC) in Portland, Oregon, a position she held from November 2015 to June 2022. Prior to joining WMC, Janice served for six years as Executive Director of the California Wheat Commission and earlier managed the California Association of Wheat Growers.

“Janice was dedicated to her job, and she hit the ground running as soon as she signed the contract,” said Idaho Wheat Commissioner Bill Flory. “She came with a rolodex of the industry and is familiar with a myriad of crops in the west. She was perfectly suited to step into the role, and we were fortunate to have her with us as a great friend and resource. She continues to be a positive force for the industry.”

In addition to her experience in the wheat industry, Janice has a broad background in business development and trade policy in the banking, high tech, and renewable energy sectors. Janice started her career in Washington, D.C. as a staff member in the U.S. Senate.



She returned to D.C. later as the Trade Representative for the State of California.

“I first had the pleasure to meet Janice when she was with the California Wheat Commission, and our paths crossed again after she took the helm at WMC. In both roles, I have appreciated her counsel and her passion for the wheat industry, and farmers in particular,” said WMC Executive Director Mike Moran. “I am proud that I can call her both mentor and friend.”

“Janice has helped guide WMC through an unprecedented time of global uncertainty, and her steady leadership has been an asset to both WMC and the industry at large,” said WMC Technical Director Jayne Bock.

Janice was recently re-appointed to the Grain Inspection Advisory Committee, the private sector group appointed by the U.S. Secretary of Agriculture to advise the Federal Grain Inspection Service on its programs and priorities. She is also a member of the Export Council of Oregon, which advises the U.S. Department of Commerce and helps promote U.S. exports.

Janice’s contributions to the wheat industry are invaluable. 🇺🇸





# Introducing Ryan Mortensen, Communications and Programs Manager

Ryan Mortensen is the Communications and Programs Manager for the Idaho Wheat Commission. He lives in Meridian, Idaho with his wife Wendi and their three kids. Ryan was born in Cassia County and at the age of nine moved to central California with his family, where his father managed a large cattle ranch. After graduating high school Ryan’s family moved to southwest Idaho to build a custom calf raising feedlot, while Ryan moved to Logan, Utah to attend Utah State University. After a year at Utah State, Ryan relocated back to Idaho to attend Boise State University. Ryan is familiar with the agriculture world and has spent most of his life on feedlots and cattle ranches. Ryan brings more than 20 years of experience with Communication and Project Management, Public Relations, and Marketing to the commission.



Ryan excelled in the field of Communication while studying at Boise State University. He earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Mass Communication with an emphasis in Journalism, and a minor in Business Administration. He interned as a professor’s assistant and was recruited to write for the university newspaper. Ryan also served as a journalism judge for the Idaho Journalism Education Association and has attended national journalism conventions.

After graduating from college, Ryan managed all general business operations for his father’s large cattle ranch in southwest Idaho. He managed customer accounts and annual cash flows of \$20+ million, inventory tracking of 20,000+ cattle. Ryan also managed inventory of farm property and equipment, insurance, and HR responsibilities. He worked

effectively with several large pharmaceutical companies including Pfizer, Merck and MWI Animal Health, holding events for customers to discuss current trends in the industry and moderated Q&A panels with vendor representatives. He worked closely with IMI Global, a third-party source verification division of Where Food Comes From, Inc. for inventory and auditing purposes.

Due to a change in ownership with the cattle business, Ryan was fortunate to have found employment in the world of education. For the last eight years he has worked for the Nampa School District as the Educational Systems Manager. He provided training on all educational systems to district and school administrators, as well as students and parents. Ryan led the Educational Systems team to be effective and efficient in supporting all needs for the district, working as the Project Manager for several educational curriculum implementations. He also worked closely with the Idaho State Department of Education and served as a liaison between the

district and the state, to ensure accurate reporting of educational data for federal, state, and local funding.

“The skills, knowledge, and experience Ryan brings to the Idaho Wheat Commission make him a valuable asset to the industry,” said Britany Hurst Marchant, IWC Executive Director. “He joined the team ready and eager to immediately get to work on

behalf of wheat growers throughout the state. He understands the challenges our industry faces and is very cognizant that the Commission works for growers and acts as a steward of grower dollars. He has already proven that he is an asset to Idaho growers.”

Ryan learned of the open position with the Commission and jumped at the chance to apply. He is grateful for the opportunity to work for the Idaho Wheat Commission and is excited to get out in the fields and meet the great men, women, and family wheat growers throughout the state. ■

“The skills, knowledge, and experience Ryan brings to the Idaho Wheat Commission make him a valuable asset to the industry,” said Britany Hurst Marchant, IWC Executive Director.

# 2022 Idaho Wheat

## YEAR IN REVIEW



Total Planted:

**1,150,000 Acres**

Winter Acres: 770,000

Spring Acres: 380,000



Soft White



SWS: 19%    SWW: 49%

Hard Red



HRW: 10%    HRS: 14%

Hard White



HWW: 1%    HWS: 7%

SW 68%

HRS 14%

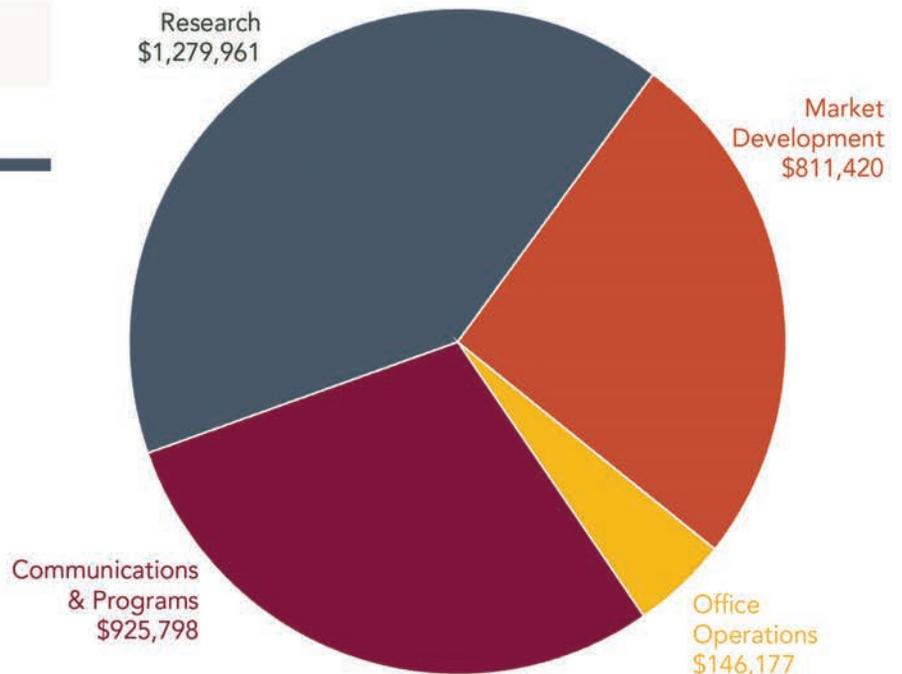
HRW 10%

HW 8%

Durum 1%

2022 Total Idaho Production  
**93,515,000 bushels**

## FY22 Budget Breakdown



How does Idaho wheat stack up in the U.S.?

SPRING PRODUCTION

**#4**

TOTAL PRODUCTION

WINTER PRODUCTION

**#6**

**#8**





# U.S. Wheat Associates On the Job Building Global Demand

The productive relationship between Idaho farmers and U.S. Wheat Associates (USW) began in 1959 through Western Wheat Associates, that merged with Great Plains Wheat in 1980 to form USW.

Today, with funding from 17 wheat commissions and cost-share grants from USDA’s Foreign Agricultural Service, USW remains on the job promoting the reliability, quality and value of all six U.S. wheat classes to overseas buyers, millers and food processors in more than 100 countries.

USW’s market development programs are focused in three main strategies -- trade servicing, technical assistance, and consumer education.

## Trade Service Helps Keep Customers Informed

In trade servicing, USW works directly with overseas buyers to answer questions and resolve issues in purchasing, shipping or using U.S. wheat. This work is done through 15 offices around the world bringing trade delegations to the United States, regular crop and market condition updates, quality surveys and other activities.

For example, China is a swing market for U.S. wheat. So it is crucial that buyers and users stay up-to-speed on purchasing, shipping or using U.S. wheat. Under



USW Seoul Food and Bakery Technologist Shin Hak (David) Oh leads the effort to demonstrate to millers and manufacturers how U.S. wheat classes help improve noodle products. In fact, all four of South Korea’s major instant ramen noodle manufacturers include U.S. wheat in their flour blend to improve texture in end products.

China’s COVID lock-down last fall, USW held an online webinar to report on U.S. wheat crop quality for marketing year 2022/23 (June 1 to May 31). More than 100 representatives from public and private trading and milling companies, including the key state trading company COFCO, actively participated. Questions included interest in the U.S. wheat price outlook and the utility of soft white (SW) flour in steamed bread products.

## Technical Assistance Builds Customer Value

Technical assistance takes many forms, including USW-sponsored courses, workshops and in-person seminars and consulting to improve efficiency while demonstrating the benefits U.S. wheat in milling and wheat food manufacturing.

USW Seoul held one of those seminars in December 2022 to gain insight into South Korean noodle manufacturing flour specifications and strengthen the relationships with buyers and quality managers. The Noodle Flour Blending and Quality seminar included 30 representatives from the top 5 manufacturers and 8 mills. Sessions included blending noodle flour quality with SW, hard red winter (HRW) and hard red spring (HRS),



Consumers in the Philippines visit the “Go Wheat!” Facebook page to get information about bread and why it’s good for their health, offered with recipes and fun. This campaign developed by USW with milling and baking customers has helped dramatically increase wheat food consumption.



A demand for fine cakes, and other baked goods in a largely state-controlled system makes China a complicated but important opportunity for U.S. wheat exports. Since June 2020, China has imported almost 67 million bushels of SW alone.

and a presentation on how U.S. wheat can be applied to support emerging noodle product trends. This activity is part of a long-term effort to position U.S. wheat more favorably in a market dominated by Australian wheat.

### **Increasing Demand for Wheat Foods**

In certain markets, USW works with customers and other U.S. grain industry partners to expand consumer awareness and demand for wheat foods. In the Philippines, a study showed that a “Go Wheat!” consumer campaign has expanded consumption by more than 38% and increased U.S.

Technical assistance takes many forms, including USW-sponsored courses, workshops and in-person seminars and consulting to improve efficiency while demonstrating the benefits U.S. wheat in milling and wheat food manufacturing.



wheat demand by more than \$800 million between 2014 and 2021. USW developed the campaign in partnership with Filipino millers and bakeries, customers that import almost all the wheat milled for food from the United States, putting the Philippines consistently among the top three U.S. wheat buyers.

“It really is true that at any given hour of the day, someone somewhere in the world is talking to customers about the quality, reliability and value of U.S. wheat,” USW President Vince Peterson says.

You can learn more about other ways USW is working to promote U.S. wheat by visiting the company’s website at [www.uswheat.org](http://www.uswheat.org) or by writing to [communications@uswheat.org](mailto:communications@uswheat.org). ■



# The United States Is a Global Food Security Leader

BY ERIN MURPHY

Today, the world faces the largest hunger crisis in modern history. Since 2016, the number of people facing extreme hunger has risen by over 200% – from 108 million to 349 million people today. The needs are sky-high.

The United States plays a vital role in meeting these historic needs: The U.S. sends more international food aid than any other country in the world and is also the U.N. World Food Programme’s largest financial donor. In 2021, the U.S. contributed nearly \$4 billion dollars to the U.N. World Food Programme through direct financial support and in-kind commodity assistance (i.e., crops like corn, wheat and soybeans).

## American Wheat Helps Solve World Hunger

In 2022, for the third consecutive year, the U.S. shipped over 1 million tons of wheat to global hunger relief efforts. The 1 millionth ton of wheat was loaded aboard the African Halycon cargo vessel and left Washington state on Saturday, November 26. It is expected to arrive in Yemen in early January.

“The 1 millionth ton of wheat shows the generosity of the United States, including U.S. citizens’ willingness to support feeding (severely) hungry people,” said Dalton Henry, Vice President of Policy for U.S. Wheat Associates. “People in the U.S. have big hearts and



Photo: WFP/Alaa Noman/2021. The two largest recipients of wheat under the U.S. Food for Peace program are Ethiopia and Yemen, where it’s often cooked into flatbreads.

genuinely see a need to step up to the plate when there are populations around the world that are experiencing hunger, whether that’s due to drought in Ethiopia or conflict in Yemen or any of the other dozens of countries that the U.S. has sent aid to.”

“This shipment also shows the generosity of U.S. farmers, as they produce an abundance of commodities that can be shared around the world,” Henry said.

The 1 millionth ton of American-grown, soft white wheat was sourced from Oregon, Washington and Idaho.

The cost of the shipment was paid for by the Bill Emerson Humanitarian Trust (BEHT), an emergency funding reserve that enables the U.S. to respond to unprecedented food crises abroad. When the war in Ukraine began, it drove food prices and hunger levels to record highs so the U.S. government released all BEHT funds to provide urgently needed food assistance.

“Rather than pull back the total tonnage (of wheat) being shipped, the United States doubled down and essentially drew the full balance from a rainy-day fund,” Dalton explained. “We were able to release those funds to provide that accelerated level of wheat and other food donations.”



American farmers are key to eradicating global hunger. Shown here: In 2019, the U.N. World Food Programme facilitated a visit of American wheat farmers to Kakuma Refugee Camp and the port at Mombasa in Kenya.



Photo: WFP/Antoine Vallas/2022.

Alongside Congressional champions and concerned citizens on both sides of the aisle, World Food Program USA advocated for the release of these funds.

“The world is suffering from historic levels of food insecurity, which is being exacerbated by the impact of Russia’s war on global food supplies” explained Henry.

### From 1812 to Today: America’s Legacy of Food Aid

This 1 millionth ton of wheat is one of the latest examples of America’s leadership in international food aid. The U.S. has long been a global leader in the humanitarian sector and was instrumental in creating the U.N. World Food Programme in the 1960s. Here’s a quick timeline:

**1812:** Under the leadership of President James Madison, the U.S. sent \$50,000 dollars’ worth of wheat flour to Venezuela after the country suffered a devastating earthquake – equivalent to \$1M dollars today. This was one of the first shipments of international food aid provided by the American people.

**1943:** The U.S.’ first major foray into multilateral food aid was through the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration (UNRRA), an extensive social welfare program spearheaded by President Franklin D. Roosevelt to provide food and other aid to countries ravaged by World War II.

**1948:** Devised by Secretary of State George Marshall and signed by President Harry Truman, the Marshall Plan provided almost \$15 billion dollars (over \$100 billion in today’s dollars) in U.S. assistance to support Europe’s recovery from World War II. A significant

When the war in Ukraine began, it drove food prices and hunger levels to record highs so the U.S. government released all BEHT funds to provide urgently needed food assistance.

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portion of the funds went to food aid and restoring agricultural production.

**1954:** As crop surpluses mounted in the U.S. after World War II, President Dwight D. Eisenhower signed the Agricultural Trade Development Assistance Act (Food for Peace Act) which formalized the use of American farm products for lifesaving aid abroad. This was the first permanent U.S. food aid program and still exists today.

**1960 – 1961:** After the success of Food for Peace, President Eisenhower called for the creation of a global food aid program. In September 1960, he proposed to the U.N. General Assembly that a “workable scheme should be devised for providing food aid through the U.N. system.” By 1961, the U.N. World food Programme was officially established. ■



Photo: WFP/Trevor Page. The U.S. was instrumental in creating the U.N. World Food Programme in the 1960s, but its legacy of humanitarian aid dates back even further.



# Taking Price Risk Management to the Next Level

BY XIAOLI ETIENNE

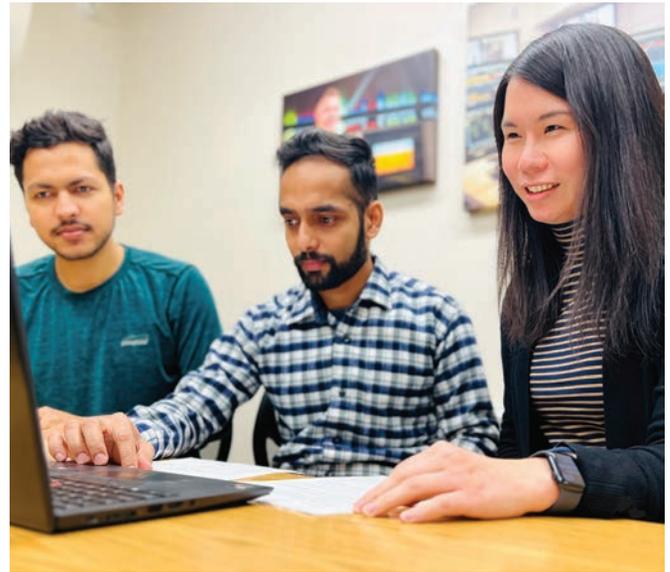
Agriculture is an inherently risky business. Volatility related to extreme weather, trade disputes, political events, environmental regulations, policy changes, and—perhaps most significantly—uncertain input and output prices, calls for various forms of risk mitigation tools to remain competitive. The recent record-high price volatility due to Covid-19 and the Russia-Ukraine war has reinforced the need for sound marketing and risk management plans for agricultural producers.

In the Fall of 2021, I had the privilege to become the Idaho Wheat Commission Endowed Chair in Commodity Risk Management at the University of Idaho (UI). Since taking on this role, I have been actively looking for ways to help Idaho agricultural producers navigate the increasingly volatile market environment.

A key part of my effort has been to broaden the reach of the Agricultural Commodity Risk Management (ACRM) program at UI. In addition to learning about the tools to manage commodity price risks, the program offers students real-life experience in trading, hedging, and investing in commodity markets. These skills will help improve the economic sustainability of agricultural operations across Idaho as students return to the farm.

Although the ACRM program is well-designed, it is still not well-known outside the UI. Along with colleagues, I worked hard to advertise the program to reach a broader audience. We presented the program at the PNW Grain & Feed Association’s Country Elevator Council meeting, FFA Career Development events, and various undergraduate classes at UI. With the help of two current ACRM students, we also started social media accounts to highlight the various opportunities offered by the program and the achievements of current students and alums, and provide updates on the recent events and activities in commodity marketing and risk management.

Recognizing the needs of location-bound students who cannot attend in-person classes in Moscow, I also created an online course on futures and options trading to supplement the existing ACRM course offerings. The class is currently in the experimental phase, primarily for CSI students enrolled in UI’s 2+2 program. However, we plan to open this online class to



all students interested in learning about commodities and offer more online courses in the future. This online endeavor will help attract more students to the ACRM program.

Funding from the Idaho Wheat Commission also allowed me to expand my research on commodity markets. Soon after arriving at UI, I recruited two Master’s students, Aayush Dhakal and Saroj Adhikari, to help with research projects. Both Aayush and Saroj have strong agricultural backgrounds, having earned bachelor’s degrees in Agricultural Science in their home country, Nepal.

In Aayush’s research, we look at how weather disturbances have affected wheat prices in the US. With changing climate, extreme weather events such as droughts, floods, and heat waves are predicted to increase in frequency and intensity in the coming future. A solid understanding of how these events affect prices can help producers, grain elevators, and other parties along the supply chain to better prepare for, and perhaps mitigate the negative impacts of future extreme weather movements. We found that the 2021 drought raised the price of hard red spring wheat by at least 8% above hard winter wheat prices.

Saroj’s work is partially supported by a grant from the USDA Economic Research Service along with the IWC



endowment at UI. In that work, we look at how the rise of emerging exporting countries, such as Ukraine, Argentina, and Brazil, affects corn price dynamics in the US and the global market. Given the importance of the export markets to the US, it is essential to understand how developments in these emerging countries and exchange rate fluctuations affect the competitiveness of the US grain. We find that an increase in Ukraine, Argentina, and Brazil's production, such as due to better-than-average weather, would significantly depress US export prices.

IWC resources have also supported my extension work. I strive to provide up-to-date information to producers that will help them make more informed decisions. For instance, I discussed the outlook for input prices and how to manage input price volatility at various outreach meetings. With a colleague at UI, we looked at how input price fluctuations have affected crop acreages in the PNW. When the Russia-Ukraine war broke off in Feb 2022, I discussed how the war might affect Idaho's



ag sector in an Ag Proud article. Most recently, I have been a member of the Leadership Idaho Ag class of 43, traveling across the state to better understand the needs of producers and how to make my work more impactful across the state. ■

## Introducing Dr. Jim Peterson, Research Consultant

Dr. Jim Peterson is a serving as a Research Consultant for the Idaho Wheat Commission (IWC). Jim is providing advice on research proposals and projects being funded by the commission and helping with the annual Research Review. Jim brings nearly 40 years of experience in wheat research and wheat improvement from both the public and private sectors to the Commission.



Jim earned his PhD from the University of Nebraska back in 1984. He worked with the USDA-ARS for 14 years in Lincoln, NE, in wheat breeding, genetics, and agronomy. This was followed by 12 years as Professor and Chair of Wheat Breeding and Genetics at Oregon State University. From 2010 to 2011, Jim was the VP for Research with Limagrain Cereal Seeds (LCS), based in Ft. Collins, Colorado. During that time, he established 5 wheat breeding and genetics programs in the United States (Washington, Kansas, North Dakota, and Indiana) and Canada. He also crafted innovative breeding collaborations and partnerships with 15 major

universities. Jim retired from LCS in 2021 and started a consulting business, Next Phase Wheat, as means to further contribute to the wheat industry.

Dr. Peterson developed and released 12 winter wheat varieties while with USDA-ARS and OSU, including 3 Clearfield varieties. His varieties reached #1 in three different states --South Dakota, Washington, and Oregon. He served as both Chair and Secretary of the National Wheat Improvement Committee (NWIC). With the NWIC, he successfully led initiatives to promote federal funding for US and international wheat research. Jim has received several awards for his contributions to wheat improvement, including the Weatherford Award for Entrepreneurship and Innovation from the OSU College of Business.

"Idaho wheat farmers are very fortunate to have Dr. Peterson consulting the Idaho Wheat Commissioners on how grower dollars are invested in research and development," said Britany Hurst Marchant, IWC Executive Director. "Jim's contributions to the wheat industry over the past 4 decades are unmatched and his knowledge and expertise will continue to benefit Idaho's wheat industry." ■



# Idaho Wheat Commission Resumes Grower Education Tours

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, restrictions were placed on many cities, businesses, schools, and homes in the U.S. These restrictions affected the Idaho Wheat Commission and events which allow local farmers to attend grower education tours. One of the responsibilities of the wheat commission is to increase wheat grower profits by investing funds in wheat grower education.

Each year, the wheat commission partners with the Wheat Marketing Center to offer grower workshops. These 2–3-day workshops provide a hands-on experience for farmers to see what happens to wheat after it leaves the farm and why customers demand certain quality characteristics. A visit to the Wheat Marketing Center (WMC) includes:

- Hands-on production and tasting of end products, including noodles, tortillas, flatbread, bagels, crackers, and steamed bread
- Demonstrations of wheat and flour analytical equipment, including explanations of why tests are important.
- Seminars with U.S. Wheat Associates, grain traders and others discussing market trends.
- Tours of wheat export, transportation, and processing facilities.

Workshop participants gain knowledge and tools helpful to increasing farm profitability by understanding customer requirements. Financial success in domestic and global markets depends on the ability to meet the demands of the buyers.

The Idaho Wheat Commission is a funding partner of WMC, investing grower dollars for research, technical training for customers, product development, and crop quality testing to expand market demand for wheat grown in the Pacific Northwest. Leveraging those dollars through WMC enables Idaho wheat to be at the forefront, demonstrating quality and functionality of end products to a wider audience of buyers, end-users, and consumers.

In 2022, the commission was able to resume our grower tours program. In January of 2023, the commission



hosted 9 farmers for the tour, and other participants came from U.S. Wheat Associates, Agri-Source, University of Idaho, Utah State University, and two Idaho Wheat Commissioners.

Participants had the opportunity to visit Shaver Transportation (complete with a tugboat ride down the Willamette River), tour the OMIC USA food quality testing facility, the WMC baking and analytical labs, learn about the Food Innovation Center, tour a commercial bakery and the United Grain Terminal in Vancouver, Washington.

“The purpose of this tour is just to show farmers where their wheat goes after it leaves the farm and the return on grower dollars invested in WMC programs,” said Britany Hurst Marchant, Executive Director of the Idaho Wheat Commission. “We come to the Wheat Marketing Center to see the research they are doing on Idaho wheat, and wheat from the Pacific Northwest and provide other visual opportunities that show the bigger picture for farmers.”

Idaho farmers have other opportunities to participate in grower education. The Idaho Wheat commission hosts a Domestic Marketing Tour every summer. This tour provides educational opportunities for growers to learn about how their wheat is transported, processed, and utilized beyond the farm. Being equipped with this knowledge, growers can organize their farming operations to meet the needs of the industry. This



tour can provide growers with an opportunity to build connections with the domestic wheat supply chain throughout the region.

“We are only as good as what we know, and in order to improve, we continue to learn,” said Clark Hamilton, Idaho Wheat Commission Chair. “The domestic marketing tour provides learning opportunities and experiences for growers throughout the state, and allows them to understand the wheat market processes. From the field to the mill, to how the consumer uses the flour.”

Participants of the Domestic Marketing Tour will visit Savage Rail Terminal, Arthur Grain, Grain Craft Mill, Pepperidge Farms, Central Milling, Caspers and the Bayer phosphate mine.

If you or farmers you know are interested in participating in these tours, please contact the Idaho Wheat Commission, [ryan@idahowheat.org](mailto:ryan@idahowheat.org) or 208.334.2353 for more information. ■

## Do You Know the Signs? Could You Give CPR to Save a Loved One?

BY LAURA WILDER, IDAHO BARLEY COMMISSION AND AHA IDAHO 2023 GO RED FOR WOMEN CHAIR

February was American Heart Month, but cardiovascular health should be on our minds all the time. Did you know that cardiovascular disease is the number one killer of men and women in Idaho and the U.S. – ahead of all forms of cancer and Covid-19 – including those of us in agriculture? The simple truth though is that most cardiovascular diseases can still be prevented with education and healthy lifestyle changes.

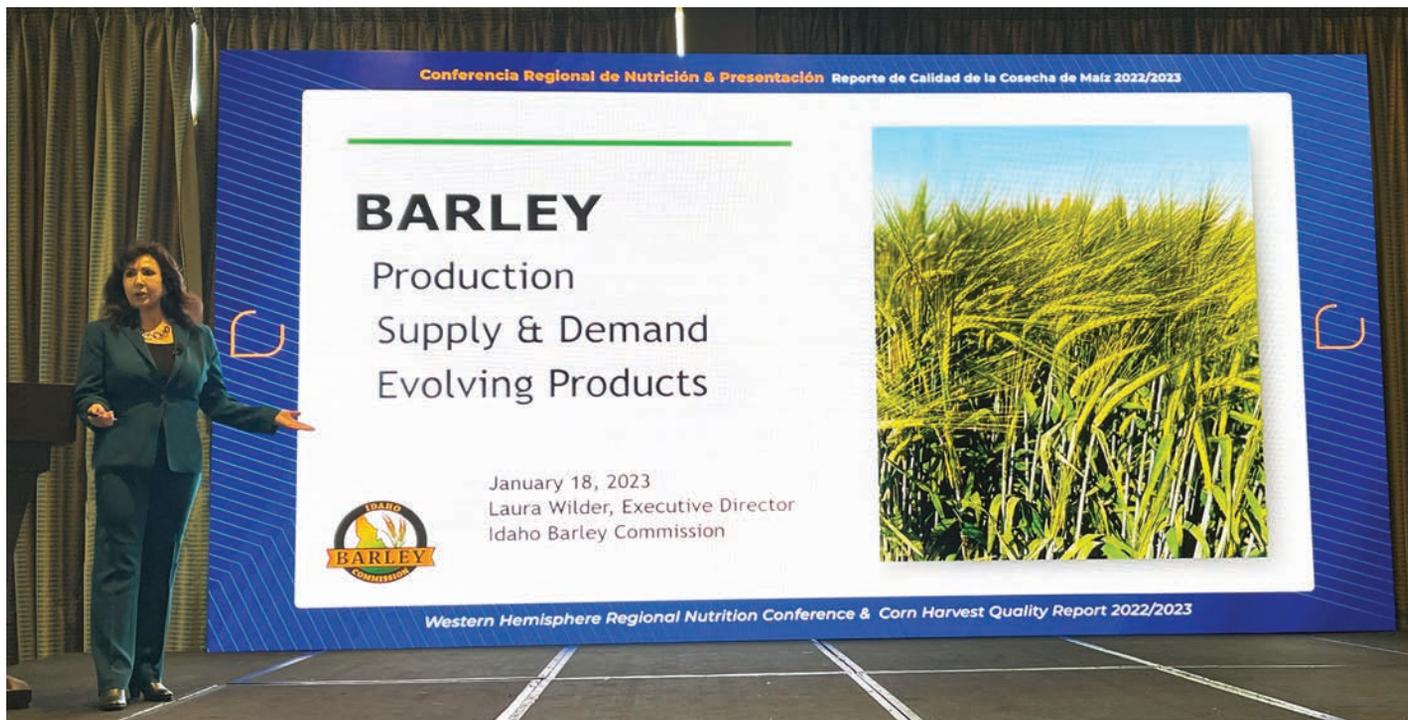


One of the most important things we can all do is to learn CPR because you never know when you’ll need to save a life. Hands-only CPR can save lives. Most people who experience cardiac arrest at home, work or in a public location die because they don’t receive immediate CPR from someone on the scene. If you see a teen or adult suddenly collapse, call 911 and push hard and fast in the center of the chest to the beat of any tune that is 100 to 120 beats per minute, such as the classic disco song “Stayin’ Alive”. Don’t stop until help arrives. Learn how at [www.Heart.org/HandsOnlyCPR](http://www.Heart.org/HandsOnlyCPR). For more CPR training resources, go to [www.CPR.Heart.org](http://www.CPR.Heart.org). You have the power to restart a heart.

Improving and maintaining cardiovascular health, or CVH, can help you enjoy a longer, healthier life. Better



CVH also has been associated with decreased risk for heart disease, stroke, cancer, dementia and other major health problems. Get started by learning more about the AHA’s Essential 8: Eat Better, Be More Active, Quit Tobacco, Get Healthy Sleep, Manage Weight, Control Cholesterol, Manage Blood Sugar, and Manage Blood Pressure. For more information, go to: <https://www.heart.org/en/healthy-living/healthy-lifestyle/lifes-essential-8> ■

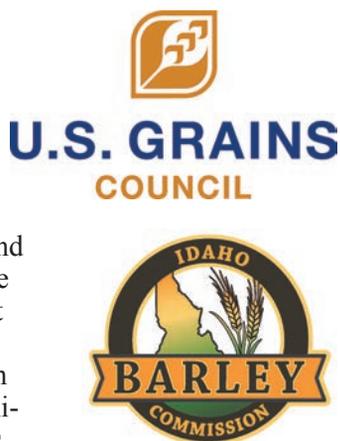


IBC Executive Director Laura Wilder presenting at USGC Latin America Regional Nutrition Conference in Panama City in January.

## Leveraging Grower Dollars Through Partnership

### *Idaho Barley Commission works with U.S. Grains Council on Market Development*

The Idaho Barley Commission (IBC) invests grower dollars in research, market development, promotion, information and education programs to advance the Idaho barley industry and help Idaho growers be more successful. One of the most important ways the Commission does this is through working with partner organizations like the U.S. Grains Council (USGC).



The U.S. Grains Council is the Commission’s foreign market development partner. USGC is an inclusive organization of corn, sorghum and barley growers, as well as agribusiness organizations whose mission is developing markets, enabling trade and improving lives.

The Council is a membership driven organization that supports free and fair trade, and administers USDA FAS market development programs for the barley, corn and sorghum sectors.

“These FAS market development programs like MAP (Market Access Program), FMD (Foreign Market Development Program) and ATP (Agricultural Trade Promotion Program) allow grower checkoff dollars to extend even farther in developing new export markets,” said Laura Wilder, IBC Executive Director. “IBC’s involvement with USGC allows Idaho growers access to USGC’s trade offices, staff and expertise around the world.”

IBC currently holds two voting board seats with U.S. Grains Council and Idaho Barley Commissioners are actively involved in the USGC Western Hemisphere A-Team where they actively participate in recommendations for Council programming. IBC Commissioners Josh Jones of Troy and Industry Representative Jason



Idaho Barley Commissioners Jason Boose (left), and Josh Jones serve on the USGC Western Hemisphere A-Team.

Boose of Hansen recently attended the 20th Annual USGC International Marketing Conference in Savannah, Georgia where they heard up-to-date information on global grain markets, and helped set global trade strategy for the coming year.

“The greatest value of IBC involvement in attending is the opportunity to meet face to face with the USGC staff,” said Boose. “It ensures that when USGC brings a barley trade team to the U.S., Idaho is included. This creates market opportunities that benefit Idaho barley producers.”

“As the newest IBC Commissioner, it was great to see the excellent professional staff that are promoting Idaho and U.S. barley throughout the world,” added Jones. “In this time of volatile trade, it is more important than ever to maintain our relationships with our customers – past, present and future.”

“The strategic presence of the Council and their lasting partnerships with customers and end-users results in

Continued on next page

## USDA FAS Programs



*Through its market development programs, FAS works in partnership with the food and agricultural industry to help exporters develop and maintain global markets for the full spectrum of U.S. farm and food products, from bulk commodities to specialty foods. By boosting agricultural export revenue and volume, FAS market development programs support U.S. farm income to enhance the overall U.S. economy.*

**Market Access Program (MAP):** Helps finance activities to market and promote U.S. agricultural commodities and products worldwide.

**Foreign Market Development (FMD):** Provides cooperator organizations with cost-share funding for activities that build international demand for U.S. agricultural commodities.

**Agricultural Trade Promotion Program (ATP):** Provides cost-share funding to help U.S. agricultural exporters develop new markets and mitigate the adverse effects of other countries' trade barriers.



IBC Executive Director Laura Wilder and IBC Commissioner Allen Young in Panama City with USGC in January.



Continued from previous page

stronger, more dynamic markets for Idaho and U.S. barley,” added Wilder.

In other USGC programming, Idaho Barley Commissioner Allen Young of Blackfoot traveled to Panama and Colombia in January as part of the Council’s Grain Export Mission (GEM) to learn about Council programming in the Latin America region.

The GEM was designed to show members how the Council carries out its mission and provided the opportunity for participants to gain a better understanding of the importance of trade and how that comes into play at their individual farming operations. Participants learned about the agricultural and fuel markets in the countries, visited feed production facilities, research centers, fuel terminals and a dairy operation. Along the way, participants met with their industry counterparts in Panama and Colombia.

“I was impressed with the USGC Latin America team and their promotion of our products,” said Young. “They represent us well and give us a good return on our investment.”

While in Panama, GEM participants were able to see a USGC program firsthand during the Latin America Regional Nutrition Conference. The two-day event welcomed 80 nutritionists from the top feed and livestock producers across Latin America to learn more about supply and demand of corn, sorghum, barley and distiller’s dried grains with solubles (DDGS); and the use of DDGS, sorghum and barley in the diets of various animal species.

The conference showcased the possibilities that come with diversifying ingredients, like including sorghum and barley in diets. It also increased participants’ awareness of new technologies and DDGS products and illustrated how they can be used with different species.



Idaho Barley Commissioner Allen Young (3rd from left) participated in USGC GEM mission to Panama and Colombia in January.

In addition, IBC’s Wilder was invited to speak at the conference on U.S. Barley Production, Global Barley Supply and Demand and Evolving Barley Products.

“Educational opportunities like GEM and the Latin America Regional Nutrition Conference are just a few ways the Council lives its mission of developing markets, enabling trade and improving lives. Involvement and engagement between members like the Idaho Barley Commission and the global USGC staff is critical to form relationships between the Council and customers around the world,” said Wilder. ■

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