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FEW years ago the commercial for Oldsmobile went, “It’s not your father’s Oldsmobile anymore.” The need to keep up with the times for design, functionality, creature comforts, and regulations to meet the demand of customers forces not only Oldsmobile to evolve, but other industries as well.

I have been fortunate that my grandfather and father kept many different publication materials and user manuals. Going through magazine literature showing off the advantages of a John Deere Model D or Allis Chalmers coming out with their Roto-baler or looking at a booklet with Palouse area farmers telling about the benefits of a John Deere Model 55 combine is a great history of agriculture evolution.

My favorite though is a USDA publication from the 1930’s with the title “How to Work Your Horses More Profitably.” It has a great picture of a team of horses and the farmer following in the background doing tillage. It’s definitely not our grandfather’s or father’s agriculture anymore.

Agriculture still has many things in common such as increasing yields to feed a growing population, soil health, improving tillage practices through better equipment and knowledge, the desire for better varieties, etc. I believe agriculture will be chasing these through eternity.

We have had tremendous advances in farming technologies such as McCormick’s reaper, John Deere’s plow, and Eli Whitney’s cotton gin. Norman Borlaug’s efforts to create better wheat varieties has been the foundation of today’s breeding methods, hybrids, and biotech crops. There is still more to do.

Many of you know that I love technology, especially precision agriculture equipment. I also have a fascination with Unmanned Air Systems (UAS) or as the media calls them, drones. I truly believe that the integration of UAS into agriculture will be one of those industry-changing technologies that can propel agriculture into the future.

However U.S. agriculture is at a distinct disadvantage to our competing countries. There are no rules for commercial use in the states. As a matter of fact, agriculture doesn’t even have a seat at the table to help the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) develop rules for our own industry.

The FAA has hindered our industry even further by releasing a notice that farmers can no longer fly their fields because that is considered a commercial operation, but we can fly our garden because we consume those crops. How far are they willing to go to hinder personal property rights? If I take a picture of my home site and a combine or tractor is sitting there and I sell it, is that commercial?

Another serious setback to agriculture by the FAA is limiting use of UAS to do research. Researchers can do projects if the proper forms have been accepted and permission granted by the FAA, but they need to have a UAS development component. Our researchers cannot do simple research with them to help us to better understand what is going on in our fields.

Agriculture is attacked every day by activist groups, government entities, public comments in social media outlets, etc. that we need to do a better job of managing resources. Farmers need to conserve water, use less fertilizers and pesticides, reduce erosion, and just plainly do a good job environmentally.

The demands for agriculture to do more will even increase. The word “SUSTAINABILITY” is being thrown out into the media and our industry. The best definition I can give you is it being the equilibrium regarding the areas of social, environmental, and economic. In laymen’s terms it means tracking your crops and the practices you do on your farm to a consumer’s table.

The development of UAS to work in conjunction with existing precision agriculture technologies can help us be successful in complying with the demands of many while helping us become more profitable. Farmers would be able to make better crop management decisions during the growing season because there is timely and helpful data.

In 1995, Microsoft launched Windows 95 bringing the computer to millions of homes. Email became popular and movies were made about it. I was one of those that fought accepting that advancement in communications. I wondered “why I needed email.” Fast forward almost 20 years and it is my preferred form of communication.

When I go to grower meetings I see farmers of all ages whip out smart phones faster than Billy the Kid could draw a gun. We rely on this technology to help us for everyday work and life. As a matter of fact, today’s smart phone is more powerful than my computer in 1995.

Agriculture has always been innovative, mostly by need. When confronted with a problem we seem to always deliver. It is no longer our “father’s agriculture.” We have accepted the new varieties of wheat and barley and work them with tractors and combines with cabs.

We need to stay on the cutting edge of technology and adopting these advancements. Not only for the sake of our profitability, but to meet the demands that are being brought to us. Agriculture needs to do a better job of using precision technology for management and help in the fight for ensuring that new technology advancements such as UAS and biotech crops are in our toolbox.

Will you make the move like your grandfather or father did to update when technology advancements are made? Will you help in the fight to ensure that we have the necessary tools in our toolbox or will you “keep working your horses profitably”?
It’s the Environment, Stupid

LIKE most of us do, we step out our front doors every morning and breathe in that cool morning air. We appreciate the feeling of a new day dawning and the opportunity that awaits as we jump in our car or truck and get moving.

In that peaceful moment as you stand on the front porch gazing out at your surroundings and breathing in that morning air, are you thinking about how much ozone, PM10, or PM2.5 you might be ingesting? I don’t either. However there are more and more who do and we in agriculture have been thrust to the forefront of a myriad of environmental issues.

I have spent my career thus far working on policy and regulatory issues on behalf of Idaho agriculture. Over that span, I have noticed that the percentage of my time dedicated to environmental issues has increased exponentially. It seems that every day there is a new rule, proposed rule, regulation, legislation, law, or executive order that will impact farmers and ranchers.

The Clean Air, Clean Water and Endangered Species Acts were passed by Congress in the late 1960s and early 1970s. These Acts serve as the triumvirate of environmental law today. Nearly every part of modern agriculture is subject to one or more of these measures. The laws have made some people very rich (lawyers) and others very poor (defendants). They are responsible for some really good outcomes, and also very detrimental ones.

So where does Idaho agriculture fall in the spectrum of winners and losers? In the day-in, day-out daily grind of owning and operating a farm and/or ranch, are we better off with these regulations and laws? How much do they help or hinder agricultural operations?

I can tell you that right now, I and your IGPA leaders are actively working on no less than five environmental issues with significant implications for Idaho grain farmers. You may be aware of some of these already; but some you may not. Here’s a brief listing in no special rank:

Waters of the U.S. - Since its passage in 1972, the Clean Water Act (CWA) has caused a barrage of confusion and lawsuits involving how far the jurisdiction of the law extends. At the crux of the fight is a phrase in the law which says “navigable waters of the U.S.” will be subject to regulation. But what exactly does that mean? Forty two years and many court cases later the Obama administration, through the EPA and US Army Corps of Engineers, is attempting to clarify the term.

Interpretive Rule - A section of the CWA exempts certain agricultural activities from its permit requirements. As an addition to the new “Waters of the US” proposal, the administration issued an Interpretive Rule to clarify that the exemptions for agriculture as listed in the CWA would still be honored and protected. However, the Interpretive Rule went a step further in its clarification efforts by stating that permitting exemptions for ag activities would not be recognized if they do not meet standards set by the USDA’s Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS). Congress and farming groups around the country smelled a skunk and now the EPA is furiously backpedaling.

Fugitive Emissions - Passage of the Clean Air Act set into motion a process whereby states were required to develop a plan describing how they would implement the law’s requirements. Referred to as a “State Implementation Plan” (SIP), the documents were reviewed and accepted by the EPA. Idaho’s SIP includes a provision about fugitive emissions, defined as “those emissions which could not reasonably pass through a stack, chimney, vent, or other functionally equivalent opening.”

This rule had never caused problems in Idaho agriculture until an incident in 2013 involving a complaint to the Idaho DEQ about dust from a tub grinder alerted the IGPA and other farm groups. Seeing the potential for public abuse of the provision, we went to work. Through the DEQ’s negotiated rulemaking process, we collaborated on new language clarifying that normally accepted agriculture practices are exempt from Idaho’s SIP provision on fugitive emissions. We now must obtain the Idaho legislature’s acceptance of the new rule in the 2015 session.

Ozone & Crop Burning - In 2007 a new program allowing farmers to burn crop residue was created through a negotiation of farmers, environmental advocates, and government regulators in response to a statewide ban on the practice. The program relies heavily on weather forecasts and a host of air quality measurements in order for growers to receive approval to burn. Timing is everything for growers needing to burn which can easily compound farmer frustration. A new look by the EPA at air quality standards related to ozone, a molecule that at certain concentrations can affect breathing, could threaten Idaho’s crop burning program. The IGPA is actively monitoring any activity on this issue, and is represented by two capable farmers who are advising the Idaho DEQ on the burn program.

Chemical Permitting - eight years ago, a U.S. federal appeals court ruled that the EPA must require new, burdensome permits for anyone spraying chemicals on or near navigable waters of the U.S. Until this ruling, agriculture had traditionally been considered a non-point source exempt from Clean Water Act requirements if properly following chemical labels. This new determination changed that long-standing rule for farmers or their contract applicators spraying over or in a certain proximity to a canal, ditch or stream. Even the EPA showed reluctance to the new permit, and the issue was met with bipartisan hostility in Congress. Legislation seeking to repeal the requirement has nearly passed on Capitol Hill, but overarching political gridlock has halted its final approval.

Have you learned anything, or did you fall asleep in your La-Z-Boy while reading? I spared you from two or three other active environmental issues (i.e. climate change) your state association is engaged in. No thanks necessary (said facetiously).

Hopefully farmers and other readers get a good idea of what is out there in just one area of farm policy that directly impacts your ability to make a living. Needless to say, these issues are not going away with time. The IGPA will do its part to foresee and tackle these issues, but it’s a team effort. I applaud the many Idaho farmers who have made the effort to educate themselves and speak up.

I’ve heard some in agriculture refer to farmers as the “first environmentalists”. If we want people to believe that, then we cannot afford to be stupid about the environment.
Vancouver Terminal Standoff Could Slow Idaho Wheat Exports

By Governor C.L. “Butch” Otter

WHAT does labor unrest in the State of Washington and the federal government’s unwillingness to be part of the solution have to do with grain producers in Idaho?

It’s not a trick question; the answer is “Plenty.” And from my point of view, it’s wrong that Idaho producers who work so hard and efficiently to meet growing demand for their crop around the world could be victimized by an issue that’s entirely out of their control.

The Port of Vancouver is one of only nine export terminals on the West Coast moving grain to the Pacific Rim from throughout the Northwest and across much of the Grain Belt. But a dispute there between United Grain Corp. and the International Longshore and Warehouse Union is putting a serious crimp in export shipments just as the harvest season is gearing up.

Export Grain Terminal in nearby Longview, Washington cut a deal with the union in 2012 that United Grain contends has put its larger Vancouver facility at a competitive disadvantage. So United Grain locked out union workers in 2013 in an effort to get a similar agreement.

The union responded by picketing the United Grain operation, so grain inspectors for the State of Washington had to get first local police and later state police escorts to cross the picket lines and conduct the necessary export inspections. That ended when troopers were pulled off escort duty in late June by Washington Governor Jay Inslee – a former congressional colleague of mine with a significantly different take on the proper role of government.

Now growers, commodity commissions, ports and politicians are calling on the U.S. Department of Agriculture to help by assigning federal grain inspectors to do the work usually done by state inspectors in Washington. Members of Idaho’s congressional delegation joined those from Washington, Oregon and Montana recently in urging Agriculture Secretary Vilsack’s agency to “meet its statutory obligation to inspect wheat exports.”

So far, the pleas have fallen on deaf ears. And unless there’s a breakthrough in negotiations between United Grain and the union, it figures to be a long and difficult harvest season for grain exporters and the communities they support.

Coming from a right-to-work state, it’s particularly offensive to me when disagreements between labor and management escalate to the level of impeding the commerce of third parties. But we all know how the Obama administration feels about unions. And less than three months before the midterm elections, the last thing the White House wants to do is make them mad.

Of course there are other terminals on the coast. The Port of Portland, which gets the bulk of Idaho’s business, is operating normally since USDA inspectors sign off on grain shipments there. But fewer terminals means busier terminals, and shipping delays can be extremely costly and damaging to business relationships.

There’s a lot at risk for Idaho, where wheat is grown in 42 of our 44 counties and our 5,000 grain producers rang up farm gate receipts of over $1 billion last year. Idaho ranks seventh among states in wheat production – our largest crop behind potatoes. What’s more, about half of Idaho’s wheat crop is sold internationally in such markets as Japan, South Korea, China, Taiwan and the Philippines.

So I encourage members of the Idaho Grain Producers Association to let your voices be heard. Make sure your elected representatives know you’re watching and that government’s job should be helping to solve problems – not making them worse.

Finally, I was pleased to announce appointments to the Idaho Barley Commission and Idaho Wheat Commission recently. You should know that the Idaho Grain Producers Association is a big part of my process for identifying and choosing commissioners for these important appointments. Please welcome Scott Brown of Soda Springs as he succeeds Dwight Little of Newdale on the Barley Commission, and Joe R. Anderson of Genesee as he takes over for Paul “Joe” Anderson of Potlatch on the Wheat Commission.

Commodity Indemnity Fund & Seed Indemnity Fund Update

By Dave Ogden
Warehouse Bureau Chief, Idaho State Department of Agriculture

I CAN’T SAY IT ENOUGH SO I WILL SAY IT ONE MORE TIME: DEAL WITH LICENSED DEALERS. A list of Idaho licensed dealers that buy commodities and seeds can be found on the web at: www.agi.idaho.gov. Then choose “Warehouse” from the links on the left side of the screen, and then Licensed Warehouses, Licensed Commodity Dealers, or Licensed Seed Buyers in the middle of the screen. Or you can call (208) 332-8660 to talk to a live person to verify the status of an Idaho license.

At the time of writing this article, the Idaho Ag news stories included several new crop options being offered to Idaho producers. Some seem to be economically viable and beneficial in the production cycle, while others are just being tested or introduced to the area to see if they will work here. Some of the companies plying for acreage are large and seem to be well financed, while others are smaller and trying to carve out a profitable niche in a very competitive market.

If a new crop buyer is licensed by ISDA, then you know your exposure to loss due to non-payment is minimized due to the 90 percent coverage against loss protection provided by the indemnity funds. If the new buyer is not licensed, then you will need to do some credit checking on your own to determine if they are reputable and capable of paying for what they buy from you in a timely fashion. We are always interested to know if unlicensed contracting is going on in Idaho.

As of June 30, 2014, the CIF balance was $11,961,216. The SIF balance was $6,204,741. The maximum balance allowed by law for each fund is $12 million.

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Sessions and speakers include:

Farm Bill 2014 lessons: Barry Flinchbaugh is an acknowledged expert on agricultural policy and an award-winning professor of agricultural economics at KSU. Dr. Flinchbaugh will look at lessons learned from the historically long debate on the 2014 farm bill. Ag won some battles and lost some.

The importance of sulfur: Sulfur deficiencies are affecting more and more small grain programs. What does sulfur do for small grain production and should growers in the Northwest be concerned about it? Presented by Neal Kinsey, Kinsey Agricultural Services.

Big Data ROI: Big Data is a big topic these days, but how do you make money on it? Can you use Big Data to drive revenue, cut costs or answer tactical or strategic questions? This session shows you how, with real-life examples from a Big Data system used every day on a 30,000 acre U.S. row crop operation. Presented by Douglas Hackney, The Enterprise Group.

Fuel containment compliance: Each SPCC plan is unique, get the facts, how to upgrade your fuel systems for compliance, and what’s involved with oil handling training. What are we going to do with lube oil tanks, poly totes, and nurse tanks? Presented by Kenneth Mattson, SPCC Consultant.

- Thomas Clemente, professor, Agriculture Biotechnology
- Farm bill implementation
- Barley update
- Transportation update
- Estate Planning
- Conservation/Ecology
- White House Climate Change Initiative
- RMA/Crop Insurance
- Waters of the U.S. rule
- OSHA Qualifications for Small Farm Status by Jill Cornejo
- Online tools - ARC vs PLC. How to calculate your best option

Mark Mayfield, MC
Known as “The Corporate Comedian,” emcee Mark Mayfield has merged his corporate background as a lobbyist and his comedy background as a nightclub performer to create an extremely unique presentation style. He has received rave reviews sharing the stage with a wide variety of celebrities.

Activities:
Dinner and tour at Full Sail Ale: Ever wonder what really goes on in a brewery? For a fun and informative evening, guides will lead you on a tour of the Hood River brewhouse.
Catch and release sturgeon fishing: OR or WA fishing license required. Licenses will be available for purchase on day of trip.
Museum, wine tasting and dinner: Western Antique Aeroplane and Automobile Museum, wine tasting at Marchesi Vineyards, and dinner at Three Rivers Grill.

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2014 CONVENTION REGISTRATION

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Email _____________________________________ State Affiliation (circle) WAWG OWGL IGPA

FULL REGISTRATION (INCLUDES MEALS)

#ATTENDING AMOUNT
Regular Registration ______x $195 = $_____  
Spouse Registration ______x $195 = $_____  
After 10/12/14 ______x $235 = $_____  
Non-Member ______x $320 = $_____  

*Note FULL Convention Registration includes Wednesday, Thursday, Friday & Saturday meetings and all meals.

SINGLE DAY REGISTRATION

Tours-Wednesday
Full Sail Ale Brewery ______x $35 = (includes dinner) $_____ Wednesday
Museum Tour with Wine Tasting ______x $35 = (includes dinner) $_____ Wednesday
Fishing Tour ______x $135 = (includes dinner) $_____ Wednesday

Single Day ______x $150 = $_____ Thursday, Friday  
Single Day ______x $100 = $_____ Saturday  
Non-Member Single Day ______x $200 = $_____ Thursday, Friday, Saturday

DINNER & AUCTION - HEADS & TAILS **AUCTION FUNDRAISER**

______x $10 per person = $_____  

ADDITIONAL MEAL TICKETS *AVAILABLE ONLY WITH A FULL REGISTRATION

______Individual Breakfast ______x $30 = $_____  
______Individual Lunch ______x $45 = $_____  
______State Banquet ______x $50 = $_____  
______Dinner & Auction ______x $70 = $_____  

PLEASE INDICATE WHICH MEALS YOU WILL BE ATTENDING (FOR HEAD COUNT PURPOSES):

______National Organization ______Idaho Banquet (Thurs) ______Luncheon - Barry Flinchbaugh (Friday)
______Update Breakfast (Thurs) ______Oregon Banquet (Thurs) ______Dinner & Auction (Friday)
______Idaho Lunch (Thurs) (Invitation Only) ______Washington Banquet (Thurs) ______Breakfast - Thomas Clemente
______Oregon Lunch (Thurs) ______Opening Breakfast - (Friday) ______Saturday
______Washington Lunch (Thurs)  

PLEASE INDICATE ALL THAT APPLY:

______Speaker ______Committee Chairperson ______Past Washington Wheat Commissioner
______Exhibitor ______Idaho Wheat Commissioner ______Past Washington Barley Commissioner
______Sponsor ______Idaho Barley Commissioner ______Wheat Foundation
______Past President ______Oregon Wheat Commissioner ______First Time Attendee
______State Officer ______Washington Grain Commissioner ______15x40 Attendee
______County President ______Past Idaho Wheat Commissioner ______WA Lifetime Member
______Board Member ______Past Idaho Barley Commissioner  
______Executive Committee ______Past Oregon Wheat Commissioner  

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2014 Tri-State Grain Growers Convention Agenda

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 12

9:00 am – 12:00 pm Washington Grain Alliance Meeting  
(By invitation only)

12:30 – 2:30 pm Tri-State Association Meeting  
(By invitation only)

12:30 – 4:00 pm Tri-State Commission Meeting  
(By invitation only)

1:00 – 5:00 pm REGISTRATION OPEN

1:00 – 5:00 pm Tour Option (includes dinner)  
Columbia River fishing excursion

2:30 pm Exhibit Hall Opens

3:00 – 5:00 pm Welcome Reception with Exhibitors

4:00 – 5:00 pm Oregon Executive Committee Meeting

5:00 – 6:00 pm 15x40 Orientation and Social Hour

6:00 – 7:30 pm “Past, Present and Future Dinner”  
(By invitation only)

7:00 am – 5:00 pm  
REGISTRATION OPEN

8:00 – 9:30 NATIONAL ORGANIZATION UPDATE  
BREAKFAST
  • US WHEAT – ROY MOTTEN
  • NAWG – BRETT BLANKENSHIP & KEIRA FRANZ
  • NBGA – DOYLE LENTZ

9:00 am – 12:00 pm Washington Grain Alliance Meeting  
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4:00 – 5:00 pm Oregon Executive Committee Meeting

5:00 – 6:00 pm 15x40 Orientation and Social Hour

6:00 – 7:30 pm “Past, Present and Future Dinner”  
(By invitation only)

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 13

7:00 am – 5:00 pm  
REGISTRATION OPEN

7:00 am – 8:00 am Idaho Executive Committee Meetings

7:00 – 8:00 am Early Bird Educational Breakout

• Breakout 1: “Shriveled grain, low protein,  
low starch — what growers should know and consider”  
– Neal Kinsey, Kinsey Agricultural Services

• Breakout 2: “What’s New for you in the  
2014 Farm Bill?”  
– Director Ben Thiel & Rick Williams, RMA; Gerri Richter & Judy Olson, FSA

• Breakout 3: “Building Barley Markets in the  
Pacific Northwest”  
– Dr. Sanford Eigenbrode, Project Director – Regional Approach to Climate Change PNW Ag;  
Beatrice Van Horne, Northwest Regional Climate Hub (Corvallis)

• Breakout 4: “Climate Change Initiative &  
Regional Cereal Production”  
– Dr. Sanford Eigenbrode, Project Director – Regional Approach to Climate Change PNW Ag;  
Beatrice Van Horne, Northwest Regional Climate Hub (Corvallis)

• Breakout 5: “OSHA Qualifications for Small  
Farm Status”  
– Jill Cornejo, OSHA Manager

8:00 – 9:00 am NATIONAL ORGANIZATION UPDATE  
BREAKFAST
  • US WHEAT – ROY MOTTEN
  • NAWG – BRETT BLANKENSHIP & KEIRA FRANZ
  • NBGA – DOYLE LENTZ

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12:30 – 2:30 pm Tri-State Association Meeting  
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1:00 – 5:0:0 pm Tour Option (includes dinner)  
Columbia River fishing excursion

2:30 pm Exhibit Hall Opens

3:00 – 5:00 pm Welcome Reception with Exhibitors

4:00 – 5:00 pm Oregon Executive Committee Meeting

5:00 – 6:00 pm 15x40 Orientation and Social Hour

6:00 – 7:30 pm “Past, Present and Future Dinner”  
(By invitation only)

8:30 – 9:30 pm Viewing of The Great American Harvest film  
(Tentative)

7:00 am – 5:00 pm  
REGISTRATION OPEN

7:00 am – 8:00 am Idaho Executive Committee Meetings

7:00 – 8:00 am Early Bird Educational Breakout

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• Breakout 5: “OSHA Qualifications for Small  
Farm Status”  
– Jill Cornejo, OSHA Manager

2:30 – 3:00 Break with Exhibitors

2:30 – 3:00 Washington Resolution & Annual Meeting

2:30 – 3:00 Beer tasting Reception in Exhibit Hall

2:30 – 3:00 Social Hour – Oregon

2:30 – 3:00 Social Hour – Washington, Idaho

2:30 – 3:00 Individual State Banquets

2:30 – 3:00 Washington – Awards Banquet

2:30 – 3:00 Idaho – Annual Member & Awards Banquet

2:30 – 3:00 Oregon – Gala Celebration Dinner

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 14

7:00 am  
REGISTRATION OPEN

7:00 am – 8:00 am Early Bird Educational Breakout

• Breakout 1: “Shriveled grain, low protein,  
low starch — what growers should know and consider”  
– Neal Kinsey, Kinsey Agricultural Services

• Breakout 2: “What’s New for you in the  
2014 Farm Bill?”  
– Director Ben Thiel & Rick Williams, RMA; Gerri Richter & Judy Olson, FSA

• Breakout 3: “Building Barley Markets in the  
Pacific Northwest”  
– Dr. Sanford Eigenbrode, Project Director – Regional Approach to Climate Change PNW Ag;  
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Beatrice Van Horne, Northwest Regional Climate Hub (Corvallis)

• Breakout 5: “OSHA Qualifications for Small  
Farm Status”  
– Jill Cornejo, OSHA Manager

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8:00 – 10:00 am OPENING CEREMONY BREAKFAST
Emcee MARK MAYFIELD
KRYS T H A R D E N, USDA (Invited)
BRANDON WILLIS – Administrator RMA-USDA

10:00 am Exhibit Hall Opens
10:00 – 12:00 Washington Wheat Foundation Annual Meeting
10:00 – 10:30 Break with Exhibitors (Coffee & Beverages)

10:30 – 11:45 Educational Breakouts
- **Breakout 6**: “Precision Technology – Who owns the data & what is my return on investment?”
  Douglas Hackney, Enterprise Group, Ltd.
- **Breakout 7**: “Ask the Professionals – Real Life Farm Transition Stories From Those Who Deal With Them”
  Michael Stolp, Certified Family Business Advisor, Northwest Farm Credit Services
  Adam Little, Financial Advisor, Merrill Lynch
  David Enquist, CPA, CliftonLarsonAllen
  Gerry Rein, Attorney, Lukens & Annis
- **Breakout 8**: “How Conservation Compliance Relates to the New Farm Bill”
  Washington - Roylene Rides at the Door
  Oregon - Loren Unruh
  Idaho - Jeffery Burwell
- **Breakout 9**: “Tools you can use to calculate your best option between ARC, PLC & SCO”
- **Breakout 10**: “Sulfur deficiencies and what does sulfur do for Small grain production and should PNW be concerned”
  Neal Kinsey, Kinsey Agricultural Services

12:00 – 2:00 AGRIBUSINESS LUNCHEON
Emcee MARK MAYFIELD
BARRY FLINCHBAUGH – Economist at KSU

2:00 – 2:45 Break with Exhibitors
2:00 – 5:00 Cathedral Ridge Winery Tour
(registration required)

2:45 – 4:00 Educational Breakouts
- **Breakout 11**: “SPCC Fuel Containment Compliance”
  Kenneth Mattson, SPCC Consultant
- **Breakout 12**: “What’s New for you in the 2014 Farm Bill?” (Repeated) – Director Ben Theil & Rick Williams, RMA; Gerri Richter & Judy Olton, FSA
- **Breakout 13**: “Ecology & Agriculture, Working Together” – Keira Franz, NAWG, Dennis McClarran, EFA (Invited)
- **Breakout 14**: “Tools you can use to calculate your best option between ARC, PLC & SCO” (Repeated)
- **Breakout 15**: “Rail Capacity and the Impact on the River System” (panel)
  Amer Bedawi, Columbia Grain
  Gregory Guthrie, BNSF
  Heather Stebbings, PNWA
  Terry Whiteside, Whiteside & Assoc.

4:00 – 5:00 Break with Exhibitors (Cash Bars set up)
4:00 Silent Auction Items on Display and Available for signup

5:00 Exhibitor Hall CLOSED
5:30 – 6:00 pm Social Hour

6:00 – 9:00 DINNER AND AUCTIONS
Emcee MARK MAYFIELD
AUCTIONS – ID, OR, and WA
ENTERTAINMENT - MICHAEL & AMY
DUELING PIANOS SHOW

9:00 – Midnight Hospitality Room

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 15

7:30 – 9:00 BREAKFAST
Emcee MARK MAYFIELD
THOMAS CLEMENTE – Professor, Agriculture Biotechnology

It’s a fact. Most of our employees come from a farming or ranching background. We understand the cyclical nature of ag and know the issues producers face. Talk with a Northwest FCS relationship manager to see for yourself. We have knowledge, expertise, and the financing you need to grow your business.

Visit northwestfcs.com to learn more about the benefits of our customer-owned financial cooperative.
Idaho Wheat Commission Fiscal Year 2014 Annual Report

Market Development Overview

Idaho’s annual wheat harvest is one of the most consistent among wheat-growing states. The reason is two-fold: First, roughly 60% of our harvest is grown under irrigation, and, as long as snow packs the mountains in winter, southern and eastern Idaho growers can grow their crops in the summer. Idaho has a higher proportion of its wheat grown under irrigation than most wheat-growing states.

Second, the rolling hills of the Palouse and the prairies of northern Idaho receive “just right” levels of rainfall most years, usually not too much or too little. Just enough rain makes it past the heavy rain zones on the coast and over the Cascades to make these farms relying on natural rainfall some of the most productive in the world.

Domestic Sales Continue to Grow

Due to its consistency and quality, more than half of Idaho’s wheat harvest is already committed to customers prior to harvest each year, either by contract or handshake agreement. More than 10% of the state’s annual harvest is milled in-state at GrainCraft’s Blackfoot mill. Domestic users tend to be concentrated in the western U.S. states of California, Utah, Arizona, Oregon, Washington, and Colorado, but loyal customers as far away as Georgia and New York also exist. Domestic customers in 25 states source their wheat ingredient needs to Idaho. The far-flung buyers of Idaho wheat pay much more in transportation costs but they prefer the low moisture, high extraction and consistency of wheat grown in Idaho.

California has more wheat milling capacity than any other state yet they grow only three-quarters of the wheat needed to supply their mills. So a significant portion of Idaho wheat has always gone to California. The extreme drought over the past couple of years has increased even more the proportion of Idaho wheat being used by California customers.

Export Market Important to Idaho

Nearly all of the wheat grown north of the Salmon River in Idaho goes to Portland and is exported to Asian and Latin American markets. Soft white wheat is the largest class of wheat exported, although some hard red winter wheat also finds its way to the export channels. Idaho’s six largest export markets for the 2013-2014 marketing year are shown below:

Top Six Importers from the Pacific Coast (TMT)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>HRW</th>
<th>HRS</th>
<th>SW</th>
<th>Other</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Japan</td>
<td>2846.1</td>
<td>894.0</td>
<td>1063.0</td>
<td>888.4</td>
<td>0.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Philippines</td>
<td>2037.4</td>
<td>34.9</td>
<td>1174.8</td>
<td>827.7</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Korea</td>
<td>1300.3</td>
<td>209.3</td>
<td>370.9</td>
<td>720.1</td>
<td>0.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indonesia</td>
<td>1136.1</td>
<td>118.4</td>
<td>548.0</td>
<td>469.7</td>
<td>0.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Taiwan</td>
<td>979.1</td>
<td>264.6</td>
<td>580.9</td>
<td>133.0</td>
<td>0.0</td>
</tr>
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<td>Thailand</td>
<td>644.6</td>
<td>117.4</td>
<td>319.5</td>
<td>207.8</td>
<td>0.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Idaho growers have a presence in more than 100 overseas markets through their support of U.S. Wheat Associates. Farmers in 19 wheat-growing states pool their money to qualify for matching funds from USDAs Foreign Agricultural Service and Market Access Program.

Over the past two years, Idaho has worked with Oregon and Washington to develop a market in Latin America for PNW soft white wheat. Most flour tortillas are made in the traditional way with hard red winter wheat. However, research has shown that 10-20% soft white wheat flour blended with hard red winter wheat flour results in a higher quality tortilla. Through soft white wheat marketing efforts in Latin America, we have...
made significant inroads into mills in Colombia, Mexico, Peru, and Chile.

Some of the research for the blending of flours for tortillas was done at the Wheat Marketing Center. The Wheat Marketing Center is partially funded by Idaho growers and WMC is doing ongoing research on other products using PNW wheat that can be sold in overseas markets. A new cookie-cracker line is helping develop snacks specifically targeted to Asia.

New Hard White Winter Variety Launched
Idaho continues to rank first nationally in production of hard white wheat with approximately 10 million bushels produced annually. Most of the available spring wheat irrigated acreage is already in hard white wheat, so growth of this class hinges on winter varieties. Dr. Jianli Chen, wheat breeder in the Aberdeen research station, has released a new dry land winter variety called UI Silver and certified seed will be available for fall planting in 2014. A new winter variety of hard white wheat for irrigated acreage is about a year behind UI Silver.

North Idaho is also now growing more hard white wheat, with 500,000 bushels harvested in 2013 and nearly 750,000 expected for 2014. Markets for hard white grown in north Idaho include ADM, Pendleton Mill in Oregon, and California.

Nearly all hard white wheat grown in Idaho goes to the domestic market, but strong demand by overseas customers also exists. Korea, for example, uses hard white wheat for noodles. Unable to find hard white wheat in the U.S., Korean millers have turned to Australia to fill their need. Once our second largest export market behind Japan, Korea now ranks third. Taiwan is also a loyal buyer of wheat from the U.S., but has begun importing hard white wheat from Australia to make noodles. We hope new winter varieties will enable us to grow enough hard white wheat to supply ever increasing domestic demand and begin to supply export customers.
Agriculture and Life Sciences, with a proposal to fund a Wheat Molecular Geneticist position to focus on wheat genomics, trait development and various aspects of pre-breeding and parental line development. The commissioners are convinced these research areas will be crucial to keeping Idaho's wheat industry at the forefront of innovation and UI-CALS wheat research programs relevant to industry and future generations. IWC committed to 5 years of funding the faculty salary and operating expenses, after which time the UI-CALS will take over financial responsibility for this tenure-track faculty position based on campus in Moscow. The position will provide much needed teaching support for the Plant, Soil, and Entomological Sciences Department (PSES) in plant physiology and plant molecular biology.

Summer 2014 field days highlighted a first look at some very interesting new variety releases from UI wheat breeding programs. UI Huffman was introduced at the UI-CALS/Limagrain wheat field day at Kambitsch farm near Genesee, ID. UI Huffman was named and dedicated in memory of Brad Huffman, a young man who had been involved in the wheat variety development program for many years; first on his family’s farm, then as a student, and later a support scientist in the program. Brad was a key person working in the program when he died suddenly from unknown causes at the age of 22. UI Huffman is a joint release with WSU, developer of one of the original parental lines, and UI-CALS where the crosses to Idaho lines and subsequent selections were made. UI Huffman will be marketed exclusively through Limagrain Cereal Seeds’ network of seed distributors.

Several hard white wheat varieties have been released from the Aberdeen breeding program including UI Silver, a high yielding hard white winter dryland variety with excellent end-use qualities. It was released a few years ago as a public variety but foundation seed has not been available until this crop year. UI Platinum, a spring hard white winter dryland variety with excellent end-use qualities. It was released a few years ago as a public variety but foundation seed has not been available until this crop year. UI Platinum is expected to be licensed with a royalty. It is competitive in yield with current hard white spring varieties in the market and has highly desirable end-use qualities which have drawn the attention of some of the largest US millers and grain suppliers. But, the real “game changer” is a soft white winter (SWW) double haploid variety with 2-gene imidazolinone herbicide resistance. Tested this year in the regional herbicide tolerance trials as DH-10, it has topped many of the 2 gene IMI trials for yield. It has no herbicide damage from imidazolinone (Beyond) herbicide even with the MSO adjuvant added. The variety is highly uniform, short, with good straw strength, high yield potential and stripe rust resistance. It is expected to be on the market in 2016, as a licensed variety with a royalty.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PERCENTAGE OF WHEAT CROP BY DISTRICT</th>
<th>WINTER</th>
<th>SPRING</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>DISTRICT 10</td>
<td>31%</td>
<td>15%</td>
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<tr>
<td>DISTRICT 70</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td>&lt;1%</td>
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<tr>
<td>DISTRICT 80</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td>4%</td>
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<tr>
<td>DISTRICT 90</td>
<td>21%</td>
<td>17%</td>
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<tr>
<th>ESTIMATED WHEAT PRODUCTION BY DISTRICT</th>
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<tr>
<td>DISTRICT 10</td>
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<td>DISTRICT 70</td>
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<td>DISTRICT 80</td>
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<tr>
<td>DISTRICT 90</td>
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<td>Total</td>
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<table>
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<tr>
<th>IDAHO WHEAT CROP 2013</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL ACRES HARVESTED</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WINTER WHEAT ACRES</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SPRING WHEAT ACRES</td>
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</table>
process. Without the off-season production capabilities and extensive trial network of Limagrain Cereal Seeds, this variety might have missed its opportunity to be one of the first soft white wheat Clearfield® Plus varieties on the market.

Facilitating new collaborative projects remains a high priority for IWC commissioners and research staff. Recently, IWC began collaborating with UI-CALS’ Consumer Sciences Department, on a project to scientifically investigate consumer preferences for products made from different classes of wheat, in particular, whole wheat products made from hard white wheat compared with hard red wheat. Partnership with Consumer Sciences offers opportunities for Idaho’s wheat industry to learn how to engage consumers in dialogue about the vital role of Idaho’s wheat industry and wheat’s nutritional value. Another new collaborative effort engages The Institute of Bioinformatics and Evolutionary Studies (IBEST) with the research faculty of UI-CALS PSES Department. Initial discussions with IBEST lead to several ideas for future collaboration and the realization the IBEST team could provide immediate and valuable expertise, tools and support for the newly funded wireworm project. Facilitating these opportunities has and will continue to pay big dividends to Idaho’s wheat producers whose assessment dollars graciously support the IWC’s research grants and activities.

Information & Education

THE IWC supports a wide variety of programs aimed at providing information to growers, state and federal legislators, and the general public. The IWC receives information from the Idaho Grain Producers Association, the National Association of Grain Growers, U.S. Wheat Associates, and other organizations, regarding farm programs, trade issues, transportation, and environmental concerns. Information is communicated back to the producers through the Idaho Grain magazine, cereal schools, webinars, newsletters and workshops. The IWC is committed to educating the public through programs like Bread in the Bag, Ag in the Classroom, and the Wheat Foods Council.

Domestic Marketing Tour

The Domestic Marketing tour takes place every-other year. This two-day event facilitates networking between southern and eastern Idaho wheat growers, while providing the opportunity to meet industry representatives from companies that purchase Idaho wheat. While on the tour, growers learn about consumer trends, sustainability, trucking and rail issues, hard white wheat movements, importance of consistency, challenges millers and bakers face, potential niche areas for growers and what we can do to keep Idaho’s wheat industry viable into the future.

Direct Seed Workshop and Field Day

This annual workshop is held the second week of March in Idaho Falls. The workshop provides a great opportunity for growers to network with other growers and industry representatives.

This one day workshop focuses on crucial issues affecting direct seed growers such as; managing water, yields, chem fallow, best management practices in a drought year, cover crops, converting air seeder to liquid fertilizer, varieties and fertility interactions, and the value of crop residue.

Growers can attend a Direct Seed field day each July east of Ririe, where they can view recent research on production systems, including cover crops and wheat varieties for dryland grain. During the field day growers have their questions answered by other growers and University of Idaho extension personnel.

Webinars

Webinars have become a popular educational tool made available by a computer and high-speed internet connection.

A Webinar is a way to attend a conference without leaving home. Using your computer, you can hear a presentation and also see the presenter’s slides, all from the convenience of your home.

The Idaho Wheat Commission hosts a series of webinars each year during the months of January, February and March. A partial list of topics covered in 2014 includes: Barley Yellow Dwarf Virus, Acid Soils, Farm Taxation, Glyphosate Product Performance, and Planting Date Importance.

These webinars are posted on the Idaho Wheat Commission website: http://www.idahowheat.org/media/webinars.aspx.

Over 120 growers participated in the 2014 Direct Seed Workshop in Idaho Falls.
County Fairs
Contests for best wheat-based products (baking contests), are a popular draw at county fairs across the state. Idaho Wheat Commission’s participation at county fairs provides consumer outreach by helping promote home baking through baking sponsorships.

Idaho Wheat Commission is one of 55 exhibitors each year in the Ag Pavilion which travels to the Western Idaho Fair and Twin Falls County Fair. Visitors to the Pavilion learn about Idaho’s agricultural commodities and industries. The Ag Pavilion’s goal is to educate urban populations about where food comes from, and the contribution agriculture has to Idaho’s economy.

FFA Teacher Education
A recent story in USA Today highlighted an increase in students seeking degrees in agriculture careers like cereal sciences, biotechnology, economics and marketing.

In an effort to continue encouraging students to consider a career working in Idaho’s wheat industry, the Idaho Wheat Commission developed a new outreach program in conjunction with Idaho’s FFA Association. A workshop was created to showcase careers in cereal sciences, international marketing, grain trade/logistics, and ag business.

FFA teachers from across the state spent time in Portland, Oregon in August for a one-day hands-on-workshop at the Wheat Marketing Center. Teachers also met with US Wheat Associates, Columbia Grain, TEMCO representatives, and an entrepreneur who runs a successful bakery in Portland.

This workshop provided FFA teachers the opportunity to learn about Idaho’s wheat industry by showcasing careers of which teachers may not have been aware, and providing teachers the opportunity to earn a college credit.

Trent Van Leuven, who teaches Botany/Plant and Soil Sciences in Mackay, Idaho said, “Thank you so much for making this all possible—this was by far one of the best professional development opportunities I have ever had. The wheat tour was incredible. It gave me an opportunity to see the chemistry and marketing of wheat. My mind is now buzzing with ideas to improve what I teach in order to make it more relevant to the real world.”

FFA Teachers learn about grain handling as they watch a barge loading at TEMCO.

Dave Shelton, WMC Executive Director demonstrates noodle strength characteristics to FFA teacher, Pat Dixon.

FFA Teachers from across the state at the WMC in Portland. Left to Right: Tereasa Waterman (IWC), Josh Evans (Preston), Steve Wilder (Meridian), Laura Wilder (FFA Executive Director), Pat Dixon (Nampa), Don Curry (Cottonwood), Trent Van Leuven (Mackay), Rick & Doritta Waitley (Ag in the Classroom).
By Cindy Snyder

RELEASING seven new varieties in her first seven years in Idaho is an accomplishment, but Jianli Chen has higher goals. She wants those new varieties to be grown and milled into flour. Until growers plant those new varieties, they can’t reap the benefits of improved pest resistance or end-use quality.

Of the varieties she has released so far, Chen lists UI Platinum, UI Stone and UI Silver as having the greatest potential long-term impact for southern Idaho production.

UI Silver is a hard white winter wheat that Chen released in 2009. It was developed from parent material that performed well under dryland conditions but did not have the baking quality that end users were looking for.

Growers and millers have been slow to embrace UI Silver, but Chen has been working with a flour company to showcase UI Silver’s good baking qualities. Now that an end user is interested in Silver, growers can take advantage of its complex disease package that offers stem rust, stripe rust and dwarf bunt resistance.

Last winter also proved Silver is more winter hardy than some of the other hard white wheat varieties growers have been planting.

“Silver came into the light last year,” Chen said. “Now that they know Silver is good, I think it will take off.”

UI Stone is a soft white spring wheat released in 2012. It is a high yielder with excellent end use quality. It has good, though not great, tolerance to stripe rust and cereal nematodes. Where it excels is in Fusarium Head Blight (FHB) resistance. UI Stone is the only SWS variety in the Pacific Northwest with tolerance to Fusarium Head Blight, also known as Scab.

Even though it is the only variety that UI recommends planting following corn, Chen has been disappointed that more growers don’t plant it. UI Stone is exclusively marketed under the LCS brand.

She is very excited about UI Platinum, which was just released in July. "Several flour mills are interested in Platinum," she said. “It has the end use qualities that the market needs now.”

Platinum is a hard white spring variety that is shorter and earlier variety than other hard white springs. It can be grown under intensive irrigation management. She sees it replacing Klassic thanks to its excellent stripe rust resistance, but – like all other hard white spring wheats – Platinum has no Scab resistance.

UI is in the process of licensing UI Platinum which will provide the incentive for a company to increase seed and make it widely available to growers.

She has another hard white winter wheat variety in the pipeline with good stripe rust resistance and high yields. It would also be the first hard white wheat for irrigated production areas. However, Chen is hesitant to release it because the end use qualities are not as good as UI Silver.

Even if she decides against releasing this particular line, Chen is working on several other possibilities. Using marker assisted selection and doubled haploid breeding techniques, she can bring new varieties to growers quickly and efficiently.

“I can see the future,” Chen said. “The work I have invested in the last seven years will help growers by solving production problems. Licensing varieties helps the UI by putting money back into the breeding programs.”

FASTER BREEDING
Chen begins each selection thinking about specific pest or management challenges facing...
Idaho wheat growers. "The growers' problems are in my heart," she said. "I put my effort towards that."

She has made FHB resistance the cornerstone of her breeding program since coming to UI at Aberdeen in 2007. While she continues to evaluate material for scab resistance in hard white wheats, Chen is also screening materials for resistance to emerging pest problems like wireworm, cereal nematode, and drought resistance.

Marker assisted selection allows Chen and her team to screen parent lines for alleles that are associated with certain traits, such as scab resistance. The material with the greatest potential can then be crossed using the double haploid method.

Doubled haploid is a fairly new technique in wheat breeding. Chen admits it is hard to describe the process to non-plant breeders. Essentially, breeders develop a line that is completely uniform at the genetic level using a technique to double the chromosomes from one parent. In this process there is no genetic contribution from another parent.

Plants are initially pollinated using a haploid inducer that causes plants to produce seeds with one chromosome from each chromosome pair instead of two chromosomes. The resulting haploid embryos, with one chromosome from each pair are treated with a special compound that causes the single chromosome to double by making an exact copy of itself. That copy is genetically identical to the original chromosome. Now the plant has a full set of chromosome pairs but each chromosome in the pair is identical to its partner.

The plant grown from that seed is called a doubled haploid. The genes on the right side of the chromosome are genetically identical to the ones on the left, and now breeders have a new stable inbred that is a genetically uniform stable line.

What limits progress now is the screening protocol to find new traits. "We have the tools to reduce the breeding cycle," Chen said. "If I can find good traits in two years, growers can see new varieties in ten years."

INVESTIGATING EMERGING PROBLEMS

In addition to developing new varieties, Chen also works with other UI extension specialists to make sure those varieties will work in Idaho production systems.

One of those efforts is the falling numbers project funded by the Idaho Wheat Commission for the last two years.

Chen is using a growth chamber purchased by IWC to test varieties for late maturity alpha-amylase that can be caused by pre-harvest sprout induced by frost damage. Wheat heads are harvested and then treated to induce sprout or simulate frost damage. The heads are then placed in the growth chamber to provide ideal environmental conditions for sprout. Kernel damage is measured at the Idaho Wheat Quality Research Laboratory in Aberdeen using the falling numbers test. That test measures damage to the starch component of a wheat kernel which makes the resulting flour 'too weak' for commercial bakers.

Chen is also part of the T-Cap project at Aberdeen. This U.S. Department of Agriculture project is evaluating nitrogen use and water use efficiency for growing crops.

Chen’s team is using canopy spectral reflectance to estimate yield and nitrogen efficiency in plots. One student can now quickly evaluate 200 to 300 plots per day using a handheld device measuring how much reflection comes from plant leaves.

Dropping aquifer levels today and the possibility of a warmer climate in the future points to drought tolerance as a critical trait in wheat for Idaho growers, Chen said.

Juliet Marshall, UI cereals cropping systems agronomist and pathologist, has worked with Chen on the falling numbers project and also variety trials. That collaboration benefits growers by letting them know which varieties are susceptible to pest problems and which new varieties have resistance.

Chen’s grasp of the importance of disease resistance, especially in dryland production is one of her greatest strengths as a breeder. The other is her work ethic.

"I can’t imagine anyone who works harder than Jianli," said Juliet Marshall. "I don’t know where she gets all her energy."

For her part, Chen credits grower support for making the Idaho wheat breeding program at Aberdeen so successful. "I cannot do anything without the growers," Chen said. "I enjoy working with the growers to learn more about the environment in Idaho. I want to help the growers make money."
Impacts of Noxious and Invasive Weeds

By Roger Batt

Of all the problems plaguing Idaho’s economy, one of the least fashionable is the annual and cumulative impacts of the 68 varieties of noxious weeds now found in the Gem state. The irony is that state noxious weed managers say noxious and invasive weeds carve a hole in Idaho’s economy to the tune of at least $300 million annually in total impacts. This number includes the costs of fighting fires resulting from invasive weeds such as cheatgrass taking over productive rangelands. The number doesn’t include the $40 million annual bill to farmers, ranchers and other private landowners who have to step up control and management efforts because a neighbor does not do their part to control weed infestations.

How bad is the noxious weed problem? State officials estimate more than 8 million acres of Idaho lands, approximately 15 percent of the entire state, are now infested with noxious weeds. More worrisome: the number of acres continues to expand every year. It’s a real problem that appears to get worse, never better. For example, in 1963, Rush Skeletonweed, a rangeland weed, occupied less than 40 acres near Banks, Idaho. Today, weed experts say it is found across 4 million acres and continues to spread.

It is the initial casual appearance of noxious weeds that lies at the heart of the noxious weed problem in Idaho. Many small, initial infestations appear to be harmless wild flowers or vegetation. They often appear to be useful ground cover in areas of disturbed soil, along waterways, roads and other public areas. Many are planted as ornamentals in private landscapes only to escape and proliferate into new areas.

With time it becomes painfully clear that those noxious invasive plants are in the process of eliminating native vegetation, impacting our farms and ranches, reducing recreational use of lands and waterways, and serving as a barrier to productive uses of the land. For example, a pasture infested with Yellow Starthistle cannot be used for horses. A field full of Canada Thistle cannot maximize yields of crops. A pasture full of Leafy Spurge cannot be grazed by livestock. Additionally, noxious weeds can be poisonous, even deadly, for people, livestock, and wildlife, robbing game animals of their natural habitat or forage, destroying fish habitat, and reducing grazing opportunities for farm animals.

Noxious weed infestations are now showing up with ominous regularity in Idaho’s pristine wilderness backcountry areas. The long term future economic and recreational threat poses for Idaho’s invaluable recreational tourism and outdoor activities, plus its danger to Idaho’s big game species cannot be understated.

The aquatic noxious and prolific weed called Water Hyacinth, one of Idaho’s newest noxious weeds, only found in geothermal waters.
Eurasian Watermilfoil can bog down water craft, destroy fisheries, and even entangle and drown swimmers. It has infested numerous waterways and lakes across Idaho. Several of Idaho’s most scenic lakes, including Payette, Pend Oreille, Hayden and Spirit, have already been invaded by Eurasian Watermilfoil. Weed control experts are doing their best to reduce populations of this aquatic invader.

For more than four decades now, Idaho has battled to hold back the growing tide of noxious and invasive weed invaders. Idaho has stepped up these efforts considerably over the past twenty years. Just a decade ago, weed experts had identified 36 species of noxious weeds. Today there are 68. Each noxious weed is a threat to Idaho’s economic wellbeing. But when combined into a cumulative economic assessment, it poses a challenge of immense proportion.

One of the challenges with noxious weeds is that the topic of “noxious weeds” itself is not flashy and inherently attention-getting to the public.

“It’s pretty difficult to get ordinary citizens fired up about innocuous looking plants with names like Rush Skeletonweed, Hoary Cress, Yellow Toadflax, or Houndstongue. But that changes quickly when they begin to grasp the distressing impact those and the sixty-four other species of noxious weeds are having every year on our State,” said Roger Batt, spokesperson for the Idaho Weed Awareness Campaign. The Campaign was set up in 2001 to create public awareness, outreach, and education to help Idahoans understand the economic and environmental impacts of noxious and invasive weeds. Since that time, the Campaign has educated approximately 1 million Idahoans and reached out to Idaho's six bordering states to inform the public about the serious threat of noxious weeds and how to manage them to stop their spread.

As public awareness has increased, so has public participation in the battle. More and more landowners are meeting their obligation under Idaho law to control or eradicate noxious weeds on those lands. More of our youth understand the noxious weed problem. More of our citizens are acquiring Idaho’s noxious weed book to reference plants they have on the lands they own. More are going to our website (www.idahoweedawareness.com) to learn about Idaho’s 68 noxious weeds and how to control and manage them. More than three dozen cooperative weed management areas have been established from public and private partnerships to jointly battle noxious weeds across county borders. Idaho also has 42 County Weed Superintendents the public can go to for technical expertise.

An aggressive public outreach and educational effort has illuminated the problem and helped foster innovative approaches. These include herbicide treatments using newer chemistries, herds of goats that devour acres of noxious weeds, and the use of biological agents such as an insect, a fungus, or any other organism that can retard the weed’s growth and/or reproduction.

How the battle will eventually turn out is yet to be known. But one thing is clear. The battle has been joined by many of Idaho's citizens and because of that, Idaho has a good chance of winning the war against noxious weeds. And that seemingly benign flowering plant in the pasture, along a river or canal, or in the campground of your favorite recreation area will from now on be scrutinized just to make sure it does not represent the advance of a dangerous foreign invader.
Idaho’s agricultural exports reached an estimated $2.4 billion in 2012, up from $1.7 billion in 2008. Idaho’s exports help boost farm prices and income, while supporting about 15,800 jobs both on the farm and in related industries such as food processing, transportation, and manufacturing. Export sales accounted for approximately 32 percent of total Idaho farm receipts in 2012.

Idaho’s top agricultural exports in 2012 were:
1. Wheat – $405 million
2. Dairy products – $335 million
3. Vegetables, processed – $229 million
4. Sugar and products – $217 million
5. Vegetables, fresh – $122 million

Nationwide, U.S. food and agricultural exports reached a record $140.9 billion in fiscal 2013, supporting nearly one million American jobs. Global demand for these products is growing but so is competition among suppliers.

Trade Promotion Authority
Trade Promotion Authority is a critical tool in our efforts to seek approval of trade agreements that support and create U.S. jobs while helping American agriculture to compete more successfully in an ever-expanding global marketplace. Right now, the United States is negotiating two critical trade agreements – the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) and the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (T-TIP). Trade Promotion Authority will help ensure that America’s farmers, ranchers, and food processors receive the greatest benefit from these negotiations.

Agriculture Benefits from Free Trade Agreements
In countries where the United States has free trade agreements, exports of U.S. food and agricultural products have grown significantly. Examples include our pacts with Colombia, Panama, and South Korea that took effect in 2012; CAFTA-DR, under which our free trade relationships with five Central American countries and the Dominican Republic began between 2006 and 2009; and the U.S.-Chile free trade agreement, which entered into force in 2004.

- **Wheat** exports to Central America and the Dominican Republic grew from $257 million in 2005 to almost $530 million in 2013. Wheat exports to Chile increased from $36 million in 2003 to almost $185 million in 2013.

- **Dairy** exports to Korea, Colombia, and Panama grew from $264 million in 2011 to almost $378 million in 2013. Dairy exports to Central America and the Dominican Republic increased from $68 million in 2005 to more than $170 million in 2013. Dairy exports to Chile rose from $3 million in 2003 to almost $54 million in 2013. In addition, U.S. dairy exports to Singapore increased from $8 million in 2003 to more than $90 million in 2013 thanks to the free trade agreement that took effect in 2004.

- **Fresh and processed vegetable** exports to Korea, Colombia, and Panama grew from $132 million in 2011 to $195 million in 2013. Exports to Central America and the Dominican Republic went from $28 million in 2005 to $98 million in 2013.

*For more information, contact the U.S. Department of Agriculture Foreign Agricultural Service, 202.720.7115 or LPA@fas.usda.gov*
Governor Re-Appoints Jerry Brown to Idaho Wheat Commission

Jerry Brown, Soda Springs, was re-appointed for another 5-year term to the Idaho Wheat Commission (IWC). Brown represents wheat producers of District Five, which includes Bannock, Bear Lake, Caribou, Franklin, Oneida, and Power counties.

Brown and his family own and operate dry land and irrigated farms where they raise winter and spring wheat, and barley. Jerry has farmed for over 40 years, and holds a bachelor’s degree in Accounting, a Master of Accounting from Utah State University, and is a Certified Public Accountant.

Jerry is currently serving as a member of the US Wheat Associates board of directors (USW) is the industry’s market development organization working in more than 100 countries). He is also actively involved in the Caribou County Grain Growers, the Idaho Grain Producers Association, and a board member of the Caribou Memorial Hospital.

“Being a wheat farmer has provided a unique opportunity for Robyn and me to raise a family and teach them how to work,” said Brown. “Our two sons are returning to the farm following their education. Both of them bring skills and education vital to the continuation of our operation. It is exciting to see this transition. One of my goals is to help provide a transition, not only for my boys, but the youth of Idaho who wish to make agriculture their career.

Agriculture should provide an environment whereby the youth can be attracted and earn a competitive living.”

Brown is excited to be a part of the much needed research in wheat. He has come to the realization that farmers must grow what our customers want to buy. Improvement in quality and reliability can only happen through continued research. Brown wants to continue to develop marketing opportunities in this country and the world for the high quality wheat produced in Idaho. As research is performed and markets are developed it is essential that our growers are educated and made aware of new advances.

Genesee Joe Anderson Appointed to Idaho Wheat Commission

Governor C.L. “Butch” Otter recently announced his appointment of “Genesee” Joe Anderson, to the Idaho Wheat Commission (IWC). Joe will represent the wheat producers of District One, which includes Boundary, Bonner, Kootenai, Benewah, Latah, and Shoshone counties.

Anderson has been operating the family farm with his brother Jay since 1983. The Anderson brothers farm about 4400 acres of owned and rented land in Latah and Nez Perce counties. They raise winter wheat, spring wheat and barley, pulse and oilseed crops.

Anderson earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Ag Econ, and a Bachelor of Science degree in Ag Mechanization from the University of Idaho. Joe has two grown daughters and three granddaughters.

Commissioner Anderson has been involved in a number of leadership positions. He just completed a 5-year term as a member of the Idaho Grain Producers Association executive board, he is a member of the Latah County Grain Growers, a 1994 graduate of Leadership Idaho Agriculture, and a graduate of the Wheat Industry Leaders of Tomorrow program. He has also served on the Genesee Union warehouse board from 1994-1999 and was an associate supervisor on the Latah Soil and Water Conservation District.

Idaho Wheat Commission Chairman Ned Moon congratulated Anderson on his appointment. “Joe has been an industry leader and a team player for decades. His involvement with Idaho’s wheat industry and his knowledge of the issues will allow him to hit the ground running. We’re extremely fortunate to have Joe as an Idaho Wheat Commissioner.”

As Anderson steps into his new role as an Idaho Wheat Commissioner, he will focus his attention on working to keep the wheat industry viable by providing an environment where growers can access new technology on their farms. “The technological landscape is changing quickly,” said Anderson. “Technology in farming is wide ranging from drones to double haploid breeding. I want to ensure that policies and funding are in place for Idaho wheat growers to have access to all the advances in technologies they need to reduce their input costs to increasing yields to help keep them competitive.”

When not working on the farm, Anderson enjoys motorcycling, skiing, hiking, exploring Idaho and traveling to new places.
2012-2013 Idaho Winter Wheat Variety Performance Tests and 2011-2013 Yield Summaries

By Juliet Marshall and Kurt Schroeder, Extension Specialists, Department of Plant, Soil and Entomological Sciences, University of Idaho, and Mike Flowers, Extension Cereal Specialist, Oregon State University

Variety Testing
Idaho winter wheat varieties are evaluated each year to provide performance information to help growers select superior varieties for their growing conditions. The tests are conducted using farmer fields or university experiment stations, and the varieties are grown under conditions typical for crop production in the area. Varieties are included in these tests based on their potential adaptation in an area and commercial use of a variety. The number of entries is limited due to resource constraints. Individual plots were planted as 7 rows spaced 7” apart or 5 rows spaced 10” apart for 14” to 25” in length and replicated 3 or 4 times in a randomized complete block design. Agronomic performance data for winter wheat are summarized by state districts in Tables 1-6. Northern District results are presented in Table 1 and Western Idaho results are in Tables 2 and 3. Southern and Eastern Districts results are presented for irrigated trials in Table 4 and for dryland trials in Table 5.

Information Summarization
Yield data are reported for individual sites while other agronomic data are averaged over all sites of each table. Bushel/acre yield results are based on 60 lbs/bu at 11% moisture. Lodging ratings are the percent of a plot area lodged, and in some tables not reported due to minimal lodging. Average values are presented at the bottom of listings and are followed by a least significant difference (LSD) statistic at the 5% level.

Average yield data from variety performance trials in 2011, 2012, and 2013 are presented in Table 6 for all districts. These data represent results of 3-18 site/years and can be a good indication of long-term performance of a variety. More detailed lodging information is available on the new URL for UI cereals website http://www.uidaho.edu/extension/cereals/.

Information Interpretation
Average past performance of a variety is the best indicator to predict future performance potential.

Table 1. Dryland Winter Wheat Variety Performance in the Northern District near Lewiston, Genesee, Moscow, Bonners Ferry, Nezperce and Tensed, 2012-2013.

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<tr>
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<th>Moscow</th>
<th>Bonners Ferry</th>
<th>Nezperce</th>
<th>Tensed</th>
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<th>Test</th>
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Table 2. Irrigated Soft White Winter Wheat Variety Performance at Parma, 2013.

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</table>
Variety performance can vary from location to location and year to year. The results reported in this article are for 2013 trials; previous results can be found in the 1992 to 2012 issues of Idaho Grain Magazine or at the UI cereals website. Average performance over locations and years more accurately indicates varieties’ relative performance. Try to evaluate as much information as you can prior to selecting varieties. Yield is a primary characteristic used to select varieties, but disease resistance, maturity, lodging tendency, and quality characteristics such as test weight and plumpness are also important variety selection considerations. Also consider that plots are managed according to the average expected yield, latest varietal maturity, and/or performance of the surrounding crop in a grower’s field, whether it be wheat or barley. Varietal performance may not reflect actual performance in your field when a specific variety is managed for optimal economic performance.

Reported small differences among varieties in yield and other characteristics are usually of little importance due to chance differences in tests. Utilize the LSD statistic to determine the true difference between varieties. If differences between varieties are greater than the 5% LSD value, the varieties are considered “significantly different.” This means that there is a 95 in 10 chance that the reported difference between varieties is a true difference and not due to other experimental factors or chance variation. If no significant differences are determined for a trial, n.s. is used in place of the LSD.

Further Information
Variety performance information for winter wheat and winter barley has been published in the fall issues of Idaho Grain Magazine and on the University of Idaho Cereals website: http://www.uidaho.edu/extension/cereals/. Additional information is available on the University of Idaho catalog website: http://www.cals.uidaho.edu/edcomm/catalog.asp
(look for publications as pdf files under “Other Cereals Publications”). In addition, publications are free through the University of Idaho Agriculture Publications (ph. 208-885-7982) or contact your county Extension Office.


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<th>Rupert</th>
<th>Aberdeen</th>
<th>Average</th>
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<td>Stand</td>
<td>date</td>
<td>Height</td>
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Table 4. Irrigated Winter Wheat Variety Performance in Eastern and Southern Districts at Kimberly, Rupert, Aberdeen, 2012-2013.

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<td>(%)</td>
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Table 5. Dryland Winter Variety Performance in Southern Idaho, 2013

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Table 6. 2011-2013 Winter Wheat Variety Average Yield Performance

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<th>Variety</th>
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<th>Dryland</th>
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<td>Madsen</td>
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Table 6. 2011-2013 Winter Wheat Variety Average Yield Performance

<table>
<thead>
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<th>Variety</th>
<th>Rainfed</th>
<th>Irrigated</th>
<th>Dryland</th>
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<td>3 soft, 6 Hard</td>
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<td>Yield (bu/A)</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Average 100 124 21

LSD (c = .05) 9 7 3

*Club wheat (W) = White
Introducing new Active Concave Isolation on John Deere S680 & S690 Combines

If your harvest includes tough, tangled, or matted crop, then you need a combine that keeps you ahead of the grain. Introducing 2015 S680 and S690 Combines featuring all-new tough small grains and rice packages for productivity like you’ve never known.

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