

WINTER 2025

IDAHO

THE IDAHO GRAIN PRODUCERS ASSOCIATION MAGAZINE

G R A I N



Kaufman Farms
Lewiston, Idaho

Idaho Grain Producers Association
702 W. Idaho, Suite 322, Boise, ID 83702



VIEWS



BY JONATHAN ROSENAU
PRESIDENT

My elders always told me that as you get older, “You’ll blink, and the years will go by.” Well, they were right. My presidential year and 2025 have simply flown by and are nearing the end—time really does fly by.

The 2025 Idaho-Oregon Grain and Oilseed Convention was a very exciting change. It’s something that the executive board and staff had been very eager to try. As an executive board, in hearing what our members and growers desired, we wanted to try something different that would be a better use of grower dollars and time as well as providing new ideas and programming. Prior to becoming president, my goal was to rethink how the ag community in Idaho could better unite. Idaho, as most of you know, has vast differences across our agriculture footprint. From the far north where we pump water out of fields and truck our grain, the central Idaho Palouse and camas prairie dry landers who depend on mother nature’s moisture and barge our wheat down the river system to the southern part of the state where we depend on the Snake River and aquifer system to ensure crops are timely watered, all while battling water rights issues. Not to mention that I don’t know any farmer or rancher in Idaho that produces only one commodity. We all depend on multiple diverse cropping systems while many raise livestock for their livelihood. It all makes perfect sense that we as Idaho agriculture as a whole need to not only focus on research and dollars towards multi-cropping systems, but also facilitate our commissions, organizations, and grower groups in moving to a more unified front. We have been moving that way with groups like Food Producers of Idaho, but this year’s Idaho Grain and Oilseed Convention is a great step. I always envisioned making this an Idaho Ag Convention and Expo with enough groups and commissions involved that it can grow to the point of moving the venue to our state capital where we can truly make the impact in bridging the gaps between the Idaho grower and rancher. As Idaho continues its record population growth, we, the Idaho producer, need to make our voices heard and relevant. Idaho is an Agriculture first state and we need to make sure it stays that way!

Serving on Idaho Grain producers as your president has been a privilege and I would encourage everyone who grows grain in the state of Idaho to become a member and get involved with IGPA. There is so much good that we do for the Idaho grain grower. Ultimately, we as Idaho Agriculture need to get involved in anyway we can. Maybe start with your county level IGPA, or your school board, or county.

On behalf of everyone I’ve had the pleasure of working with, the new connections made and all the lifetime friendships started since being

CONTENTS

Views: Jonathan Rosenau, IGPA President.....	2
Editor’s Note: Amaya Aguirre-Landa	3
In Advocacy, Consistency Makes You Bold	4
2025 IGPA Award Winners.....	6
Legislative Outlook 2026.....	11
AGI: End-to-End Grain Solutions for Modern Farming....	12
ISDA Advances Efforts to Eradicate Quagga Mussel in the Snake River	16
Agriculture Across the Pond.....	17
Ensuring Quality of Idaho Wheat	18
Governor Little Appoints New Idaho Wheat Commissioners.....	20
Greenfield Milling Opens Opportunities for Southern Idaho Wheat Farmers.....	21
In Search of the Perfect Loaf	22
Are Wheat Farmers Falling for Anti-Wheat Propaganda?...	23
Strengthening Global Ties: PNW Wheat Commissions Visit Southeast Asia.....	24
Taiwan Signs Purchasing Agreement for Idaho Wheat	26
Genesee’s Joe Anderson Honored with Distinguished Service Award	27
The 2025 National Barley Yield Contest Results Are Just Around the Corner!.....	29
Two Idaho Barley Commissioners Elected to National Leadership Positions.....	29
IBC Presents 2025 Idaho Barley Service Award to Brett Wilken	30
2025 Idaho Barley Crop Stats.....	31

Cover photo by Angela Vesco Photography

Published quarterly by
Idaho Grain Producers Association
702 W. Idaho, Suite 322 • Boise, ID 83702 • (208) 345-0706
Amaya Aguirre-Landa Editor-in-Chief
Kellie Kluksdal Assistant Editor

Every effort is made to assure accuracy in articles published in Idaho Grain. However, the publishers assume no responsibility for losses sustained, allegedly resulting from following recommendations in this magazine. Send inquires about articles or editorial content to the Idaho Grain Producers Association. The publisher will attempt to handle unsolicited articles with care, but the magazine assumes no responsibility for them. Materials will be returned only if accompanied by a self-addressed envelope with return postage. Address inquiries regarding editorial policy and writer guidelines to the editor.

For subscription corrections, please email Idaho Grain Producers Association at info@idahograin.org

To subscribe or unsubscribe to Idaho Grain magazine at any time, visit the IGPA website at www.idahograin.org/idaho-grain-magazine, click on the appropriate button, and fill out the required information.

Printing Production Coordinated by
Northern Directory Publishing

For Advertising information call:
Leah Anderson **Advertising Sales Representative • Phone: (406) 475-1856**



IDAHO GRAIN PRODUCERS ASSOCIATION

702 W. Idaho, Suite 322
Boise, ID 83702 • (208) 345-0706
<http://www.idahograin.org>

President

Jonathan Rosenau • Nezperce

Vice President

Kyle Wangemann • Soda Springs

Secretary/Treasurer

Larry Hollifield • Hansen

Executive Member

Jeff Hood • Bonners Ferry

Past President

Justin Place • Hamer

Executive Director

Amaya Aguirre-Landa

Communications & Events Director

Kellie Kluksdal

Finance Director

Harmony Wright

IDAHO WHEAT COMMISSION

250 W. Bobwhite Ct., Suite 120
Boise, ID 83706 • (208) 334-2353

Chairman

Cory Kress

District 1 Commissioner

Tim Freeburg

District 2 Commissioner

Cliff Tacke

District 3 Commissioner

Wayne Hurst

District 4 Commissioner

Justin Place

District 5 Commissioner

Cordell Kress

Executive Director

Britany Hurst Marchant

Research Consultant Office Manager

Jim Peterson

Jill Cloward

IDAHO BARLEY COMMISSION

314 S. 9th Street, Suite 300
Boise, ID 83702 • (208) 334-2090

Chairman / District 3 Commissioner

Allen Young • Blackfoot

Vice Chairman /

District 2 Commissioner
Lucas Spratling • Raft River

District 1 Commissioner

Josh Jones • Troy

Industry Representative

Dustin Camphouse • Blackfoot

Executive Director

Laura Wilder • Boise

Office Manager

Wren Hernandez • Boise

Communications and Program Manager

Sydney Anderson • Boise

EDITOR'S NOTE



part of the IGPA, thank you Idaho farmers. Thank you who encouraged me to get involved with such a great and influential organization. I would also like to take a minute to thank my family and close friends that were always willing to pitch in and even jump in a tractor so that the farm and ranch work continued so I could fulfill my IGPA duties. Family and close friends should be held close. Remember that last point. I would also like to thank my E-board who I had the privilege to get to know and serve with. The growers and producers of Idaho undoubtedly have much more success to come with the slate of members following me. Lastly, our great staff, who as always, kept this machine running strong and true, even with the huge task of the new convention model, thank you. May your new year bring you amazing commodity prices, low input prices and bumper yields. God Bless and be safe. ■



BY AMAYA AGUIRRE-LANDA
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

On October 1, I celebrated one year as Executive Director, and to say it's been a whirlwind would be an understatement. What I've lacked in sleep, I've more than made up for in connection and education - I'll consider that a win.

This fall kicked off with the NAWG Fall Fly-In, where Jeff Hood, IGPA Executive Committee member from Bonners Ferry, and I traveled to Washington, D.C. We joined fellow wheat leaders in meetings with Idaho's congressional delegation, USDA, Senate and House Agriculture Committee staff, and even the White House to share the ongoing challenges facing producers. These meetings can sometimes feel like déjà vu, but they remain essential to keeping our industry's voice at the table.

Not long after, I traded Capitol Hill for the English countryside on a trip with ISDA focused on agricultural policy. You can read more about that on page 17. Upon returning home, our attention quickly turned to finalizing details for the first Idaho-Oregon Grain & Oilseed Convention in Sun Valley. The event came together better than any of us could have expected, blending education and community while celebrating some of our strongest leaders. Learn more about the convention on page 6.

As we wrap up 2025, we're gearing up for the 2026 legislative session. Our partners at Veritas Advisors have been hard at work ensuring we stay ahead of the issues that impact grain producers and Idaho agriculture as a whole. You can read more about the session outlook on page 11.

Wishing you and your family a wonderful holiday season! ■



In Advocacy, Consistency Makes You Bold

BY LUKE CRUMLEY, DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC POLICY, OHIO CORN AND WHEAT GROWER ASSOCIATION, REPRINTED WITH PERMISSION FROM PARTOFTHEPOSSIBLE.COM

Last week, I shared the three traits that really matter most if you're going to have staying power and be effective in American politics: compassion, credibility, and consistency. Those three qualities, balanced between each other will help you stand out from the masses when you're trying to be heard. They'll increase your access, and keep you focused on what matters most to you.

They're qualities we don't talk about much in politics, though. So often, we approach our political engagement like a finite game that only has one objective: to beat your opponent. But that's a fundamentally flawed paradigm. It confuses campaign politics with governing politics, and does nothing more than drive the division so many of us are quick to bemoan and slow to battle. But bitchin' ain't enough, and it's time we get on with making the system better through our own work. So where do we start?

As I train advocates around the country, I almost always share a story about an octogenarian Navy widow named Sue. Sue taught me a lot of lessons about real politics, even though she'd never held political office. Sue was a tenacious, celtic rebel who didn't care how big the system was. She was going to fight like hell for a good cause.

And she was no amateur.

What separated Sue from so many individual advocates is that she was absolutely brilliant in one regard – she never stopped showing up. She built a plan that allowed her to fight the federal bureaucracy for more than 30 years(!) before finally winning her private, just war. For me, it meant that I heard from Sue about her issue every two weeks for nearly two years. She was bold, and she was disciplined.

Even when there wasn't a substantial update. Even when I didn't have good news to help her feel better. Even when she was sick. Especially when she was down. Every other week, I knew I was going to hear from Sue, or her granddaughter, or her team of third party experts. There was a plan in place that she would seek out new information or provide new evidence in her favor. Every. Two. Weeks.

Does that seem excessive to you?

You may be right. Maybe for your particular cause, your particular challenge with a government agency, that's not the right battle rhythm. But Sue's calculus still holds a lesson for you: the task of creating space for your issue belongs to exactly one person: you. And discipline is how you prevail.

The dirty secret here is that once they're elected, there's no reason for an elected official to care, one way or another, whether you decide to get involved. They have an agenda. They have goals in mind. Their plans don't have to take you into account.

Your opposition doesn't care whether or not you choose to show up. They will.

The bureaucrat denying your veteran disability compensation claim doesn't have to care about your willingness to participate in the system. They're already in the system.

The opposition gets a vote, and I can guarantee they're using it.

Opting out of our responsibility to show up only ever hurts our cause. Because it diminishes the space and attention available to bring light to injustice. Just like in sales, reps matter in politics. The more touch points you have with the public decision-makers affecting your cause, the greater the opportunity you have to bring about the change you're seeking. Failing to show up only cedes territory to the opposition.

Sue didn't need a structure to help her participate in the system. She built a reserve of discipline that kept her going. But that may not be you. That's why advocacy organizations exist – to serve as a support structure to keep you involved.

Advocacy-centric organizations remove the guesswork. They help you understand what kind of advocacy matters, when it makes the biggest impact, how to do it, who needs to be targeted, and why those targets respond to different tactics. They give you structural support, and social prodding to break away from your daily life and jump back into public work.



We know ag financing like you know how to land the office with the best view.

For over a century we've served customers who can do just about anything. You deserve a financial partner who works as hard as you do.

AgWestFC.com



 Equal Housing Lender
This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Sometimes, that will look as simple as clicking on a text message alerting you that an important bill is coming up for a vote – and they need you to take 2-3 minutes to send a preformed message to your representatives. Seriously. 2-3 minutes. That's all it could be. But if accomplished in concert with that organization's other advocates, your voice is amplified. Your issue is spotlighted. You're creating space to bring others into your way of thinking.

Other times, the ask may hurt just a little more. Maybe it's a donation at a time when you're already feeling strapped. At other times, you may be called upon to do the truly uncomfortable work of going and speaking with a real person. But when you've joined in with an advocacy organization, you're doing that with structure around you. You've given yourself a force-multiplier.

We have a duty to be there. We have a responsibility to be in community with one another. Whether we like it or not, government is where we determine what we will accomplish together. But you only really have a voice if you get up and get into the room. That's why I lean on would-be advocates to become joiners. Left to our own devices, the stakes are pretty low if we don't take

action. But when we build accountability into our lives? That's where discipline makes us stronger, even bolder.

And let's face the facts: we aren't all Sue. We don't all have the fortitude to fight like she did for as long as she did. But we do share the same responsibility as Sue. So, where we fall short, let's be inspired by people like her but bolstered by professionals who can coach us on the field.

P.s.

Landing on Eisenhower quotes doesn't seem to have been an accident for this post. Sue came into my sphere when I was a brand new congressional staffer. At the time, she was already in her eighties, struggling against a bad decision by the Department of Veterans Affairs. She was looking to ensure her late-husband's service in the Navy was honored as it should have been. She was a Truman fan. But she was an Ike fan, too. The times I enjoyed the most on the phone with Sue were when she would tell me what it was like "back in the day." You could just hear the smile on her face. She spoke like she lived among giants. She did. Who will be the giants that inspire the next great generation? ■



2025 IGPA Award Winners

BY KELLIE KLUKSDAL, COMMUNICATIONS & EVENTS DIRECTOR, IGPA

Each year at convention time, IGPA members and partners in the industry nominate individuals for several awards which convey commitment to service in Idaho’s grain industry. These awards are voted on by the IGPA Executive Board and presented at the annual Grain Growers Convention, which was held this year in Sun Valley, Idaho on Wednesday, Nov. 19.t

ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

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



WINNER: CLARK HAMILTON

Clark is known around the ag community as a guy that everyone wants to be friends with. His fun personality and quick humor make him a likable guy who embodies both great character and a true passion for agriculture in Idaho.



As he just wrapped up a 10-year stretch as a commissioner on the Idaho Wheat Commission Board of Directors, Clark is staying busy in a million other ways.

Clark manages Hamilton Triple C Farms, a 6,000-acre family-owned operation located in Bonneville County. The farm produces a variety of crops, including wheat, potatoes, barley, pulses, and alfalfa. More than thirty years ago, Clark began working alongside his father to run the farm, and he now operates it with his two sons, Jordan and Logan. In addition to farming, Clark plays an active role in his church and community. He spent over twenty years serving on the board of the



Ririe Grain and Feed Cooperative, Inc. and attended Utah State University where he received his bachelor’s degree in plant science with a minor in biology.

“There are few people who embody service to the industry more completely than Clark Hamilton. I have been fortunate to have many opportunities to see Clark in action — with overseas customers, state and national lawmakers, and Idaho wheat growers. Every time, Clark shows up with sincerity, curiosity, interest, respect, and class (and a sugar-free Red Bull). He is intentional in his interactions with everyone he meets, genuinely interested in people, backgrounds, and cultures. These qualities have made him a successful and respected advocate for the wheat industry around the world. Clark’s commitment, consistency, and humility, his ability to make quick friends everywhere he goes, and his knack for not taking himself or life too seriously are characteristics that have made Clark Hamilton a true leader in and for Idaho agriculture.”
-Britany Hurst Marchant, IWC Executive Director

Clark was first appointed to the Idaho Wheat Commission in 2015 by Governor C.L. “Butch” Otter and was reappointed for a second term in 2020 by Governor Brad Little. Prior to joining the Commission, he spent five years on the executive board of the Idaho Grain Producers Association, serving as president in 2013. In that role, he became very familiar with local, state and national issues impacting agriculture. In addition to his role as a past-commissioner, Clark is also the past-chairman of U.S. Wheat Associates, the organization responsible for promoting U.S. wheat in international markets.



He and his wife, Kristi, have been married for more than 30 years. They have three children and eight grandchildren. When not farming, Clark enjoys flying, taking road trips on his motorcycle, and snowmobiling.

“Clark Hamilton has truly been an ambassador to the Idaho farming community as well as the worldwide wheat industry. With his hard work, integrity and genuine character he has uplifted anyone that has had the pleasure to work with and around him. Clark’s friendly spirit, respect for others, and willingness to lend a hand make him not only a leader in Idaho agriculture, but also a true friend to all of us in the farming community.” -Tim Freeburg

FRIEND OF IGPA

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



**WINNER: DIRECTOR CHANEL TEWALT,
IDAHO STATE DEPARTMENT OF
AGRICULTURE**

Chanel Tewalt was named Director of the Idaho State Department of Agriculture (ISDA) by Governor



Brad Little in January 2023. Before stepping into this position, she spent 15 years working within the agency, including time as deputy director and chief operations officer. Her background growing up and working in agriculture strongly shapes how she leads the department.

“Chanel Tewalt’s deep-rooted passion for Idaho agriculture shines through every day: she grew up in production agriculture, understands the land and the people who work it, and brings that same love and respect to her leadership of the Department. Her vision for the grain industry in Idaho is one of growth, global connection and telling the story of the people behind the fields. She is always willing to roll up her sleeves, collaborate with producers, trade partners and regulators—her work ethic is tireless. Under her stewardship the grain sector in Idaho is benefitting from fresh energy: stronger trade outreach, clearer

Continued on next page





Continued from previous page

communication, stakeholder-driven regulation, and a renewed emphasis on promoting Idaho grain to the world. Her willingness to serve has made a meaningful impact on Idaho’s grain industry, helping producers plant, harvest and ship with more confidence and visibility than ever before,” said Amaya Aguirre-Landa, IGPA Executive Director.

Tewalt has served in several leadership roles, including as a board member and former president of the Expo Idaho Board. He is also involved with the Meridian FFA Alumni Chapter and sits on the University of Idaho’s Agricultural Education, Leadership, and Communications Advisory Board. In addition, Tewalt previously served as a board member and president of the Communication Officials of State Departments of Agriculture, an organization focused on strengthening communication between states on agricultural matters. He is active on multiple agriculture-related boards, currently serving as Vice President of the Western U.S. Agricultural Trade Association and as a member of the National Association of State Departments of Agriculture.

“Chanel really gets it — she understands what it means to make a living off the land. You can tell she loves Idaho agriculture because she shows up, listens, and actually cares about what happens out here in the fields. She’s got a big-picture vision for where we can go as a grain industry, but she never loses sight of the people doing the work every day. Chanel’s the kind of person who’s not afraid to roll up her sleeves and help when something needs doing. Her work ethic and heart for this industry have made a real difference for us. Thanks to her leadership, Idaho’s grain farmers feel more

supported and more connected than ever,” said IGPA Executive Board Vice-President Larry Hollifield.

Tewalt and her husband have two children. They co-own a family club lamb and seedstock operation in the Treasure Valley and are proud to be raising their children in and around production agriculture.

MEMBER OF THE YEAR

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



**WINNER: LARRY HOLLIFIELD,
EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBER**

If you know Larry at all, you know one thing for sure: he’s not afraid to let you know what he’s thinking. As a 3rd generation farmer from Hansen, his roots in Idaho agriculture run deep.

Larry and his family have been farming 5,000 acres for more than two decades near Hansen where they grow barley, corn, wheat and other crops.

A graduate of the University of Idaho, Larry was part of Farmhouse Fraternity and upon graduation went immediately back to the farm to work full-time. His family says he’s been farming since he could walk and always wanted to be out in the fields with his Dad.





“Larry truly embodies what it means to lead with integrity and passion. He is in his element when politics, conviction, and the people matter most. He is diligent, dedicated, and genuinely enjoyable to be around as someone who speaks plainly with humor and heart. He works hard for the best interest of the association and our industry, and his network is a testament to how genuinely people connect with him. Honest, approachable, and refreshingly authentic, he brings a sharp wit with a splash of colorful expression that brighten any conversation. I am truly grateful to have him as a friend.” Justin Place, IGPA Past President

An avid Farm Bureau fan, Larry also is involved with his local school board and is a proud member of LIA Class 41.

“Larry’s clear advocacy for Idaho’s Ag producers and his commitment to the Idaho Grain Producers’ Association, even as he navigates current circumstances speak volumes for his dedication to growers throughout the Gem state,” said fellow IGPA Executive Board member Jeff Hood.



A devoted Dad to two daughters, Larry keeps busy running all around Twin Falls county and beyond watching them play all their sports including volleyball and basketball.

“Larry Hollifield embodies everything that makes Idaho



agriculture strong — passion, perseverance, and people first. His deep love for farming and steadfast advocacy for Idaho’s grain growers have made him a trusted voice in both agriculture and politics. Larry’s tireless dedication to advancing our industry, paired with his genuine care for his family and community, reflects the heart of a true leader. Whether he’s championing policies that protect farmers’ livelihoods or cheering on his kids, Larry’s commitment never wavers. We’re proud to recognize him as the Idaho Grain Producers Association’s Member of the Year.”-Amaya Aguirre-Landa, IGPA Executive Director

PRESIDENT’S AWARD

This award goes to the outgoing president of IGPA for their work on behalf of the association over the past year.



WINNER: JONATHAN ROSENAU

This past year has brought about many changes and challenges, and outgoing president Jonathan Rosenau handled them all with grit and determination. A quiet leader, Jonathan holds true to his convictions and always has the best interest of IGPA at heart.

As president of the board, Jonathan works hard to support his fellow e-board members and make sure IGPA has a seat at the table

Continued on next page



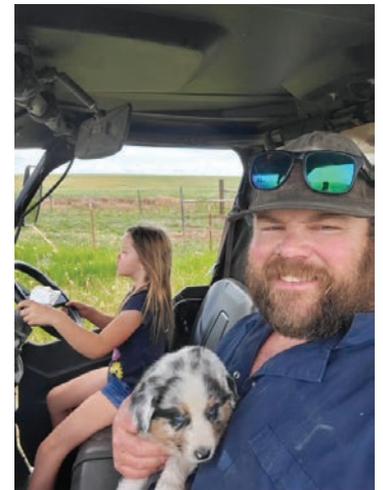
Continued from previous page

Rosenau Family Farm was established in 1937. A graduate of Lewis Clark State College in 2009 with a bachelor's in business administration and a minor in marketing, Jonathan headed back to the farm and hasn't left. He and his family farm 2,100 acres in Nezperce where they grow wheat, blue grass, barley, oats, alfalfa, garbanzo beans, peas, and lentils.

“Jonathan is truly approachable and a genuine friend to everyone he meets. His results-driven mindset and strong voice for his area make him a trusted leader. Carrying forward a proud family legacy of service to the association and industry, Jonathan thoughtfully honors the past while shaping a more impactful future. I'm fortunate to know and have worked alongside him,” said Justin Place, IGPA past president



When he's not on the farm, Jonathan is busy helping out in his community. He sits on several boards including being a School Board Trustee since 2023, Chairman of Idaho Oil Seed Commission (second term), Chairman of the Lewis Soil Conservation District, Nez Perce Tribe Agricultural Burning Advisory Committee Member, Coach for Nezperce Junior High Boys' Basketball, Nezperce Gun Club Board Member and a Lion's Club Member. To say Jonathan is a busy guy is an understatement.



“Jonathan's passion for Idaho agriculture and willingness to passionately advocate is needed





now more than ever,” said IGPA executive member Jeff Hood.

His greatest joy, however, include his family: wife Christy, son, Caleb (11) and daughter Lillian (8). He spends his weekends attending their basketball and baseball games, trapshooting, and driving to ballet lessons and horse-riding lessons.

“As Jonathan Rosenau concludes his term as President of the Idaho Grain Producers Association, we extend

our sincere gratitude for his steady hand and deep commitment to the growers of Idaho and the policy decision process that guides them. Jonathan’s quiet leadership has guided our organization through both challenges and opportunities, always grounded in his genuine love for farming and the people who make it possible. His thoughtful approach and dry sense of humor have left a lasting mark on the Association and everyone fortunate enough to work alongside him,” said Larry Hollifield, IGPA Vice-President ■

Legislative Outlook 2026

BY ELIZABETH CRINER, VERITAS ADVISORS, LLP

Veritas Advisors, LLP is pleased to introduce you to our new Public Affairs Manager, Alden Koenig. A recent graduate of Oregon State University with a degree in agricultural business, Alden brings a strong foundation in finance, management, regenerative agriculture, and public policy. He grew up working on his family’s winery and vineyard in southwest Idaho and has represented their brand on international trade missions. Alden also gained experience in state government as a policy analyst intern at the Idaho Public Utilities Commission. He remains active in his family’s business and enjoys Idaho’s outdoors through mountain biking, hunting, skiing, and fishing. Elizabeth and Liz are glad to have Alden join the team representing IGPA.



We anticipate the 2026 legislative session in Idaho will be fast paced with tight budgets and the upcoming May primary election. Session commences on Monday January 12 with the Governor’s State of the State and Budget address. As shared by legislative leadership recently, March 12 is the target for the Joint Finance and Appropriations Committee (JFAC) to complete setting budgets for fiscal year 2027 and the adjournment target date is March 27.

Heading into the 2026 legislative session, we will be monitoring the state budget closely as revenue has been below forecast through the first quarter of FY2026. Governor Brad Little has ordered a 3% budget holdback

for all state agencies, excluding public schools. This holdback is now expected to continue into the budget for FY2027. The state is now projecting a \$56.6 million deficit for FY2026, with revenue being 6.8% below forecast at the end of the first quarter. Additional impacts may come from the federal “One Big Beautiful Bill Act,” (HR1) which could further reduce state revenue. The Governor and other leaders note that Idaho’s economy and reserve funds remain strong, but further cuts may be necessary to meet constitutional balanced budget requirements.

We have some issues that will carry over from the 2025 session and some new ones we are hearing about as legislators share ideas at meetings, events and on social media. One new area of concern is discussions regarding establishing state-based pesticide regulations and usage standards. Federal law already has significant regulation in place to ensure the safe use of these products, including extensive science-based product reviews prior to approval and labeling for use in the United States. In addition, state-based pesticide regulations would disproportionately impact our growers who farm near and across our state borders who often get their chemistries from and farm into neighboring states. Patchwork regulations at the state level can create significant regulatory costs and issues for farmers. IGPA will continue to support the use of best available, peer-reviewed science when it comes to policy on this issue and work against efforts to add unnecessary regulation.

At the federal level we’ve been following the “Make American Healthy Again” (MAHA) initiative, led by

Continued on next page



Continued from previous page

U.S. Health and Human Services Secretary Robert F. Kennedy Jr. Part of that effort has focused on establishing a definition and guidelines for “ultra-processed foods.” The US Department of Agriculture and Health and Human Services are working on this but have not yet released language. It’s important that these types of guidelines are based on nutritional science. IGPA is watching this effort closely to ensure processed grains are not affected.

We’ve had the opportunity to stay engaged with the Idaho Water Users Association (IWUA) this interim. In terms of water policy, we anticipate IWUA will pursue some minor code changes to address some issues with district collection processes, hearing officer appointments, and board compensation. The IWUA is also working on some amendments to S1083a, a domestic well management bill passed during the 2025 session. They are currently working with interested entities on language. We also expect legislation again this coming session that would either prohibit or regulate cloud seeding programs.

One final issue we wanted to update you on is Idaho’s

“DOGE” effort. During the 2025 session House Bill 364 was introduced, establishing an interim “DOGE” committee tasked with reviewing state statutes and regulations, examining agency base budgets, and identifying opportunities to streamline government operations for greater efficiency. While the bill did not pass, House and Senate Republicans established a working group to take on the effort. Throughout the interim, we have followed the task force as it has reviewed presentations from state agencies, taken public comments and member recommendations. The task force has also started to look at the recommendations from state government resulting from the work of House Bill 14, which instructed state entities to provide recommendations for elimination of outdated sections of Idaho Code. We will continue tracking the work of the task force as proposals come together. For any work to be implemented it must move as legislation through the germane committees.

As we head into the 2026 legislative session, Veritas Advisors will remain actively engaged on these issues and other issues and look forward to advocating for policies that reflect the needs of Idaho’s grain producers. ■

AGI: End-to-End Grain Solutions for Modern Farming

For Idaho grain farmers, every bushel matters. From harvest through storage, protecting crop quality while maximizing profitability isn’t just a goal — it is a necessity. To meet that challenge, **Ag Growth International (AGI)** is redefining what it means to manage grain with a full-service and high-tech approach — combining trusted grain handling and storage equipment with cutting-edge digital tools to help farmers stay ahead.



Dustin Wageman, AGI Strategic Accounts Manager, recently sat down with the IGPA to talk about capabilities and explain how real-time digital technology adds value to stored commodities.

“The future of farming is smarter, faster and more connected than ever before. AGI empowers farmers to thrive in a changing marketplace with a full complement of grain handling, storage and movement solutions — plus automated monitoring tech to safeguard every bushel they produce and store,” says Wageman.



A partner in grain management

AGI is a global leader in providing agricultural equipment, systems and digital technologies that support the production, processing and movement of grain, seed, feed, food, and fertilizer from farm to processor. With manufacturing and distribution facilities across the United States, Canada, Brazil, Italy, France, and India, AGI serves customers worldwide through

Continued on next page

GRAIN BIN MONITORING

AGI BINMANAGER®

KNOW WHAT'S INSIDE YOUR BIN WITHOUT EVER ENTERING IT

No more manual probing or climbing the bins — use AGI BinManager® to check your grain anywhere at any time with any connected device.



SAFETY

through avoiding physical in bin entry



VISIBILITY

with real-time data readings



AUTOMATION

optimizes conditioning and minimizes costs



INSTANT ALERTS

help maintain storage conditions



aggrowth.com



AGI



Continued from previous page

its extensive distribution network and engineering expertise. Its mission is to advance solutions that strengthen and secure the global food supply chain.

“For U.S. farmers and ranchers, that means adaptability. No two farms are alike. AGI delivers one of the most comprehensive catalogs in the industry, ensuring that farms — regardless of location, acreage, size, or commodity mix — have reliable, hard-working solutions for every stage of grain management,” says Wageman.

Product lines include:

- **Storage:** grain bins, hopper bins, smooth wall bins, unloads, sweeps, and liquid storage tanks
- **Conditioning:** mixed-flow dryers, fans, and heaters
- **Portable handling:** augers, conveyors, grain vacs, post pounders, and seed treaters
- **Permanent handling:** grain structures and legs, bucket elevators, chain conveyors, towers, catwalks, and ladders
- **Technologies:** temperature and moisture in-bin monitoring, agronomic and machine monitoring, commercial hazard monitoring, and more

These products come under trusted names like **AGI Westeel®**, **AGI Batco®**, **AGI Hutchinson**, **AGI Westfield®**, **AGI Sentinel®**, and **AGI GrainMaxx®** — brands that Idaho farmers may already know and rely on.

Smart tech to protect people, products, profitability

AGI is, also, a legacy leader in manufacturing digital technologies that protect people, products and profitability and help grain farms to be resilient in a challenging and ever-changing farm economy.

“Data and real-time visibility are new drivers in agriculture. AGI combines advanced grain handling and storage systems with automated in-bin monitoring, giving farmers real-time insights to optimize quality and retain grain’s value in today’s dynamic market,” says Wageman.

Based in Lenexa, KS, AGI Digital manufactures tools



like **AGI BinManager®**. This intelligent system, which can be retrofitted to existing storage, uses digital sensors to monitor moisture and temperature inside bins and outside air conditions. It enables farmers to automate decisions on when to run fans and heaters — using airflow and climate to support quality targets for stored grain.

“AGI BinManager gives farmers peace of mind by ensuring their grain is stored safely and efficiently,” says Wageman. “It is about turning a static bin into a smart tool that protects the value and revenue potential of stored commodities.

In today’s marketplace, where farmers are keeping grain longer, that is crucial.”

AGI Digital also manufactures the **Farmobile® PUC®**, a plug-and-play device that allows farmers to collect data on in-field farm practices, view machines as they work, and manage machine usage for better work-and-turn efficiency.

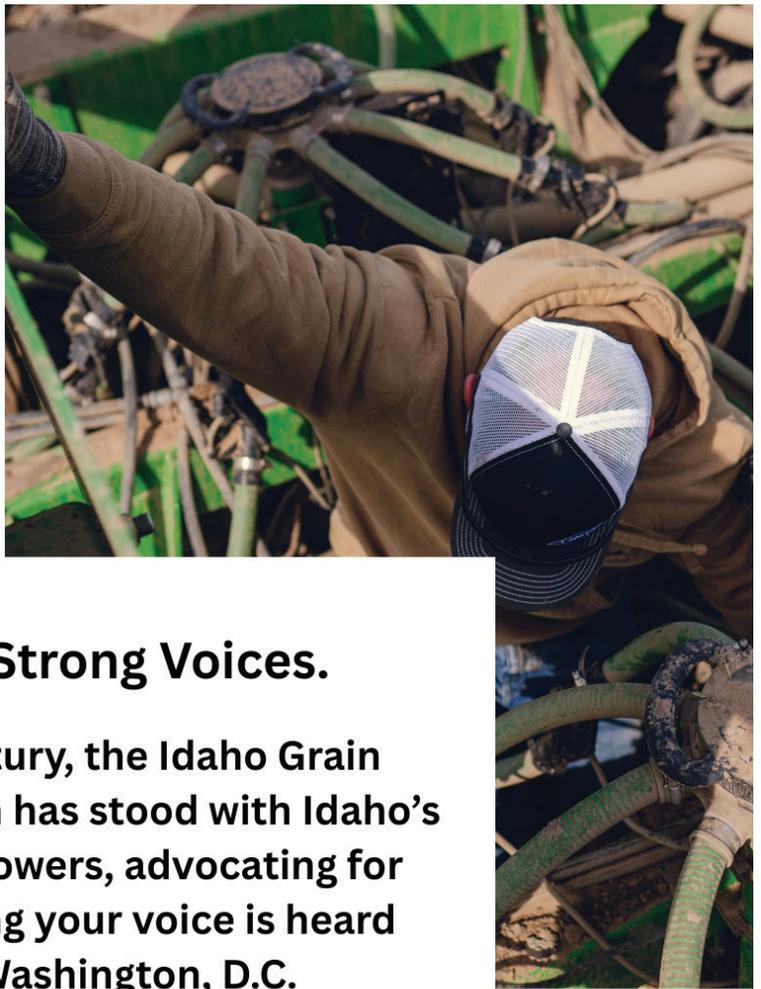
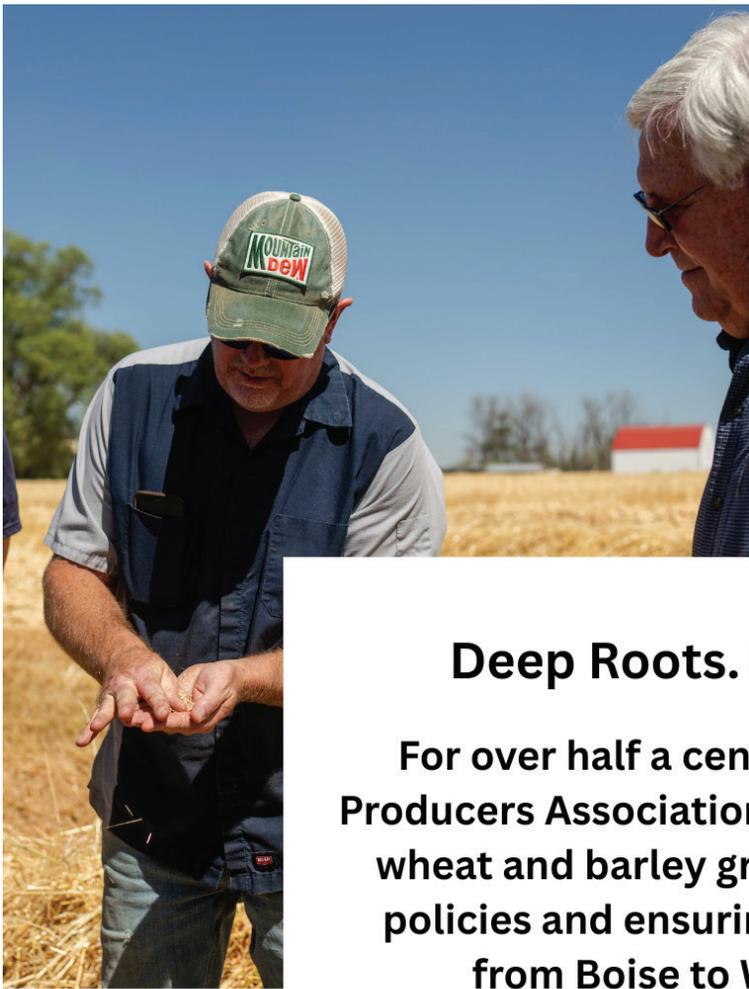
Why it matters to Idaho farmers

Idaho’s climate and harvest cycles demand precision. Moisture control and temperature management are critical to prevent grain spoilage and retain market value. AGI’s integrated approach — combining proven equipment with advanced monitoring — offers Idaho farmers a competitive edge in today’s grain market.

“By merging traditional equipment reliability with modern technology, we can help dealers and their farmers protect their investment and possibly secure a more resilient future,” he says.

For more details visit agibinmanager.com and aggrowth.com ■

Idaho’s climate and harvest cycles demand precision. Moisture control and temperature management are critical to prevent grain spoilage and retain market value.



Deep Roots. Strong Voices.

For over half a century, the Idaho Grain Producers Association has stood with Idaho's wheat and barley growers, advocating for policies and ensuring your voice is heard from Boise to Washington, D.C.

Help keep Idaho grain growers' representation strong—renew or join starting January 1 at idahograin.org/membership



IDAHO
GRAIN
PRODUCERS ASSOCIATION



ISDA Advances Efforts to Eradicate Quagga Mussel in the Snake River

BY IDAHO STATE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE DEPUTY DIRECTOR LLOYD KNIGHT

The 2025 treatment of the Snake River marks a major milestone in Idaho’s fight against quagga mussels. Through strategic treatment planning, mandatory decontamination, vigilant monitoring, and strong cooperation from the public, ISDA has not only contained the infestation but achieved a 51 percent reduction in the quagga mussel-impacted area near Twin Falls. This level of containment and reduction is unprecedented nationwide and demonstrates that Idaho’s science-based, proactive approach is producing measurable results.



No quagga mussels have been detected upriver or downriver of the 2024 treatment zone. Of particular concern to irrigators in the Magic Valley, no mussels have been detected in nearby reservoirs, demonstrating that containment efforts are holding.

Our goal continues to be eradication. This is not a maintenance program. We approached the river as if this were our last opportunity to act. Every decision and resource applied in 2025 was guided by the principle of completely eradicating the quagga mussel population in the Snake River.



The 2025 treatment utilized Natrix, a chelated copper product approved by the U.S. EPA for aquatic applications. Treatment began September 30 and concluded October 14, targeting a 3.5-mile section of the Snake River from Sageview (one mile upriver from the Twin Falls Dam) to Shoshone Falls. Copper concentrations were maintained at 1 ppm, deadly to mussels at all life stages but below drinking water standards. The plan addressed the main river channel, deep holes, potential refuges, and shorelines, ensuring comprehensive coverage.

Monitoring copper levels is essential to ensuring treatment effectiveness, especially given the size and complexity of this aquatic application. ISDA, the product manufacturer, and partner agencies conducted monitoring multiple times per day at several locations and depths to maintain target concentrations for 200 hours. Within 48 hours of the treatment, all detected quagga mussels were dead, confirming the treatment’s effectiveness. Copper fully dissipated back to pre-treatment levels by October 24.

Several new tactics and technologies were introduced in 2025 to address any potential “safe harbors” for quagga mussels including deep-hole injections, shoreline treatments, and underwater fans. We also utilized environmental DNA (eDNA) testing to identify potential source populations by testing all water inlets feeding into the impacted area, ensuring treatments targeted the potential origin of the infestation.



A major improvement in 2025 was the expansion of ISDA’s microscopy laboratory, which now allows for in-state, real-time analysis of samples, significantly improving response times.

Idaho’s quagga mussel response is a model of dedication, precision, and science-driven action. Eradication remains our top priority, and we will continue to deploy every available tool to protect the Snake River and Idaho’s waters for generations to come. ■



Agriculture Across the Pond

BY AMAYA AGUIRRE-LANDA, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, IDAHO GRAIN PRODUCERS ASSOCIATION

In late September, I had the opportunity to join the Idaho State Department of Agriculture on a trip to the United Kingdom focused on agricultural policy. Over four days we traveled from London to the countryside northwest of the city, meeting with farmers, estate operators, and agricultural leaders. I was joined by Kyle Wangemann, IGPA Vice President from Soda Springs, who brought a valuable grower perspective.

Our schedule included visits with the National Farmers Union, Raynham Estate, and Elveden Estate, as well as conversations with smaller local producers and agritourism operations. Each visit offered a unique glimpse into the challenges and innovations shaping British agriculture today.

One of the biggest takeaways was how familiar many of their struggles felt. Despite the miles between us, UK farmers face many of the same pressures we see in the U.S., regulatory uncertainty, market volatility, and the constant need to adapt. It also reminded me how much we sometimes take for granted the advantages of farming in Idaho, particularly the policies and protections that support production agriculture, such as established water rights and access to crop protection tools.

Across the farms we visited, efficiency and diversification were common themes. From large-scale

row crop and grain operations to mixed-use estates that balance food production with hospitality and renewable energy, there’s a clear drive to make every acre work smarter. That focus resonated deeply with me, as Idaho growers continue to look for ways to remain resilient in an ever-changing industry.

One of the biggest takeaways was how familiar many of their struggles felt. Despite the miles between us, UK farmers face many of the same pressures we see in the U.S., regulatory uncertainty, market volatility, and the constant need to adapt.

Representing Idaho agriculture alongside my counter parts from the dairy, sugarbeet, beef, and potato industries, as well as Farm Bureau and University of Idaho College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, felt like a unique and meaningful opportunity.

What struck me most, though, was how much we all have in common. Whether you’re walking fields in Suffolk or standing in a wheat field in Shoshone, farmers are farmers, driven by the same sense of purpose, pride, and stewardship.

This experience reinforced how valuable it is to understand the regulatory and trade environments beyond our own borders. For an industry that exports much of its product, continued education and connection at the international level are essential. And, just as importantly, it highlighted the power of traveling and learning alongside state leaders, including Governor Little, our in-state partners, and representatives like Kyle, who share a commitment to keeping Idaho agriculture strong at home and competitive abroad. ■



Ensuring Quality of Idaho Wheat

An IWC conversation with Sarah Windes, Research Specialist, Manager of the U of I Wheat Quality Laboratory, Aberdeen

How did you become interested in wheat quality?

I have always been fascinated by the fermentation process in all its aspects. After years of working with wine and beer, when I was given the opportunity to broaden my fermentation experience to bread, I leapt at the chance. Determining quality through cereal chemistry testing was very alluring.

Why are contributions from the University of Idaho quality lab important for Idaho wheat growers?

The U of I Wheat Quality Lab conducts measurements and compiles data on grain samples from university wheat breeders, research and extension staff, industry personnel, and growers. This data is used to identify those varieties that provide the best combination of yield and end-use quality for specific growing environments. Superior and consistent end-use quality translates to increased market demand, more marketing opportunities, and improved grower profitability.

How is what you do in the U of I quality laboratory differ from the Wheat Marketing Center, USDA-ARS Wheat Quality Labs, or private quality labs? How do you collaborate with these other labs?

We run many of the same tests as the other quality labs in the Pacific Northwest. However, our focus is on rapid, small-scale tests which are predictive of end-use quality and provide important data for our U of I breeders, breeding collaborations, and other researchers. These are followed up with noodle quality and baking tests – cookies and breads – to further characterize end-product quality attributes. Annual meetings and collaborative trials, such as through the PNW Wheat Quality Council, are important means to exchange information on quality analyses, industry targets, new products and processes, and to ensure alignment between labs.

What are key tests used by the lab for predicting end-use quality?

The lab conducts nearly 17,000 tests each year! These include milling of ~3000 samples; NIR analyses of ~3000 grain and flour samples for protein and moisture content; and ~1600 Mixograph analyses to evaluate



dough properties. Over 5,000 samples are tested for Solvent Retention Capacities (SRC's), which are especially important as rapid screen for breeders. We then evaluate cookies, alkaline noodles, and breads as measures of final product qualities – over 4,000 samples each year!

The most important characteristics for soft wheat quality are low grain protein, high break flour yields and consistently large diameter cookies. For hard wheat quality, we look for higher grain protein, strong gluten properties, tolerance to over mixing, and higher loaf volumes.

In our recent US Wheat meetings with Asian millers, there was a lot of discussion about SRC tests. What are SRC's and what do they measure?

Solvent retention capacities, or SRC's, are relatively inexpensive, rapid tests for flour quality that provide a profile of flour functionality and predict processing and product qualities. SRC is measured as the weight of a specific solvent retained by flour after mixing and centrifugation. Four solvents are used in a series of tests for each flour sample. First is water alone as an overall measure of water absorption capacity. Retention of a lactic acid solution is associated with gluten protein quality. A sodium carbonate solution is used as an indication of starch damage from milling. A sucrose solution is used to determine pentosan content, which has a large impact on water-holding capacity. For soft wheat flour, our target values are 50-70% for water, 80-110% for sucrose, and between 85-100% for lactic acid.



MAKE THE CO-OP CHOICE



ENERGY

Propane, bulk fuel, oils
& lubricants

vwcenergy.com

AGRONOMY

Precision agriculture,
fertilizer & seed

valleyag.com

RETAIL

Farm supply, clothing,
boots, fencing & feed

shop.valleywidecoop.com

Why is IWC support for the lab important?

Quality tests are labor intensive and require skilled, experienced hands. IWC provides critical funding and support for two permanent lab technicians and temporary labor. IWC funds also go to maintaining equipment, such as mills, sifters, Mixograph, and NIR machines, and to general lab supplies and disposables we need to conduct all our tests.

What would you consider highest priority for future of the lab?

Our ongoing priorities include: New methods and tools to increase sample throughput and predictive accuracy of resulting data; Work with our breeders to develop molecular markers and genomic approaches to more rapidly identify lines with unique or improved end-use quality attributes; Work with extension, companies, and growers to address quality concerns as the environment, cropping systems, and water issues evolve. We also look to broaden scope of the lab to explore other grains and pseudo-grains which may provide new options in cropping systems or rotations.

What is key for maintaining and improving the high



quality standards for Idaho wheat?

New investments in people, training, equipment, and facilities so that we can better respond to university and industry needs for quality testing. Continued collaboration and networking with other quality labs throughout the region and USA is important to exchange new ideas, quality targets, equipment, and improved protocols. 🇺🇸



Governor Little Appoints New Idaho Wheat Commissioners

Governor Little appointed two new wheat growers to represent Idaho farmers on the Idaho Wheat Commission. Justin Place, of Hamer, and Tim Freeburg, of Worley, will serve a five-year term ending on June 30, 2030.

Justin Place will represent wheat farmers in District 4, which includes Bingham, Bonneville, Butte, Clark, Custer, Fremont, Jefferson, Lemhi, Madison, and Teton Counties. He fills the seat previously held by Clark Hamilton, of Ririe. Hamilton served his maximum term and completed his appointment earlier this year.

Place served as President of the Idaho Grain Producers Association (IGPA) from 2023–2024 and serves on the grower advisory committee for Anheuser-Busch. Justin and his wife, Tara, farm north of Idaho Falls and grow wheat, barley, mustard, and alfalfa. They have four sons and one grandson.

“I am both excited and humbled by the opportunity to serve on the Idaho Wheat Commission,” said Place. “For me, the most rewarding part is connecting with people—building relationships, giving a voice to the agricultural community, and supporting the wheat industry that sustains us all. I am inspired by Idaho’s wheat producers, each demonstrating true stewardship of the land and pride in the high-quality wheat our state is known for. I am grateful for the trust placed in me and look forward to serving and growing in this new role.”

Tim Freeburg will represent farmers in District 1, at the top of the Idaho panhandle, in Benewah, Bonner, Boundary, Kootenai, Latah, and Shoshone Counties. Joseph “Genesee Joe” Anderson represented District 1 farmers prior to Freeburg’s appointment. Genesee Joe retired from his position after serving as a commissioner for eight years.



Tim Freeburg



Justin Place

“I am honored to serve and represent District 1 wheat farmers as the new Wheat Commissioner,” remarked Freeburg. “I look forward to working with growers and partners to strengthen Idaho’s wheat industry and ensure a sustainable future for farming.”

Tim grew up farming, growing winter wheat, spring wheat, canola, hay, bluegrass seed, and garbanzo beans. He is the proud father of three boys who keep Tim and his wife, Randi, busy hunting, fishing, and exploring in the mountains. He also enjoys flying and coaching baseball.

“First and foremost, IWC would like to thank and honor outgoing commissioners Clark Hamilton and ‘Genesee Joe’ Anderson,” stated IWC Chairman Cory Kress, of Rockland. “Both men have served Idaho’s farmers, as well as wheat farmers across the United States, over the last decade and a half. At the same time, we are excited to welcome Justin Place and Tim Freeburg as their successors.”

Clark Hamilton was first appointed to the Commission by Governor C.L. “Butch” Otter in 2015 after advancing through the leadership chairs in IGPA. Hamilton was reappointed to a second term in 2020 by Governor Brad Little. During his second term, Hamilton served on the U.S. Wheat Associates (USW) executive committee and was chosen to serve as chairman of that organization from 2024–2025.

Anderson was also appointed to his first term as an Idaho Wheat Commissioner by Governor Otter in 2017 after spending five years on the IGPA executive



board, including a term as President of IGPA. He was appointed to a second term on the Commission by Governor Little in 2022. After retiring from farming in 2024, Joe opted to resign his commission seat to give others an opportunity to grow, learn, and serve the industry.

“Both Justin and Tim have shown their commitment and dedication to the wheat industry, benefiting Idaho farmers through IGPA and working on advocacy and legislative issues pertinent to Idaho agriculture,” continued IWC Chairman Kress. “We look forward to having both of them bring that same passion to IWC—directing research, promoting trade and domestic consumption, and educating Idaho farmers. New perspectives and ideas are healthy for organizations,

and we look forward to serving Idaho’s wheat farmers with these new commissioners on board.”

IWC is a grower-governed, quasi-state agency with the mission of increasing farmer profitability by investing grower dollars in market development, wheat research and development, and producer education and outreach. The Commission is governed by five grower leaders, each representing one of five production zones—or districts—in the state of Idaho. Farmers submit a resume and application to IGPA, and IGPA leadership submits three names per district to the Office of the Governor for consideration. The Governor appoints one grower leader to serve up to two five-year terms as an Idaho Wheat Commissioner. ■

Greenfield Milling Opens Opportunities for Southern Idaho Wheat Farmers

Greenfield Milling officially opened its state-of-the-art mill in Richmond, Utah in September. Located directly adjacent to Campbell Snacks Pepperidge Farm baking and packaging facility less than five miles from the Idaho-Utah border, the mill is uniquely positioned to strengthen the supply chain between Idaho’s wheat farmers and consumers in the region, across the country, and around the world.

Utah Flour Mills, the parent company of Greenfield Milling, inked a 20-year agreement with Campbell Snacks to provide a dedicated pneumatic flour supply to Pepperidge Farm, which uses Idaho wheat to make Goldfish® crackers and several of the company’s iconic cookies. The mill has a maximum daily capacity of 7,500 cwt and is equipped for both hard and soft wheat. The addition of this mill and long-term contract means heightened demand consistency and market predictability for Idaho farmers.

The Richmond bakery runs 364 days a year and uses more than 250,000 pounds of flour daily for Goldfish production alone. The bakery uses an additional 100,000 pounds of flour daily for the cookie lines in the bakery, including Milano® and Chessmen®.

While the memorandum of agreement between the companies is not exclusive, both the mill and the



bakery are committed to local sourcing of a sustainable supply of clean, consistent, and high-quality wheat – all which Idaho wheat growers can provide. Greenfield Milling also plans to mill flour beyond the needs of the agreement with Campbell’s, opening up more market opportunities for southern Idaho growers.

Idaho wheat growers interested in supplying to Greenfield Milling or learning more about quality specifications and contracting opportunities are encouraged to visit gfmilling.com. ■



In Search of the Perfect Loaf

BY CATHY M. WILSON, PHD, WHEAT MARKETING CONSULTANT, UNIVERSITY OF IDAHO, ABERDEEN WHEAT BREEDING PROGRAM

Tucked on a small side street in central Boise sits Gaston’s Bakery and Mill. From the outside it looks like a quaint, neighborhood storefront bakery but upon closer look one would see there is much more going on here. In the adjacent parking lot sit three large grain bins and a small grain cleaner. Gaston’s Bakery and Mill is owned and operated by Mathieu Choux, the chief miller and baker, who is on a quest to make a delectable loaf of bread with only three ingredients: house-milled wheat, water, and sea salt.



Recently, Choux purchased a truckload of UI Gold wheat to mill, bake, and put to the test in his dream for the perfect loaf. UI Gold is a recently released hard white spring (HWS) wheat variety developed by Dr. Jianli Chen, University of Idaho (U of I) wheat breeder at the Aberdeen Research and Extension Center. Gaston’s Bakery and Mill specializes in artisanal bread and bakery products made fresh using Idaho wheat.

On a small flour mill onsite, Choux grinds wheat into an ultrafine whole wheat flour. “The mill was made in Oregon,” Choux explained. After extensive testing for end-use quality, Gaston’s Bakery and Mill is now able to make whole wheat white flour that is not enriched and doesn’t contain additives. Providing these specialized products fills a niche for which some consumers are looking.



Mathieu’s mission to bake the perfect loaf required finding the right wheat variety, milling it whole, and then dialing in the mixing, proofing, and baking through trial and error. “Finding a local wheat that works both in the field and for bread baking has always been our goal,” explained Mathieu. “UI Gold is one of the best we’ve had the opportunity to work with. It has strong gluten and results in excellent loaf volume to



consistently make a good artisanal loaf made with a starter, a slow fermentation and no yeast.”

Dr. Chen’s goal for developing a new HWS variety was to pair high yield for grain growers with the exceptional baking quality required by millers and bakers. “In the past,” offered Dr. Chen, “hard white spring varieties with good baking quality tended to have a yield drag,

making them less desirable to farmers, who are paid for yield, not end-use quality. But UI Gold has the whole package: yield for farmers and baking quality for millers and bakers.”

Mathieu tested several HWS varieties before he heard about UI Gold, which was supposed to have superior bread baking quality – and it did. ■

Are Wheat Farmers Falling for Anti-Wheat Propaganda?

Over the years we have seen fad diets come and go, from Atkins to paleo, keto, cabbage soup cleanses, South Beach, and a host of powders, potions, and pills that promise life changing results. However these diets are packaged, the constant across the spectrum has been the villainization of wheat foods and carbohydrates. Not surprising, if you cut out breads, pastas, cakes, cookies, and pastries and replace them with protein, fruits, and vegetables, you will see movement on the scale.

What is surprising, however, is the number of comments made by wheat farmers and wheat industry advocates that promote the negative reputation wheat foods have earned through disinformation. Comments such as, ‘I was going to be good today, but I want a roll’ or ‘this bread is delicious, but I know I shouldn’t have a slice.’ Is the wheat industry falling for misguided claims about the health and consumption of wheat foods?

The U.S. Department of Agriculture Dietary Guidelines recommend five to eight servings – or ounces – of grains every day, with three to five of those being whole grains. For reference, one ounce of grain food is equivalent to one piece of bread, one cup of cereal, or half a cup of pasta or cooked cereal. Each of these is one serving of the five to eight servings Americans should be eating according to the dietary guidelines.

Grains, whole or refined, provide health benefits in both the short- and long-term. Adding whole grains to one’s diet increases satiety, which means that one will feel full faster and longer, reducing calorie intake. Whole grains also reduce glucose spikes, which often leave consumers reaching for sugary snacks and beverages to replicate the uptick in energy levels during a slump.

Long term, wheat foods contain vitamins and minerals essential for the proper function of the human body. Fiber helps reduce low-density lipoprotein (LDL or “bad”) cholesterol levels and lower the risk of heart disease. Additionally, fiber is critical for proper bowel function and whole grains help lower the risk of colorectal cancers. Cancer and heart disease are the two leading causes of death in Americans over the age of 25.

The B vitamins in wheat – thiamin, riboflavin, and niacin – help the body use energy and regulate metabolism. B vitamins also regulate the nervous system, reducing fatigue and improving cognitive performance. ‘Brains need bread’ isn’t just a catchphrase; B vitamins build neurotransmitters – the delivery system for messages from the brain to the rest of the body.

One in three Americans are deficient in iron, which is the transport vessel to carry oxygen from the lungs to the rest of the body. Without adequate stores of iron in the blood, the body struggles to produce hemoglobin, a protein in red blood cells, and myoglobin, which delivers oxygen to muscles. Iron boosts immunity, helps provide a steady stream of oxygen-rich blood to the brain, keeps energy levels up, and is a primary nutrient in wheat.

Wheat and other whole grains are also an excellent source of magnesium, which is used by the body to release energy from muscles and build and strengthen bones. Magnesium is a little mineral with a powerful punch, improving sleep, reducing the occurrence of migraine headaches, quickening muscle recovery, and calming anxiety.

Continued on next page

Continued from previous page

Besides being a significant source of protein, wheat brings myriad nutritional benefits to a balanced and moderate diet, only a fraction of which are discussed here. Unfortunately, wheat has terrible PR, taking it from the “staff of life” to a “major cause” of obesity, chronic illnesses, and autoimmune disorders. Disappointingly, the Make America Healthy Again (MAHA) movement is fueling online discussions that increase skepticism of the value of wheat foods in a healthy diet without any scientific evidence, which turns the claims into dangerous propaganda.

The premise of the MAHA movement is something most Americans can get behind. Of course Americans want fewer chronic diseases across all age ranges. Of course we want nutritious and identifiable foods served in schools, veteran facilities, hospitals, and elder care facilities. Everyone should have access to healthy and affordable breakfast, lunch, and dinner. As food producers we must work against the anti-carbohydrate, anti-refined flour, anti-gluten rhetoric and enjoy the positive physical and mental benefits of including wheat as part of a healthy and balanced lifestyle. ■

Strengthening Global Ties: PNW Wheat Commissions Visit Southeast Asia

Last month, Idaho Wheat Commissioner Clark Hamilton and Executive Director Britany Hurst Marchant joined leadership and staff from the state wheat commissions in Oregon and Washington for the annual Pacific Northwest (PNW) market development mission. This year, the tri-state delegation traveled to Southeast Asia, focusing on three key markets for U.S. and PNW wheat exports: the Philippines, Singapore, and Indonesia. The group was accompanied by U.S. Wheat Associates (USW) foreign office staff—Joe Bippert and Ady Redondo from the Philippines office, and Joe Sowers and Jacqueline Cheong from the Singapore office.

The week’s agenda was packed with strategic engagements, including four mill tours and meetings with milling executives and procurement specialists in both the Philippines and Indonesia; discussions with grain traders in Singapore—a major shipping and commerce hub in Southeast Asia; and meetings with milling and baking executives and industry associations in all three countries. The itinerary also included participation in the International Association of Operative Millers (IAOM) conference in Manila, where Commissioner Hamilton addressed millers from around the world, sharing farming challenges and opportunities, and reaffirming Idaho’s commitment to superior wheat quality and consistency.

“Several of these purchasers, traders, millers, and bakers we met with on this mission have visited the PNW as part of USW trade teams,” explained Britany Hurst Marchant. “In many cases, we’re reconnecting with old friends and showing genuine interest in their



end of the business. We’ve taken them to farms here in Idaho—maybe a dam, an export terminal—to show them how we grow the wheat and how it gets to them.”

These visits provided valuable insights into how U.S. wheat is used in local products and reinforced the importance of quality and consistency in maintaining strong customer relationships. “It cannot be overstated how important it is for trade relationships to be reciprocal. Sitting down with customers, sharing a meal, seeing what matters to them, and having honest conversations about challenges and opportunities on both sides cultivates confidence,” said Hurst Marchant. These efforts build long-term relationships and trust across the grain value chain—not just short-term transactions.



Indonesia: A Market of Massive Potential

With a population exceeding 280 million and no domestic wheat production, Indonesia relies entirely on wheat imports. In 2024, it was the second-largest wheat importer in the world, bringing in more than 400 million bushels from the United States, Canada, and Australia. Despite tight price competition, U.S. wheat has demonstrated superior performance and retained a segment of the market that demands higher quality for end-use products. While Indonesia's economic situation is improving, most purchasing decisions remain price sensitive. Nevertheless, Indonesia continues to be a top 10 market for U.S. wheat exports, driven by its booming population.

In July, Indonesia's flour milling association, APTINDO, signed a Memorandum of Understanding with USW, committing to double its annual purchases of U.S. wheat to 1 million metric tons over the next five years. Indonesian mills have already surpassed the minimum purchase commitments for 2025, underscoring the potential of this emerging market—especially for the consistent quality of soft white (SW), hard red winter (HRW), and hard red spring (HRS) wheat classes.

Idaho Grower Investments Build Trust Through Technical Support

In all three countries, the PNW team consistently heard how much support customers receive from USW staff. USW technical specialists provide personalized, hands-on training at mills, helping millers become familiar with soft wheat and adjust mill settings from hard wheat classes to soft.

In the Philippines—a country with a long-standing



commitment to U.S. wheat—and throughout Southeast Asia, bakery, biscuit, and noodle specialists have developed strong relationships with millers and bakers. These specialists offer training and consulting to improve the performance of U.S. wheat in end products.

Milling and baking technical support and training courses provided by USW—funded in part through investments from Idaho's wheat farmers—optimize operations in mills and bakeries to better utilize U.S. wheat classes. Praise for USW's technical support particularly highlighted the use of Solvent Retention Capacity (SRC) testing in bakeries.

SRC testing identifies flour functionality—a specification beyond protein content—and helps end-use manufacturers source wheat with optimal performance. It enables manufacturers to more easily identify flour milled from U.S. wheat by the characteristics that distinguish it from competitors' classes. Including SRC specifications in purchases also allows for a wider protein content range while maintaining consistency in end-use quality. This is especially important in years when SW protein falls outside the 9–10% window or when wheat needs to be blended to meet customer expectations.

Through grower assessment dollars, Idaho wheat farmers—through the Idaho Wheat Commission and USW—have expanded technical and end-use training in Southeast Asia and other critical markets. These efforts include purchasing SRC testing equipment and providing training at the Wheat Marketing Center in Portland and at baking schools that use exclusively U.S. wheat around the world. Guided by IWC's grower leaders, these investments help open and secure new markets and reaffirm commitments to established markets. ■

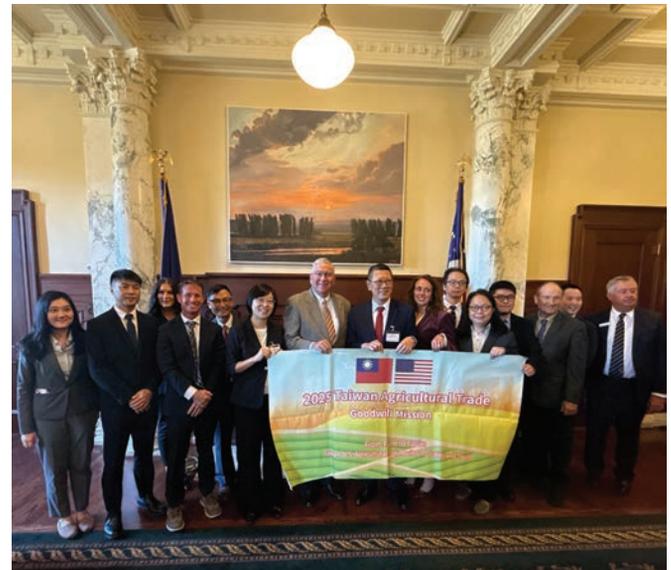


Taiwan Signs Purchasing Agreement for Idaho Wheat

In September, commissioners and staff from the Idaho Wheat Commission joined Lieutenant Governor Scott Bedke, Mr. Michael Chang, President of the Taiwan Flour Millers Association (TFMA), and Ms. May Lin, Director General of the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in Seattle, to sign a letter of intent significant to Idaho’s wheat growers. The letter represents a commitment by the Taiwan Flour Millers Association (TFMA) to purchase at least 132 million bushels of Idaho-grown wheat over the next four years. The value of these purchases is estimated to be around \$1.3 billion.

Different from the U.S. model, where wheat is contracted and purchased by mills independently, TFMA purchases all the wheat for all 20 mills in Taiwan collectively and then distributes the wheat accordingly. Taiwan imports 99.9% of the wheat its population consumes and about 80% of those imports come from the United States. Since 1998, Taiwan has purchased more than 1 billion bushels of U.S. wheat – worth more than \$8 billion.

While the wheat going to Taiwan from Idaho generally comes off the Palouse, it is not only northern Idaho farmers who benefit from the longstanding relationship between Idaho and TFMA. “Our markets are driven by supply and demand,” said IWC Chairman Cory Kress, of Rockland. “Idaho, along with the rest of the nation’s wheat farmers, grow far more than we can consume in America alone. We literally feed people around the world.” Idaho’s farmers produce, on



average, 100 million bushels of wheat annually. Every Idahoan would have to eat more than five loaves of bread every single day to consume all the wheat Idaho farmers grow.

“While much of southern Idaho’s wheat is consumed domestically, all our markets are influenced by the same supply and demand fundamentals,” continued Chairman Kress. When wheat sells out of the Palouse, southern Idaho farmers benefit from a smaller supply to meet global demand. If those cargo ships of wheat were not leaving Portland from the PNW, the market would be saturated and even more depressed. “The less supply we have due to overseas market demand, the higher all of our markets go.”

Unfortunately, the price of wheat is determined by the market, not by the farmer or IWC. But IWC commissioners invest grower dollars into efforts to maintain current markets – such as with Taiwan – and open new markets for Idaho wheat globally and domestically. “We all benefit from longstanding relationships with customers like Taiwan that value our superior quality wheat and are willing to consistently pay a premium for it,” explained Kress. “Every wheat farmer wins when we sell wheat overseas.”

The signing of the letter of intent represents more than four decades of loyalty between TFMA and Idaho wheat growers. This agreement reaffirms a commitment that is mutually beneficial to TFMA and all Idaho wheat farmers. ■





Genesee's Joe Anderson Honored with Distinguished Service Award

The Idaho Wheat Commission (IWC) proudly presented the 2025 Distinguished Service Award to Joseph "Genesee Joe" Anderson at the Idaho-Oregon Grain and Oilseeds Convention in Sun Valley in November. The recipient of the Idaho Wheat Distinguished Service Award is nominated and selected by the IWC commissioners. Joe was selected in recognition and appreciation for his decades of dedication to Idaho's wheat industry.

Joe and his brother, Jay, began farming together more than 40 years ago. Since 1983, Joe has been cultivating land and growing wheat and other crops in Latah and Nez Perce Counties. In addition to farming, Joe has spent his career passionately advocating for the grain industry, including Idaho wheat, the Snake River system, and the Port of Lewiston, to name a few.

Anderson recently retired after a career marked by commitment to sustainable agriculture and community leadership. He served on the Idaho Grain Producers Association (IGPA) Board of Directors and advanced through the IGPA Executive Board chairs. He was appointed to the Idaho Wheat Commission by Governor C.L. "Butch" Otter and reappointed by Governor Brad Little for a second term. He also serves as a Port of Lewiston Commissioner and represents the Port of Lewiston on the City of Lewiston's Urban Renewal Agency. Prior to being an IWC commissioner, Joe served on the Genesee Union Warehouse Board and was an associate supervisor for the Latah Soil and Water Conservation District.

As an Idaho Wheat commissioner, Joe supported investments in research, marketing, and grower education. He hosted numerous trade teams from around the globe in Idaho and participated in Governor Trade Missions and U.S. Wheat Associates Board Team Missions, promoting the superior quality of Idaho wheat classes to customers overseas. Joe's involvement with international promotion has strengthened support for Idaho wheat in markets around the world.

"Joe hosted my very first trade team after I came to Idaho Wheat in 2017," recalled Britany Hurst Marchant, IWC Executive Director. "I was a bit anxious. Joe gave me his full support and any reassurance I needed. He has truly been a mentor to me ever since and I am grateful for his quiet wisdom. I value the time



I got to learn from him and serve with him on the Commission, and I am thrilled that he is taking time to enjoy retirement."

During his tenure as an Idaho Wheat commissioner, Joe served as the liaison to IGPA, ensuring both organizations could support Idaho's wheat growers through effective programming while safeguarding grower assessment dollars through responsible fiscal stewardship. He brought a unique perspective to IWC discussions, guiding IWC investments and decisions with thoughtfulness and pragmatism.

"I had the great pleasure of serving through IGPA and the Wheat Commission for more than 15 years with Joe," said IWC past commissioner Clark Hamilton. "I always look up to Joe for great leadership. He is a calm person who thinks things through, and I always want to hear what he has to say. I value his opinion so much! Joe is a great friend to me and someone I will continue to look to for advice. I know he will continue to be an effective advocate and friend of agriculture."

Joe is a graduate of Leadership Idaho Agriculture and the Wheat Industry Leaders of Tomorrow program. He earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Agricultural Economics and a second Bachelor of Science degree in Agricultural Mechanization, both from the University of Idaho. He has also contributed as a member of the Dean's Advisory Committee at the University of Idaho and served on the Variety Release Committee. Joe's influence on Idaho's wheat industry and community will leave a lasting impact for generations to come. 🇺🇸



IDAHO BARLEY COMMISSION

Grower Driven • Grower Funded • Grower Governed

The Idaho Barley Commission serves to enhance the profitability of Idaho barley growers through:

- ◆ Research
- ◆ Market Development
- ◆ Promotion
- ◆ Information and Education

These programs are funded through the \$0.04 per hundredweight grower assessment. This is equivalent to \$0.0192 per bushel—a great investment for growers!

The commission is governed by a board of 4 commissioners—3 growers and 1 industry representative who is chosen by the grower commissioners. There are three full time staff members and the commission works with additional partners and contractors as needed to develop and carryout IBC programs.

IBC commissioners and staff welcome grower comments and input throughout the year. Please reach out if you have questions or ideas on ways the commission can better serve grower interests.



Financials: July 1, 2024—June 30, 2025

REVENUE:

Barley Assessment Revenue	\$ 880,761
Interest and Other Revenue	\$ 7,393
Miscellaneous Income	\$ 8,782
Barley Yield Contest	\$ 28,000
Total Revenue	\$924,936

EXPENSES:

Research	\$ 257,905
Market Development	\$ 195,150
Industry Partnerships/Grower Services	\$ 183,468
Information / Education	\$ 103,049
Office and Administrative Costs	\$ 194,289
Total Expenses	\$927,607

Carryover/Reserve Funds \$ 259,763

Learn More and Follow the Commission at:

WEBSITES:

www.idahobarleycommission.org
www.eatbarley.org



SOCIAL MEDIA:

Facebook Idaho Barley Commission
 Barley: Nature's Hearty Grain
Pinterest EatBarley
Instagram @EatBarley
YouTube Barley: Nature's Hearty Grain
Twitter/X @idahobarleycom





The 2025 National Barley Yield Contest Results Are Just Around the Corner!

The 2025 National Barley Yield Contest marks its official national debut, building on the strong foundation set during Idaho's pilot year. Growers from across the country had the opportunity to participate, contributing valuable data, innovative practices, and insights that will help advance barley research and support the industry nationwide.

As final results are compiled, stay tuned for a closer look at this year's top entries, emerging agronomic trends, and which outstanding grower will earn a trip to the 2025 Commodity Classic in San Antonio.

A big thank you to the sponsors who made this year's National Barley Yield Contest possible:



Two Idaho Barley Commissioners Elected to National Leadership Positions

Congratulations to Idaho Barley Commissioner Josh Jones from Troy who was elected Vice President of the National Barley Growers Association (NBGA) earlier this year at the organization's summer meeting in Golden, Colorado, and to Idaho Barley Commissioner Lucas Spratling of Rockland who was recently elected Chair of the National Barley Improvement Committee (NBIC). Idaho barley growers are well-represented on the national level through Idaho Barley Commission involvement in these and other industry organizations.

Jones, currently IBC Vice Chairman, operates a mid-size diversified dryland farm in the Palouse region of North Idaho where he is focused on sustainability, soil health and maximizing crop production through holistic management practices. He earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Agribusiness Management from Montana State University and participated in a student exchange to China while there. He completed the 2022 Bayer Leadership Training Program, besides previously completing the Executive Program for Agricultural Producers. He served two terms as a Latah County Farm Bureau



Josh Jones

board member, and three terms on the Latah County Soil & Water Conservation District, as well as a member of the Northwest Farm Credit Services Local Advisory Committee. He is also husband to Jennifer and the father of two boys, a pilot, and backcountry hunting enthusiast.

Spratling, newly elected IBC Chairman, is a fourth-generation barley grower from Rockland, Idaho, who runs an 800-acre farm alongside his wife Laurie and son Orlin. The family farm focuses on producing malt barley for Molson-Coors, one of Idaho's largest barley contractors. In addition to his new role with NBIC, Spratling serves on the American Malting Barley Association (AMBA) Sustainability Committee. Beyond his farming experience, Spratling has served in various leadership positions, including as Past President of the Idaho Grain Producers Association, Raft River Fire Commissioner and as a volunteer fire fighter with Raft River Fire Department. He is a graduate of Leadership Idaho Agriculture.



Lucas Spratling

Continued on next page

Continued from previous page

NBGA is a national barley advocacy organization that has been actively working to promote U.S. sourced barley since 1989. NBGA was created to advance the national and international interests of U.S. barley producers focusing on U.S. barley-producing states including Colorado, Idaho, Minnesota, Montana, North Dakota, Washington and Wyoming. The NBGA mission is to enhance and maintain profitability of the United States barley industry by providing a unified voice through grassroots producer involvement.

The National Barley Improvement Committee (NBIC), a coalition representing the U.S. barley community of growers, researchers, processors, users, and allied industries, works to secure both funding and favorable agricultural policies at the federal level for their industry. The NBIC's most visible efforts culminate in an annual Hill climb each spring, primarily focusing on federal funding to support barley research through three unique initiatives: Barley Pest Initiative, U.S. Wheat and Barley Scab Initiative, and the new Resilient Barley Initiative. ■

IBC Presents 2025 Idaho Barley Service Award to Brett Wilken

The Idaho Barley Commission presented their 2025 Idaho Barley Industry Service Award to Brett Wilken during the 2025 Idaho Grain and Oilseed Convention in Sun Valley on November 19.

Brett Wilken has spent the past 43 years in the grain industry working with growers and helping advance wheat and barley industries. He began his career with General Mills in Broadview, Montana – fresh off his family farm there, working for the company in Montana and Idaho where he was in seed sales, a grain buyer and a facility manager in his 31 years there. He then worked as the Seed Manager for Thresher in Blackfoot for 4 years, before moving to his present position as a merchandiser for Scoular in Twin Falls in 2018.

At Scoular, Brett primarily works on barley. He originates the company's barley purchases for their Barley MVP, Emerge and Dairy Feed programs. He is the lead for the Barley MVP program, a producer program that encourages farmers to grow barley as a crop rotation option, providing them with resources like high-yield seed varieties, risk management tools, and access to new markets in feed, food, and processing sectors.

Over his career, Brett said he is most proud of his work in developing food barley programs, helping to establish more winter barley acres in Idaho to help growers achieve higher yields, and in working with the Idaho Barley Commission to establish the National Barley Yield Contest – something that other commodities had, but not barley until a state pilot contest ran last year, and the national contest launched this year. Brett could see the value of the contest for promoting barley yields and quality and promoting



research and innovation. From conversations started with IBC staff over three years ago to countless hours on his part learning how other commodity national yield contests operated, to helping write the rules and spread the word about the new barley yield contest, it has largely been successful due to his efforts.

The Commission was very honored to present the 2025 Idaho Barley Service Award to Brett Wilken and thanks him for his work on behalf of Idaho barley growers and the Idaho barley industry. ■

2025 Idaho Barley Crop Stats

IDAHO BARLEY LEADS U.S. PRODUCTION

39%

Idaho's share of
the 2025 U.S.
Barley Crop



54,880,000 bushels

harvested in 2025 on **490,000 acres**
at **average yields of 112 bushels**
per acre, compared to yields of 109
bushels per acre and 55,590,000
bushels harvested in 2024.

The 2025 Idaho barley crop value is
estimated at **\$324.3 million** with
an average price per bushel at \$5.91
according to USDA NASS data. August 2025

2025 Idaho & U.S. Barley Crop

	2024	2025	% Change
Idaho Barley Acres Planted	530,000	520,000	-1.9%
Idaho Acres Harvested	510,000	490,000	-3.9%
Idaho Average Bushels/Acre	109	112	+2.8%
Idaho Total Bushels	55,590,000	54,880,000	-1.3%
U.S. Acres Harvested	1,875,000	1,761,000	-6.6%
U.S. Total Bushels	144,442,000	140,849,000	-2.1%
Idaho % of U.S. Total	38.7%	39%	+.8%
Idaho Rank in Total U.S. Barley Production	1	1	No Change

5-Year Average Total Idaho Production: 54,830,800 Bu
5-Year Average Idaho Yield/Acre: 106.6 Bu/Acre



THERE'S NO SECOND CHANCE WITH A SEED TREATMENT.

PROVEN ON OVER A MILLION ACRES IN THE PACIFIC NORTHWEST.

The best harvests start with a seed treatment – but not just any seed treatment. Albaugh has been delivering specialized solutions to growers in the PNW for more than a decade. From single active ingredients to custom blends, you'll get the right seed treatment for the right acre – and give your bottom line a lift.



GET THE WHOLE STORY AT
[ALBAUGHST.COM/PNW](https://albaughst.com/pnw)



©2024 Albaugh, LLC. All rights reserved. Albaugh and the Albaugh logo are registered trademarks of Albaugh, LLC. Always read and follow label restrictions, precautions and directions for use. Some products may not be registered for sale or use in all states or counties. Please check with your local extension service to ensure registration status.