

IDAHO **GRAIN**

FALL 2026

THE IDAHO GRAIN PRODUCERS ASSOCIATION MAGAZINE

ADVOCATING
FOR IDAHO GRAIN
SINCE 1957

IDAHO 2026
**PRIMARY
ELECTION
RECAP**



FIRST
**U.S. MALTING
SUMMIT**

The Idaho Barley Commission joined US Grains & BioProducts Council in hosting brewing industry stakeholders in the Pacific Northwest.



**FEDERAL GRANT FUNDS
DROUGHT PLANNING**

University of Idaho receives a grant to develop online tools that will help irrigators when water supply is limited.



CONTENT

- 03 Editor's Note: Amaya Aguirre-Landa
- 04 Views: Kyle Wangemann, IGPA President
- 06 Recapping the 2026 Fish & Wildlife Program amendment process and a critical win for hydropower
- 08 Harvest Ups and Downs
- 10 Idaho Grain & Oilseed Convention Information
- 12 Primary Election 2026 Recap
- 14 What the Supreme Court's Decision Means for Farmers
- 16 Have You Checked Out the Regenerative Pilot Program offered by the Natural Resources Conservation Service?
- 18 Farm Bill Hits Senate Roadblock, but Work Is Not Over
- 20 Strengthening Relationships Through Curious Conversation

- 22 U.S. Wheat Classes in Demand this Marketing Year
- 24 The Nutritional Power of Wheat
- 25 Federal rapid response grant funds U of I drought-planning tools for irrigators
- 28 Idaho Barley Growers Well Represented at USGBC Board of Delegates Meeting
- 28 IBC Welcomes New Commissioner
- 29 International Course Highlights Growing Demand for U.S. Food Barley
- 29 IBC Hosts Korean Food Barley Team
- 30 IBC Engages in U.S. Malting Summit

About the cover:

Kaufman Farms, Lewiston, Idaho

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 inquiries 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/idaaho-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

Printed in the USA



EDITOR'S NOTE

BY AMAYA AGUIRRE-LANDA | EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

To say that this growing season has been tough would be an understatement.

As I write this, I am sitting at my desk looking at a corn field that has been decimated by a sudden and violent hailstorm. Drought, storms, fire, and a struggling farm economy have impacted producers in unrecoverable ways.

As I made my way across the state this summer, meeting with growers from Moscow to Malad, the theme was persistent: these are hard times. And the light at the end of the tunnel feels unreachable.

And yet...

And yet, I keep thinking about the conversations I had this summer. They weren't optimistic, exactly. But they are still hanging in there. Still planning for next season. Still showing up for a meeting on a Tuesday afternoon when there is work to be done.

That's the thing about this industry; resilience isn't a talking point here. It's life.

This fall, IGPA is continuing to advocate for the support growers need because when the weather won't cooperate, the least we can do is make sure the systems around you do. In September we are back in DC continuing conversations

about Farm Bill, workforce challenges, economic assistance and more. In Boise, we are preparing for the general election in November and the legislative session to come.

To every grower who is looking at a damaged field, a thin margin, or a hard decision this fall: you are not alone, and you are not without allies. That's why this organization exists.



IDAHO GRAIN PRODUCERS ASSOCIATION

702 W. Idaho, Suite 322
Boise, ID 83702 | (208) 345-0706
idahograin.org

President

Kyle Wangemann | Soda Springs

Vice President

Larry Hollifield | Hansen

Secretary/Treasurer

Jeff Hood | Bonners Ferry

Executive Member

Sedar Beckman | Idaho Falls

Past President

Jonathan Rosenau | Nezperce

Executive Director

Amaya Aguirre-Landa

Director of Communications and Events

Kellie Kluksdal

Director of Finance

Harmony Wright

IDAHO WHEAT COMMISSION

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

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

Jim Peterson

Office Manager

Jill Cloward

IDAHO BARLEY COMMISSION

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

Chairman, District 2 Commissioner

Lucas Spratling | Raft River

Vice Chairman, District 1 Commissioner

Josh Jones | Troy

District 3 Commissioner

Jake Ozburn | Soda Springs

Industry Representative

Dustin Camphouse | Blackfoot

Executive Director

Laura Wilder | Boise

Office Manager

Wren Hernandez | Boise

Communications and Program Manager

Sydney Anderson | Boise



PRESIDENT'S VIEW

BY KYLE WANGEMANN | PRESIDENT

As harvest gets underway across Idaho, I'm reminded of the dedication and resilience it takes to make a living in agriculture. As a barley grower here in Soda Springs, I know every season brings its own set of challenges, from unpredictable weather to fluctuating markets and rising input costs. While our focus is on bringing in a successful harvest, it's also a good time to remember that many of the decisions affecting our farms are made far beyond the field. That's why I believe it's so important that we stay engaged and continue working together through the Idaho Grain Producers Association.

One of the best opportunities to do that is at the Idaho Grain and Oilseed Convention this November in Sun Valley. This convention is built for growers, with sessions that address the issues we face every day and provide valuable insights into markets, research, policy, and the future of our industry. Just as important, it's a chance to connect with fellow producers, share ideas, and learn from one another. I hope you'll make plans to join us as we come together to strengthen Idaho agriculture and the future of our operations.

Advocacy remains one of the most important roles our association serves. In September, Idaho growers will travel to Washington, D.C., for the National Association of Wheat Growers (NAWG) Fall Fly-In to meet directly with members of Congress and discuss the issues that matter most to our farms. Those conversations help

ensure Idaho agriculture has a voice in the policies that affect our livelihoods. Whether you participate in association events, attend meetings, or simply stay informed, every grower has a role to play in shaping the future of our industry.

This fall also brings an important opportunity to make your voice heard at the ballot box. Idaho's general election in November will determine all 105 state legislative seats, as well as seven constitutional offices. The people elected will make decisions that impact agriculture for years to come, from water policy and transportation infrastructure to taxes, research, and rural economic development. I encourage every eligible voter to learn about the candidates, stay informed on the issues, and take the time to vote. Together, we can help ensure Idaho remains a place where grain producers and rural communities continue to thrive for generations to come.



05

IGPA ISSUES

IGPA is dedicated to protecting Idaho's wheat and barley growers by representing their interests at the state and national level.

- Recapping the 2026 Fish & Wildlife Program amendment process and a critical win for hydropower
- Harvest Ups and Downs
- Idaho Grain & Oilseed Convention Information
- Primary Election 2026 Recap
- What the Supreme Court's Decision Means for Farmers
- Have You Checked Out the Regenerative Pilot Program offered by the Natural Resources Conservation Service?
- Farm Bill Hits Senate Roadblock, but Work Is Not Over



Recapping the 2026 Fish & Wildlife Program amendment process and a critical win for hydropower

BY AUSTIN ROHR, DEPUTY EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, NORTHWEST RIVERPARTNERS

The Northwest is home to the Columbia, the 4th-largest river in the United States, and generates around 40% of the nation's hydropower.

Here in the Northwest, the Columbia-Snake River system is also home to one of the most comprehensive programs found anywhere with the goal to increase fish and wildlife populations.

To account for the impacts of the region's hydroelectric dams, the owners and operators of each project implement mitigation efforts to support native fish and wildlife that depend on the Columbia and its many tributaries.

Created by the 1980 Northwest Power Act, the Northwest Power & Conservation Council was established to develop a regional conservation and electric power plan and a program to protect, mitigate, and enhance fish and wildlife. Led by two appointees from Idaho, Montana, Oregon, and Washington, the organization established the first Fish & Wildlife Program in 1987 and is required to amend it every 5 years, with recommendations submitted from across the region.

In 2025, the Council opened the amendment process just as litigation over the operation of the hydropower system was restarting following the termination of settlement agreement negotiated by the previous White House administration. During the 15 months that followed, those legal tensions would manifest into a central issue throughout the process of adopting a new program.

The question around spill

For several years now, the states of Washington and Oregon, and several Native American Tribes, have strongly advocated for a significant increase in the quantity and duration of water spilled over the tops of eight dams on the lower Columbia and lower Snake rivers. These groups argue that spilling water, rather than generating power through turbines, and reducing the reservoir pool height behind the dams are necessary to provide safe passage for young juvenile fish swimming downstream. However, these benefits have not been definitively proven or tested, and downstream survival is already at 93% or greater at all eight dams depending on the species and passage method, among other factors.

On the other hand, the federal agencies that own, operate, and distribute the power generated by the dams, and groups like Northwest RiverPartners that represent public utilities, ports,

labor organizations, business, and agriculture have argued that the increase in spill is harmful to millions of people who benefit from the system and may not help fish. In particular, spilled water is not used to generate electricity, significantly reducing the hydropower system's output, flexibility, and reliability. This raises costs for consumers, increases risks of blackouts, and makes barging on the Columbia and Snake Rivers less safe and reliable.

Those impacts matter; the Northwest receives over half of its electricity from hydropower, with many public utilities being supplied with 80% or more, and the locks at those eight dams are critical to river navigation that moves billions of dollars of agricultural products and goods. There are other considerations, including delays for adult salmon and steelhead that are returning to the rivers where they were born to spawn, that raise serious concern about the unintended consequences of high spill levels.

In the Summer 2026 edition of this magazine, we shared an update on the 25-year-old federal litigation over this issue and some of the impacts being felt by our members, including the Port of Lewiston and United Electric Cooperative.

The issue of when and how much to spill found its way to center stage during the Council's amendment process, with some asking the Council to add measures that would directly call for the same kind of harmful hydropower operations to be implemented. While the current operations ordered by a federal judge are already underway, including them in the Program would provide additional justification to continue to operate this way for the next five years, regardless of what happens as that court ruling is appealed.

Rally for a better outcome

As part of the amendment process, the Council offers a window for submitting recommendations, followed by several public comment opportunities to provide feedback on those recommendations. After this process, the Council spends several months drafting the newest Program before releasing it to the public for another public comment period and holding several in-person hearings around the region.

In response to the heavy pressure placed on the Council to consider including harmful hydropower operations that overlap with the preliminary injunction, Northwest RiverPartners worked with our members to provide public comments, letters, and oral statements throughout this process. We also held a direct consultation with all eight Council members and their staff, which included representatives from public utilities, river transportation, labor unions, and community assistance organizations.

Not surprisingly, the issue of additional spill—particularly when spill operations should end—was the major sticking point before the eight Councilmembers.

Some of the strongest advocacy came from Idaho's network of consumer-owned utilities and the Idaho Grain Producers Association, who came together to send a letter to Idaho's Councilmembers—Ed Schriever and Jeff Allen.

Agree to disagree

After hearing from the region for the final time, the Council began piecing together a final version of the Fish & Wildlife Program in March of 2026. Many concerns raised by commenters were easily resolved, and the Council worked quickly through the proposed revisions. When they reached the "Mainstem Hydrosystem Flow and Passage Operations" section, that pace changed.

Not surprisingly, the issue of additional spill—particularly when spill operations should end—was the major sticking point before the eight Councilmembers. Earlier in the process, a compromise was reached before the public release of the draft, which called for spill to end on August 1 at the lower Snake River dams, and August 15 at the lower Columbia River dams with an option to curtail spill early if most of the juvenile migration had concluded before that date.

Between the release of the draft and the final review process, Oregon and Washington's position had changed. Members from both states argued in favor of extending those dates to August 31 at all eight dams—mirroring the preliminary injunction. Idaho and Montana Members maintained their willingness to move forward with a compromise on August 15 at the lower Columbia but argued that fish passage data did not support continuing to spill past August 1.

The stalemate represented more than just a disagreement amongst the Councilmembers, though. Without a majority vote—either 6 Members, or 5 with one representative from each of the four states—a final Program could not be approved. After multiple meetings and behind-the-scenes negotiations, it became clear that a compromise could not be reached.

Ultimately, the Council's staff proposed a path forward that would allow the Members to vote in favor of the 2026 amendments while setting aside the issue of spill for the summer. This proved to be the only viable option on the table, and in June of 2026, the Council voted 8-0 to approve the new Fish & Wildlife Program with one notable exception—no commentary on summer spill.

The big picture

While the preliminary injunction ensures that, at least in the short term, high spill levels through August and other harmful hydropower operations will continue, the longer-term implications of this outcome are significant. The Fish & Wildlife Program alone

Continued on next page



FRONTIER PRECISION
AGRICULTURE

THE NEXT LEVEL OF GRAIN MANAGEMENT

OPI ADVANCING Grain Storage Management

XAG **hylio**
dji AGRICULTURE

AG DRONES

Proven Value per Acre.
Every Season.

www.FrontierPrecision.com/Ag

Fish & Wildlife, continued from previous page

cannot compel federal agencies to follow every measure word for word. It does, however, have a strong influence on the decisions they make regarding the mitigation of the hydropower system's impacts. Keeping these operations out of the 2026 amendments provides one fewer tool to restrict the flexibility and output of the hydropower system.

The newly adopted 2026 Fish & Wildlife Program also calls for many positive, widely supported actions—including increased predator management and investments in maintaining critical hatchery and fish passage infrastructure.

Of equal importance, this process brought the region together—including Idaho's agriculture, transportation, and utility leaders—

and proved that, together, we can achieve better outcomes for the hydropower system we all depend on. We appreciate the advocacy of the Idaho Grain Producers Association, along with all our members who stepped up throughout this process, and the courage of Idaho's Councilmembers to stand their ground on this critical issue alongside their colleagues from Montana.

Our growing coalition of hydropower advocates is the key to maintaining the affordable, reliable, and responsible benefits of the hydropower system while continuing to support the recovery of salmon and steelhead. We invite you to join us.

Harvest Ups and Downs

BY ANNA LICKLEY, AG. PROGRAM MANAGER, IDAHO STATE DEPT. OF AGRICULTURE, FARM & RANCH CENTER

As harvest gets underway across our state, it's important to acknowledge the ups and downs of this season.



This time of year can be inspirational. Each pass shows visible progress, families and coworkers commit to the same goal, and we mark the ceremonious passing of another year on the farm. This season can also be incredibly challenging. When the pressure is high, and the work is constant, each day is a test of will.

It's normal to be stressed to the gills this time of year. If you, your neighbor, or your family members are worried, anxious, quick to anger, or having a hard time sleeping, that's to be expected. I've learned, over the years on my own family's operation, that we don't have time to pause and assess our mental wellbeing during these high stress seasons. For most farmers, the best option is to take a deep breath, hug your loved ones, and bow your neck and get back to work. If, or when, the pressure becomes too much, I hope you'll explore the resources available to you. The Idaho agricultural community is strengthening support for farmer mental health, and there are several resources worth sharing.

Brave Idaho farmers have shared their stories of weathering and addressing mental health challenges in videos captured by the University of Idaho Extension and Idaho Farm Bureau. Those are

available on YouTube, Facebook, or the extension farm stress webpage. The Idaho Farm and Ranch Center farm stress webpage includes podcasts, handouts, websites, and more, focused on addressing farmer wellbeing. The Idaho Crisis Hotline is another important resource. By dialing 988, callers can be connected to an Idaho-based responder who is trained to lend a listening ear for any stressful situation, no matter how big or small.

A new resource to Idaho is a seminar called Buck the Trend that we're bringing to Jerome in November. Buck the Trend is a two-day seminar and training created specifically for farmers and ranchers. The goal of the event is to help participants learn skills and tools to improve their own mental health and in extension, the health of their family and community. The seminar is led by two experienced counselors in a small group setting, with interactive sessions that approach the topic of mental health from a variety of angles. Participants explore brain development and cultural norms that contribute to poor mental patterns, and learn about topics such as myths related to counseling and suicidal ideation.

The ideal candidate for the seminar is an agriculturalist who is curious about how to have good mental health in these high stress lifestyles. I attended the Oregon seminar last month and it's easily the neatest event I've been to in a long time. As a participant, you're welcomed into a room with other producers, considering their present and the future and thinking, we'll need to do more than pull up our bootstraps to get through this. The Idaho Buck the Trend seminar will be held Nov. 13-15 at Mountain View Barn. Please call the Farm and Ranch Center with questions, or visit the Farm and Ranch Center webpage, farm.idaho.gov.



BUCK THE TREND

IDAHO FARMER & RANCHER MENTAL HEALTH FORUM

PROGRAM OVERVIEW:

Buck The Trend (BTT) is a two-day training designed to address mental health challenges specific to farmers and ranchers. The training is directed in small, peer-focused groups and hosted in a safe and relaxed setting. Experienced counselors lead the training. The 20 attendees selected for this training will be equipped with the tools and skills to improve their own mental health and help those around them.

The BTT training is designed for individuals who have a basic understanding and awareness of their own mental wellbeing, and who are motivated to help others in their community.

The ideal candidate for this training is an Idahoan who has looked around their farm, or the industry as a whole and decided to make a change, for themselves and their family and friends. The training will be held in Twin Falls, November 13-15, 2026.

Visit farm.idaho.gov to learn more and apply.



LINK TO BTT TRAINING WEBPAGE:

<https://agri.idaho.gov/marketing/farm-ranch-center/farm-ranch-center-buck-the-trend/>



IDAHO GRAIN & OILSEED CONVENTION

20 26

Join us November 17–19, 2026, in Sun Valley for the Idaho Grain & Oilseed Convention — the premier event for growers and ag professionals in the Northwest. Gain valuable insights, connect with industry leaders, and gear up for the future growing season. Registration is now open!



17TH-19TH
NOVEMBER



SUN VALLEY RESORT
SUN VALLEY, IDAHO



EARLYBIRD SAVINGS
'TIL SEPTEMBER 1ST

KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Damian Mason

Damian combines timely agricultural insights with humor and a straightforward style that connects with audiences across the industry. He has spoken in all 50 U.S. states, five Canadian provinces, and seven countries, working with clients representing every corner of agriculture.

Host of:



DamianMason

**THE BUSINESS
OF AGRICULTURE**



with Damian Mason



Primary Election 2026 Recap

BY VERITAS ADVISORS, IGPA LEGISLATIVE ADVISORS

First, thank you to everyone who took the time to vote and stay engaged in the primary election. Member participation plays an important role in ensuring agriculture continues to have a strong voice in Idaho.

Leading up to the 2026 Primary, we had only seven departures from the legislature, between retirements and members running for other offices. Based on the primary election, we will have at least 16 new legislators in the Idaho Legislature next session - 5 new members in the Senate and 11 new House members. While the northern part of the state shifted slightly more to the right, we saw primary voters either stick with or shift back to more traditional conservative Republican candidates in other parts of the state. Overall, we saw gains for the more traditional faction of the Republican caucus in both the House and Senate.

This year, all 105 seats in the Idaho Legislature are up for election. Of the 105 sitting legislators, 98 filed to run for re-election – significantly higher than the recent average. Of the 85 sitting Republicans filing for re-election, 42 faced Republican Primary opponents. Across Idaho, there were 52 contested primaries (5 Democrat; 47 Republican). The Democratic Party has fielded candidates in 90 of the 105 legislative seats (33 Senate; 57 House), continuing the party's recent trend of expanded ballot presence following 81 seats in 2024. The Democrats have nearly doubled their legislative ballot presence in four years.

■ This year, all 105 seats in the Idaho Legislature are up for election. Of the 105 sitting legislators, 98 filed to run for re-election – significantly higher than the recent average. Of the 85 sitting Republicans filing for re-election, 42 faced Republican Primary opponents. Across Idaho, there were 52 contested primaries (5 Democrat; 47 Republican).



In addition to the entire State Legislature, the 2026 ballot featured elections for all seven Constitutional offices. On the federal level, both of Idaho's U.S. House seats and one Senate Seat (Risch) were up for election.

On the federal level, all three federal incumbents won their primaries comfortably, with Simpson posting his strongest primary showing in three cycles (63.31%, up from ~55% in both 2022 and 2024), Risch matching Crapo's 2022 performance by securing roughly 67%. Fulcher absorbing his first primary challengers since 2020 without difficulty at 78%.

On the state level, incumbent Governor Brad Little won decisively against seven challengers in the primary. The other constitutional officers did not face any primary opposition, effectively securing their nominations. These include Lieutenant Governor Scott Bedke, Secretary of State Phil McGrane, State Controller Brandon Woolf, State Treasurer Julie Ellsworth, Attorney General Raul Labrador, and Superintendent of Public Instruction Debbie Critchfield. All seven incumbents will face opponents in the general election.

For legislative races, unofficial results show at least nine incumbents lost their seats in the primary.

Incumbents who lost in the primary:

- Jim Woodward (R, Senate D1) lost to Scott Herndon
- Mark Sauter (R, House 1A) lost to Jane Sauter (no relation)
- Faye Thompson (R, House 8B) lost to Brian Beckley
- Lucas Cayler (R, House 11B) lost to Debbie Geyer
- Glenneda Zuiderveld (R, Senate D24) lost to Brent Reinke

A century of
commitment.
And counting.

For over 100 years we have seen the cycles, weathered the storms and adapted with the times, steadfast in our commitment to support producers and rural communities alike. Because some things should never change.

Learn more at AgWestFC.com.



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

- Steve Miller (R, House 24B) lost to Chance Requa
- Josh Kohl (R, Senate 25) lost to Casey Swensen
- David Leavitt (R, House 25B) lost to Cherie Vollmer
- Tanya Burgoyne (R, House 29B) lost to Jennifer Miles

Legislators retiring or running for a different office in the 2026 Election Cycle

House:

- Representative Lori McCann, District 6A (Challenged Senator Dan Forman for the Senate District 6 seat; lost primary)
- Representative Soñia Galaviz, District 16A (Won the Democrat primary for Senate District 16)
- Representative John Vander Woude, District 22A, Chair, Health & Welfare Committee
- Representative Donald Hall, District 25A (Due to Hall's health, Grayson Stone served as a long-term substitute during the 2026 legislative session. Stone won the Republican primary.)
- Representative Jack Nelsen, District 26B

Senate:

- Senator Codi Galloway, District 15
- Senator Alison Rabe, District 16

Idaho Wheat & Barley PAC Results

Overall, the results were positive for agriculture.

Through the Idaho Wheat & Barley PAC, we contributed to 37 legislative candidates during the primary election. Of those, 27 candidates were successful overall. Looking specifically at contested primary races, we engaged in 31 races and saw 21 of our supported candidates win, a success rate of nearly 68%.

We saw particularly strong results across southern Idaho, while races in the Panhandle proved more challenging. Although several key agriculture advocates were unsuccessful in their efforts to challenge incumbents, we secured more key wins this cycle and helped strengthen agriculture's voice in the Legislature moving forward.

Our efforts through the Idaho Wheat & Barley PAC were highly successful this election cycle, and those results would not be possible without the continued support and engagement of our members and supporters.

Thank you again for your continued support, engagement, and commitment to Idaho agriculture.

What the Supreme Court's Decision Means for Farmers

BY ELIZABETH BURNS-THOMPSON

The U.S. Supreme Court's recent opinion in *Monsanto Co. v. Durnell* is a positive signal for American agriculture and the growers who rely on trusted, EPA-approved crop protection tools every season.



In a 7-2 opinion, the Court affirmed that EPA's science-based review governs pesticide labels. For farmers like you, this ruling provides the critical regulatory clarity we've been working towards.

The Court's actions could not come during a more important time for our industry. As you well know, being a farmer already comes with enough uncertainty. Tight margins, rising input costs, unpredictable weather, and a long list of pressures leave little room for error from one season to the next. Those challenges were on full display in our 2026 State of the American Farmer report, where we found that just half of farmers interviewed expected to be profitable in 2026, and roughly the same share felt confident in their ability to pass their family farm to the next generation.

Amidst these difficult conditions, America's hard-working farmers should not have to wonder whether the tools they safely use and depend on will remain available. Our report also found that 60% of farmers rank the risk of stricter product labeling of ag chemistries as one of the issues most detrimental to their operations.

The prospect of losing access to these tools carries real consequences. Without modern-day pest management chemistries like glyphosate, yields could decline by as much as 70% for many major row crops, putting farms at risk and making an already difficult business even harder to sustain. While this may seem like just a farmer problem, the consequences of rising input costs and diminished yields ripple far beyond the farm gate. Without access to commonly used pesticides, food inflation could double, forcing American families already struggling with high grocery prices to pay even more each week to put food on their tables.

Regulatory predictability is especially important in this industry, when you are making planting and input decisions months—and

sometimes years—in advance. The prospect of a patchwork of state labeling requirements made planning more difficult for operations like yours and the entire agricultural supply chain. Before the Court's ruling, manufacturers, distributors, retailers, and farmers faced growing uncertainty about whether federally approved labels could be second-guessed by conflicting requirements in different jurisdictions, which undermines the foundation of the system we have all heard before: that "the label is the law."

That is precisely the kind of conflict Congress sought to prevent when it passed the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA) in 1947. This legislation established the federal framework for regulating pesticide registration, sale, distribution, and use in the United States. Under FIFRA, EPA is responsible for reviewing pesticides and approving the labels that govern how those products can be marketed and used.

The Supreme Court opinion does not mean states have no role in pesticide policy; in fact, every ag chemical is registered both with the EPA and the state before it can be used. Nor does it prevent EPA from responding to new information, even before the mandatory reregistration window of every fifteen years. It does mean that when the question is what warnings or disclosures belong on pesticide labels, it's the EPA's determination that will be uniformly recognized, and that cannot be replaced by a contradictory requirement imposed by a state.

The practical importance of that stability becomes clearer when considering what crop protection tools have made possible on the farm. Before modern herbicides, weed control often meant more manual labor and extra passes across fields with diesel-thirsty machinery. Modern technologies and chemical innovations have given our generation a more precise, efficient way to manage weeds, protect yields, and reduce labor.

Chemistry has also been a large driver in the advancement of conservation, enabling the adoption of reduced-till and no-till, as well as cover crops. That can mean less erosion, fewer machinery passes, and lower fuel and labor demands. As a farmer, you know that protecting every bit of your topsoil is not optional; it is essential to the long-term productivity of the land today and for generations to come.

These economic, operational, and conservation benefits all depend on a regulatory system farmers can trust, beginning with EPA's rigorous, science-based pesticide review process and the uniform federal labeling framework established by Congress under FIFRA, and further reaffirmed by the Supreme Court this summer. Before a pesticide can be registered, EPA evaluates its potential effects on human and animal health and the

environment. The agency's experts review required studies and proposed uses, and determine which warnings and instructions must appear on the product's label. Once approved, that label is legally enforceable: manufacturers are required to sell the product with the EPA-approved label, and applicators are required to follow its directions. The label is the law!

That stability is also critical to agricultural innovation. Developing a new crop protection product can take more than a decade and requires significant investment, generally hundreds of millions of dollars, in research, testing, and regulatory review. An unpredictable or fragmented regulatory system can make those long-term investments harder to justify, which in turn slows the development of new tools that folks will need to meet future challenges.

But the EPA review does not end when a product reaches the market. Products are required to be reregistered at least every fifteen years. Between those review benchmarks, EPA can consider new information, require additional data, and conduct new risk assessments when necessary. The agency also retains the authority to require label changes, restrict uses, suspend a registration to address an imminent hazard, or cancel a product that no longer meets the law's requirements.

Uniformity of labeling does not mean the system is frozen or that companies escape accountability. EPA can change requirements when new evidence warrants it, and manufacturers remain responsible for complying with federal law. What labeling uniformity provides is a consistent, science-based process for determining what belongs on the label, one that producers and consumers can rely on regardless of where they are across the United States.

That distinction was at the heart of the Durnell case. EPA approved the relevant Roundup label without a cancer warning, and federal law required Monsanto to use that approved label unless and until EPA approved or required a change. The Court concluded that a state-law claim imposing liability for the absence of a warning would effectively require a different label and was therefore preempted by federal law. Essentially, the Court recognized that the label is indeed the law.

For growers making product decisions each season: The label on the shelf should reflect a consistent federal review, and the same labeling standard should apply whether a farm is in Idaho, Iowa, or anywhere in between.

Ensuring consistency for all hard-working American farmers extends to the broader policy debate. Federal legislation was introduced just days after the Durnell ruling, and opponents have continued mobilizing since then, most recently through a Farm Bill amendment introduced in early August. Both efforts seek to amend FIFRA in ways that could reopen the door to a patchwork of state-by-state labeling requirements. Similar proposals to restrict pesticides are beginning to emerge in state legislatures, alongside efforts to ban access to specific active ingredients.

Those debates carry consequences well beyond the courtroom and legislative chambers. At a time when families are already

Relationships Beyond Lending

HARVEST CAPITAL COMPANY, LLC
Dedicated to the Business of Agriculture

Long Term Real Estate Lending for Agriculture
Give us a call at: (503) 263-6616
HARVCAP.COM |

Terms and conditions apply. Financing offered in connection with Farmer Mac and our underwriting partners, and is available only where Harvest Capital Company, LLC is licensed. To qualify, a borrower must meet the underwriting requirements and all credit is subject to approval. Interest rates and fees will vary depending on your individual situation. Not all applicants will qualify. NMLS No. 2237848

feeling pressure from the cost of groceries, housing, and other necessities, we need a strong collective voice to push back on these types of policy proposals that would exacerbate those challenges.

Opposition to the current framework is not going away. Scientific questions deserve serious examination, and the public should expect EPA to continually evaluate and incorporate new science into its review processes. But science-based policy cannot function when regulatory determinations are replaced by fear, misinformation, or inconsistent standards.

That makes continued engagement essential. Farmers, agricultural organizations, and policymakers must remain vigilant and work together to defend a system that allows for agricultural innovation with science-based standards. The Supreme Court's opinion is an important step toward protecting access to the tools that help keep American agriculture, including farms like yours, productive, sustainable, and affordable. It sends a clear message that EPA's science-based process—and the nationally uniform labels it produces—must remain the foundation for pesticide-labeling decisions.

That certainty will help growers continue doing what they do best: producing the food, fuel, and fiber that sustain the country.

Have You Checked Out the Regenerative Pilot Program offered by the Natural Resources Conservation Service?

BY USDA-NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE COMMUNICATIONS

In December 2025, NRCS launched the NRCS Regenerative Pilot Program, a farmer first, outcomes-based approach to conservation.

This pilot program addresses whole-farm resource concerns through support for voluntary regenerative agriculture conservation plans.

By integrating bundled regenerative practices into single applications and recognizing outcomes, NRCS will deliver lasting benefits for farmers, natural resources, and the American consumer.

Emphasizing regenerative agriculture builds upon NRCS's 90 years of conservation work by restoring land health, improving long-term productivity, and ensuring American grown production for the future.

For producers, this means:

- Bundled practices will be integrated into a single application, making programs easier to access and more impactful;
- Whole-farm holistic conservation planning is the centerpiece of the program, ensuring that all resource concerns (soil, water, and natural vitality) are addressed together;
- Conservation planning and producer objectives drive the process, ensuring site-specific solutions that work for the producer;
- Outcomes are tracked, measured, and credited back to the farmer; and
- Producers at every stage, from beginners just starting out with cover crops to advanced operations with years of conservation experience, will find a pathway through this pilot program.

Requirements

As part of participating in Regenerative Pilot Program, producers must:

- Work with NRCS staff, partners, or technical service providers to conduct a whole-farm assessment;
- Use at least one primary regenerative management practice (see list below); and

- Agree to perform soil health testing in the first and last year of the contract (at a minimum) to establish a starting baseline and to record the resulting changes.



The whole-farm assessment includes all resource concerns, and it must meet NRCS planning criteria in the soil and water resource categories.

Primary practices include, but are not limited to:

- Conservation Crop Rotation (328)
- Contour Farming (330)
- Cover Crop (340)
- Drainage Water Management (554)
- Irrigation Water Management (449)
- Mulching (484)
- Nutrient Management (590)
- Pest Management Conservation System (595)
- Residue and Tillage Management, No Till (329)
- Residue and Tillage Management, Reduced (345)
- Stripcropping (585)

For example: A farm may implement Conservation Crop Rotation, Cover Crop, and Nutrient Management as their primary management practices, but also identified the need for soil amendments using practice 333 - Amending Soil Properties with Gypsum Products, or 336 - Soil Carbon Amendment, as necessary to implement their conservation plan. These practices would be eligible for inclusion under the Regenerative Pilot Program.

How to Apply

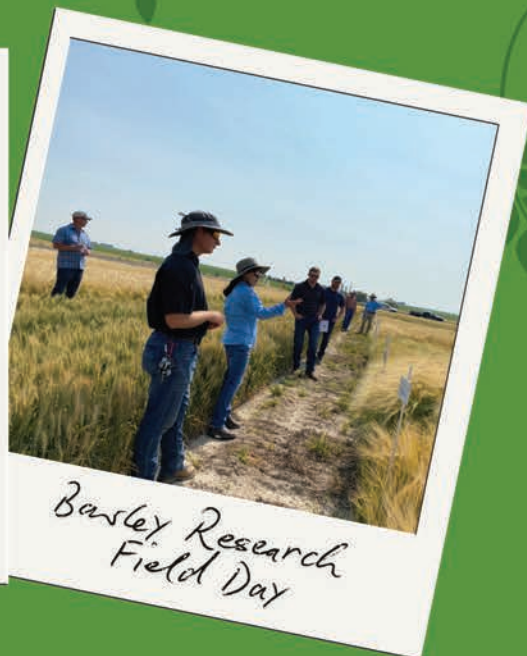
Idaho farmers interested in regenerative agriculture are encouraged to apply through their local NRCS Service Center by September 30, 2026, in order to be considered for FY2027 funding. This includes applications for the Environmental Quality Incentives Program, Conservation Stewardship Program and Agricultural Conservation Easement Program. To find their local Service Center, producers can visit either www.nrcs.usda.gov/idaho or www.farmers.gov and use the Find Your Local Service Center tool.



Wheat Marketing Tour



Congressional Meetings



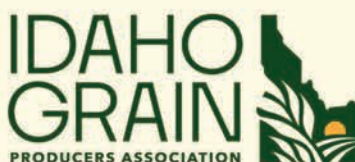
Barley Research Field Day

IDAHO GRAIN LEADERSHIP INITIATIVE

READY TO LEAD? YOUR INDUSTRY IS WAITING.

The Idaho Grain Leadership Initiative gives growers a front-row seat to the industry, from your local field day to the halls of Congress and beyond. Through hands-on experience with IGPA, IWC, and IBC at the regional, state, national, and international levels, you'll build the relationships, insight, and leadership skills to make your mark.

EMAIL INFO@IDAHOGRAIN.ORG TO LEARN MORE & REGISTER



THE IDAHO GRAIN LEADERSHIP INITIATIVE IS FREE TO CURRENT IGPA MEMBERS

Farm Bill Hits Senate Roadblock, but Work Is Not Over

For Idaho grain growers watching the farm bill process, Aug. 6 brought both a setback and a clearer picture of what comes next.

The Senate Agriculture Committee failed to advance the Agricultural Act of 2026, Chairman John Boozman's "Farm Bill 2.0," on a 10-11 vote. The committee had spent hours working through amendments, and several provisions, including moving the Food for Peace program to USDA, were adopted along the way, but the full bill ultimately could not clear the committee. The immediate dispute centered on changes to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), particularly a provision that would shift more responsibility for benefit costs to states. Senate Democrats said they wanted a two-year delay in that cost-sharing requirement; Republicans had offered a one-year delay.

The Aug. 6 vote does not mean the farm bill is dead. It means the Senate committee did not send its bill to the full Senate, leaving more negotiating to be done. Boozman has said he remains committed to moving the legislation, while Senate Democrats have also indicated they are willing to continue working on it. The committee has not formally closed the door on another vote, and agriculture leaders are pointing toward work after the August recess. That matters because the current extension of the 2018 Farm Bill is scheduled to expire Sept. 30. In other words, Congress has a relatively short window after returning to Washington to either reach an agreement, continue the existing law with another extension, or risk another lapse in farm bill authorization.

There is already a substantial amount of common ground on the farm side of the legislation. The Senate's Farm Bill 2.0 draft incorporates more than 100 bipartisan measures and would strengthen commodity risk management, conservation, crop insurance, agricultural research, rural development and export programs. It also includes year-round authorization for E15 sales and provisions aimed at expanding markets for U.S. agricultural products. For grain growers, those areas are important because the farm bill is about more than just a payment program. Crop insurance, conservation programs, trade promotion, research and rural infrastructure all affect the ability of wheat and barley producers to manage risk and remain competitive.

For Idaho wheat and barley growers, the commodity safety net remains one of the most important pieces to watch. The One Big Beautiful Bill Act already made significant changes

to farm programs, including higher statutory reference prices, improvements to ARC and PLC, and expanded crop-insurance support. Those changes mean the new farm bill is building on a safety net that was partly updated outside the traditional farm bill process. Wheat's statutory reference price was raised to \$6.35 per bushel and barley's to \$5.45 under those earlier changes. The next farm bill discussion is therefore less about starting from the old 2018 baseline and more about determining what additional improvements, risk-management tools and long-term policies producers need.

Trade and conservation will also deserve Idaho growers' attention as negotiations continue. Wheat is particularly dependent on export markets, while Idaho's grain producers have a strong interest in conservation programs that address water, soil health and production efficiency. The Senate draft includes expanded conservation flexibility, additional drought-related tools, research and extension investments, and stronger market-development programs. Those issues fit closely with priorities Idaho grain growers have been following as Congress works through the farm bill. Idaho Grain Producers Association has emphasized that although the 2025 legislation addressed many immediate safety-net issues, producers still need a new farm bill to deal with policies that could not be handled through that package.

So, what should growers expect now? The most likely path is continued negotiations during and after the August recess, followed by another attempt to move a Senate bill in September. If the Senate committee can reach an agreement, the bill would still have to pass the full Senate, and differences between the Senate measure and the House-passed Farm, Food, and National Security Act of 2026 would have to be resolved. The House passed its version 224-200 on April 30, so Congress is not starting from scratch. The big question is whether negotiators can separate the areas where there is broad agricultural agreement from the more difficult SNAP fight and produce a package that can pass both chambers. For Idaho grain growers, the message for now is to keep watching: Aug. 6 slowed the process, but it did not end it, and the weeks following Labor Day could determine whether 2026 finally produces a new five-year farm bill or another temporary extension.

Growers from across the country will be in DC for NAWG's Fall Fly-in in mid-September, adding an in-person push for the bill.

IDAHO WHEAT COMMISSION

Established by wheat farmers in 1959 and funded by Idaho's wheat growers, the Idaho Wheat Commission is a self-governing state agency. It is the Commission's responsibility to increase wheat grower profits by investing funds in market development, wheat research, and wheat grower education.

Idaho wheat farm families care about the land. We take pride in growing the highest quality wheat in a sustainable way.



Strengthening Relationships Through Curious Conversation

The most important key in developing and strengthening markets is maintaining strong relationships built on trust.

Idaho's trade relationship with Japan goes back more than seventy years, hopefully, will continue for decades to come. Which is why, when Idaho was invited to meet with a Japanese trade team in Portland last December, Idaho's wheat-growing families were represented at the table.

The topic for discussion: soybean contamination in shipments of wheat.

Besides Idaho Wheat, the meeting included Oregon, Washington, Montana, North Dakota, and U.S. Wheat Associates (USW) from the United States, who sat down together with representatives from the Japanese Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, and Fisheries (MAFF) and the Japan Flour Millers Association (JFMA). MAFF is the federal organization in Japan similar to the Department of Agriculture in the United States. MAFF regulates the flour industry in Japan. JFMA is Japan's largest flour milling association, comprised of the top 21 flour milling companies. More than 80% of Japan's wheat flour sales are purchased by JFMA.

Japan imports 90% of its wheat annually and roughly 50% — the majority — comes from the United States. The remainder of the supply is split between Canada (31%) and Australia (16%). A very small portion of Japan's purchases pour into the specialty flour market from Italy, Nepal, and France, according to JFMA. Japan has consistently been a top 5 market for U.S. wheat. The longstanding relationship between Idaho and Japan depends on smooth wheat trade, cooperation, transparency, and trust. Which is why Idaho accepted the invitation to participate in the soybean admixture prevention team.

It is true that Idaho is not a soybean state. In 2018-2019 not more than 25 acres were planted to the crop. But Idaho is positioned between states like the Dakotas, where soybeans are grown, and the Port of Portland, where wheat is shipped from the U.S. to customers in the Pacific Rim.

Still, why does Idaho need to be part of the solution to a problem to which our farmers do not contribute? Great question. Keep reading.

The contamination doesn't happen on the farm, but it impacts farmers. When wheat is transported directly after soybeans and the railcar hopper or truck hasn't been fully cleaned out,

This is the first time MAFF and JFMA, or any similar group from Japan, have come together to talk about non-tariff trade barriers with producer and export groups in the United States or in any country.

contamination occurs. Like peanuts here in the States, soybeans are a severe allergen in Japan. If the ocean-going vessel of wheat arrives in Japan with soybeans, the shipment cannot be accepted at the port. Unlike U.S. food labels that can protect against allergen contamination by printing a 'may contain' warning, labeling regulations have no such safeguard. In Japan, labels clearly state what is actually in food, not what might be. Ergo, sanitary and phytosanitary measures must be strict when it comes to severe allergens.

The Japanese delegation came prepared with charts and graphs, compiled from reams of data, providing a visual representation of soybean admixture in U.S. wheat classes versus imports from Canada and Australia. The data were clear about where threats from our competitors for this market exist and what classes have the highest occurrence of soybean contamination.

This is the first time MAFF and JFMA, or any similar group from Japan, have come together to talk about non-tariff trade barriers with producer and export groups in the United States or in any country. The good faith the 18 members of the delegation showed by coming to us directly to find a solution, rather than shifting purchases to competitor origins, demonstrated respect, loyalty, trust, and a genuine desire to keep trade and relationships strong between MAFF, JFMA, and U.S. wheat producers.

Sometimes market development looks like overseas customers climbing into a combine. Sometimes it looks like a farming community coming together to host a trade team with a potluck dinner. Once in a while, it looks like sharing cultural experiences like a night at a rodeo or even visiting customers in their own country. Earlier this year, Idaho Wheat Commission market development efforts looked like 30 friends sitting around a table asking difficult questions, listening intently, being curious, and working together to find a solution to a problem that threatens the relationships, trust, and loyalty built over seven decades.

THINK BEYOND *THE BIN*

Herbicide labels help protect:

- Wheat Quality
- Market Access
- Buyer Confidence

Protecting our
markets starts with
following the label.



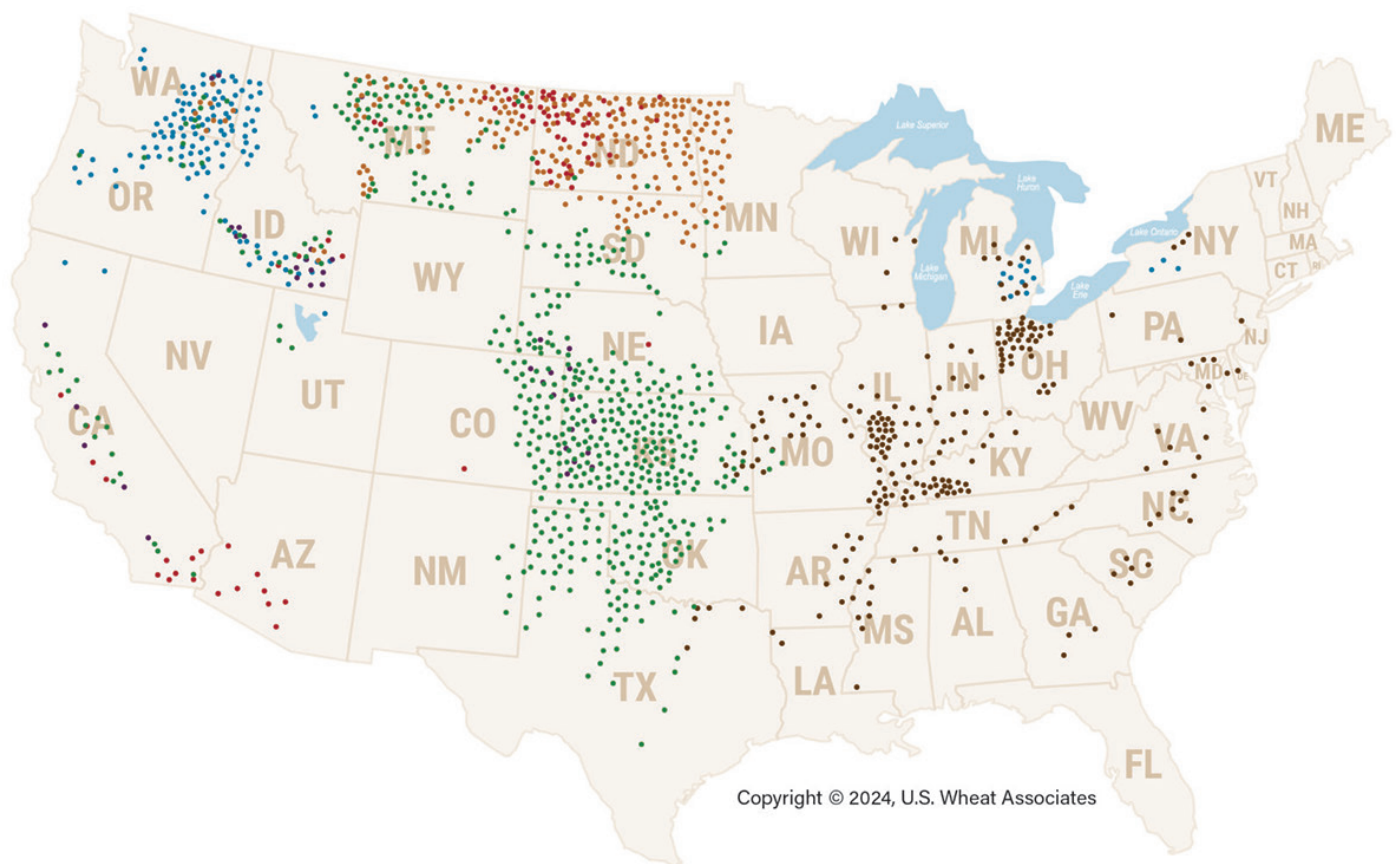
U.S. Wheat Classes in Demand this Marketing Year

The United States Department of Agriculture Foreign Agriculture Service (USDA-FAS) and Federal Grain Inspection Service (USDA-FGIS) track exports on a marketing year, which runs from June 1 to the following May 31. Marketing Year 2025/2026 (MY26) has wrapped up, and the records show favorable demand for U.S. wheat classes around the world. Idaho grows five of the six U.S. wheat classes, excluding only soft red winter. Exports from Idaho are largely from three classes: soft white, hard red winter, and hard red spring. Idaho's hard white crop and durum crop are used almost exclusively here at home in our domestic markets.

Idaho's wheat farming families consistently lead the country in yields and are traditionally in the top five or six U.S. states for production. 45 states in the United States grow wheat. About

half of the total U.S. wheat crop is exported each year, MY26 recording only 44% of the national wheat inventory exported. 59 countries purchased wheat from U.S. farms in MY26, with Mexico, Philippines, Japan, Taiwan, and South Korea continuing to exhibit strong loyalty to wheat grown in the United States.

Idaho's farming families produce, on average, 100 million bushels of wheat annually. Wheat is grown from top to bottom of the state in diverse growing regions, microclimates, and under varying production practices. Idaho's diversity provides millers and bakers around the world with consistent and reliable choices for specific end uses.



Copyright © 2024, U.S. Wheat Associates

● **Hard Red Winter (HRW)**

● **Soft Red Winter (SRW)**

● **Hard White (HW)**

● **Hard Red Spring (HRS)**

● **Soft White (SW)**

● **Durum**

Soft White

Total Sales: 4,480,000 MT

Top Markets: Philippines, Indonesia

Hard Red Winter

Total Sales: 8,350,000 MT

Top Markets: Mexico, Nigeria

Hard Red Spring

Total Sales: 6,050,000 MT

Top Markets: Philippines, Mexico

Soft Red Winter

Total Sales: 3,260,000 MT

Top Markets: Mexico, Ecuador

Durum

Total Sales: 641,000 MT

Top Markets: Italy, Algeria

MT=metric tons. Source: USDA FGIS and USDA FAS



Source: USDA Federal Grain Inspection Service, June 1, 2025-May 30, 2026

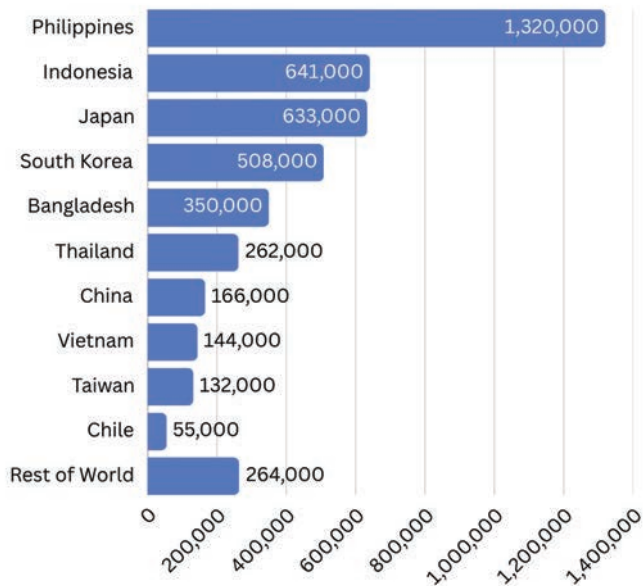
164,705,882 BUSHELS

U.S. SOFT WHITE WHEAT

low protein

Grown: Idaho, Oregon, Washington

Use: cakes, flatbreads, Asian noodles, cookies, pastries, crackers, confections



volume in metric tons

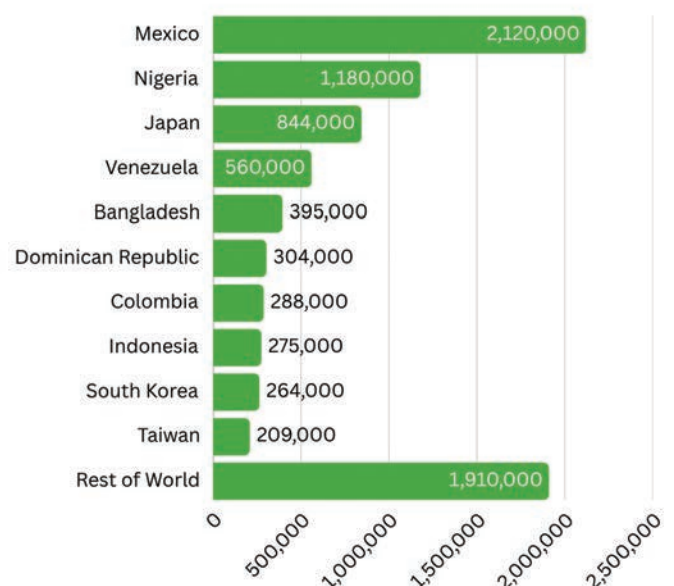
306,985,294 BUSHELS

U.S. HARD RED WINTER WHEAT

mid protein

Grown: Idaho, Montana, Oregon, Washington, Dakotas, Great Plains

Use: pan breads, flatbread, hard rolls, Asian noodles, blending with other flours



volume in metric tons

The Nutritional Power of Wheat

Wheat is widely recognized as a nutritional powerhouse and a vital component of a balanced diet. Whole wheat flour retains all parts of the grain kernel: the bran, germ, and endosperm. Keeping the bran intact increases the fiber content in the flour, but it also preserves the tannins, which have a nutty, sometimes bitter taste. Whole wheat is generally denser and prolongs satiety (the physical and mental feeling of being full after you eat), but it's a hard sell for someone who grew up eating white bread made from refined flour.

Refined flour is milled several times to remove the germ and bran layers. This longer milling process creates the softer texture, mouth feel, and softer flavor many consumers prefer. It is true that whole wheat holds on to nutrients that are often lost when the bran and germ are removed from the flour. However, the flour industry in the United States has been adding essential vitamins and minerals back into long-milled flour for decades. This process, called enrichment, has come under attack by the Make America Healthy Again (MAHA) moms who use social media channels as a platform to influence consumer trends.

Enrichment and fortification of grain products began as a response to a public health crisis. Diseases caused by B-vitamin deficiencies, such as beriberi and pellagra, became prevalent across the country in the early 1900s, particularly in the south. In 1943, the War Foods Administration issued a War Foods Order requiring the enrichment of all bread flour, making the practice mandatory across the country. Replenishing B vitamins and iron in flour effectively eliminated deficiency diseases by 1950 and by 1960 the diseases were virtually eliminated in the United States.

In the 1980s and 1990s, neural tube defects – severe and debilitating birth defects of the brain and spine such as spina bifida were on the rise. Medical experts in the United States and Great Britain discovered that these defects were caused by iron deficiencies. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the U.S. Public Health Service recommended that all women of child-bearing age needed additional folic acid. Unfortunately, folic acid supplement tablets were ineffective. The Food and Drug Administration amended grain standards to include folic acid as a mandatory fortification in 1998, turning a popular, accessible, affordable, and commonly consumed food into medicine for the masses. Within a year, instances of neural tube disorders decreased by 25%.

Today, enriched wheat foods continue to be significant contributors to essential nutrient intake, including folate, iron, and B vitamins. However, generations of consumers have been bombarded with a diet culture that makes wheat foods the villain

Today, enriched wheat foods continue to be significant contributors to essential nutrient intake, including folate, iron, and B vitamins. However, generations of consumers have been bombarded with a diet culture that makes wheat foods the villain of the dinner table.

of the dinner table. Especially if the flour has been enriched and fortified. As a result, diseases that could be prevented or effectively managed with wheat foods as part of a balanced diet are increasing in risk. B vitamins and iron are critical for red blood cell formation, cognitive health, and metabolic function, but are under-consumed in many cases. Furthermore, only 5% of Americans get the recommended amount of fiber in their diets.

Despite the reputation wheat foods have been given, wheat packs a punch of nutrition that keeps minds alert, bodies strong, and free radicals at bay.

Protein: makes up hair, nails, and muscles, gives tissue and organs their shape, and helps them work the way they should.

Fiber: keeps your digestive system healthy by flushing cholesterol and other free radicals out of your body, supports healthy digestion, keeps you feeling full longer after eating, and helps redistribute belly fat. Adequate fiber reduces the risk of cancers, obesity, and insulin resistance.

B vitamins: convert food into energy, create new blood cells, and maintain healthy brain, skin, and tissue cells.

Antioxidants: protect cells against free radicals that cause heart disease, cancers, and other diseases and lower the risk of stroke, obesity, and type 2 diabetes.

Iron: makes hemoglobin and myoglobin, proteins that carry oxygen to all parts of the body and muscular system. The oxygen transportation system reduces brain fog, light headedness, dizziness, and keeps energy banks full.

Zinc: bolsters the immune system and fights viruses and bacteria. It's a building block of DNA and is essential for proper growth and development in fetuses.

Copper: maintains a healthy metabolism, promotes strong and healthy bones, and keeps the nervous system working properly.

Magnesium: lowers cholesterol, makes protein, bone, and DNA, and regulates muscle and nerve function, blood sugar levels, and blood pressure.

Phosphorus: makes energy, repairs cells, builds DNA, builds and maintains teeth and bones, and makes muscles move.

Potassium: clears extra salt from your blood, moves water inside your cells, keeps your heart beating steadily, and lowers blood pressure.

Lutein and Zeaxanthin: support eye health, combat cellular damage, and reduce inflammation.

Medical experts recommend at least half of grain foods should be whole grains. Convincing spouses and children to eat whole wheat bread instead of white bread doesn't need to be a battle. Enriched and fortified foods also provide the important vitamins and minerals your family needs to be healthy, and that should give you peace of mind and peace at the table.

Federal rapid response grant funds U of I drought-planning tools for irrigators

University of Idaho researchers received a federal grant to develop free online tools that will help irrigators make planting and crop management decisions when water supplies are limited.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) National Institute of Food and Agriculture funded the work with a rapid response grant, which provides expedited support for urgent needs and crises. Meetpal Kukal, the project's director and an assistant professor of hydrologic science and water management, has developed a beta version of an interactive online dashboard that houses the tools. The dashboard will be linked to the Extension website and should be finalized before farmers plant their crops next spring.

Water shortfalls this season have forced farmers throughout southern and eastern Idaho to make tough decisions, including leaving fields fallow, adjusting planting plans and cutting cereal crops early as forage.

The tools will help irrigators answer questions such as:

- Will I have enough water to finish growing my crops?
- How much deficit should I anticipate when my water supply is reduced or shut off?
- How might water reductions affect yields?
- How might crop choices, planting dates and soil type also affect results when water supplies are limited?
- Which combinations of crops could minimize my financial risk?
- How can I ensure I have a full soil-moisture profile when my water supply becomes limited?



Meetpal Kukal, an assistant professor of hydrologic science and water management, works with equipment designed for evapotranspiration research in a farm field. Photo courtesy of the University of Idaho.

Users will enter their location, crop choice, planting date, irrigation type, irrigation system design capacity, anticipated date of a water-supply reduction and the expected percentage of the reduction. The tools will automatically retrieve long-term weather data and USDA soil-map data for the calculations.

The dashboard will generate field-specific charts comparing water demand with the available supply throughout the growing season for most crops grown in Idaho.

Extension educator Joseph Sagers, Jefferson County, and Emily Bedwell, an assistant professor and Extension specialist in irrigation technology, are co-principal investigators on the grant. Sagers will aid in outreach efforts and help farmers learn about the tools. Bedwell will help gather farmer input to improve the tools and develop educational materials explaining how to use them. Bedwell will also work to ensure the tools' guidance reflects actual conditions on farms.

Continued on next page

Rapid Response, continued from previous page

"The tools could say, 'Maybe it's not worth it to plant potatoes at all,'" Bedwell said. "Maybe you should consider something that has lower water needs, particularly during that later part of the season when you are more likely to have a curtailment or reduction."

The tools will draw from existing datasets, including U.S. Bureau of Reclamation records on evapotranspiration, which measures water vapor leaving soils and leaves, and established crop coefficients, which estimate a specific crop's water use compared with a reference evapotranspiration value.

A Spanish-language version of the tools is also planned. U of I's Research Computing and Data Services team will refine the tools and adapt them for use on a public-facing website.

The researchers anticipate hosting a water irrigation management field day in Kimberly this fall, where they will gather input from growers about the tools' performance and potential improvements. They also plan to host several workshops to share the tools with growers. A more polished version of the tools should be available prior to the start of planting next spring.



Emily Bedwell, Extension specialist in irrigation technology, will gather input from Idaho irrigators to help hone online tools under development by a team of University of Idaho researchers to help guide irrigation management when water is in short supply. Photo courtesy of the University of Idaho.

"We want growers to feel confident using these tools as they weigh the many factors that affect their decisions," Kukal said. "They may ultimately need to decide whether planting a crop is worthwhile."

Idaho irrigators may continue to face continued headwinds regarding their irrigation supplies. As of Aug. 3, the Idaho Department of Water Resources estimated that the eight major reservoirs in eastern Idaho's Upper Snake River system held a million fewer acre-feet of water compared with the prior year. Long-term weather forecasts also predict a strong El Niño pattern, which typically brings warmer, drier winters to southern Idaho.

"Everyone who got any kind of water curtailment in eastern Idaho is going to show interest in this project," Sagors said. "I think there are a lot of people who are trying to figure out how they're going to make the acre-feet they're going to get this next year work for them."

The project "Water Shut Off in a Drought-stricken Desert Agroecosystem: Assisting Water-short Growers to Manage Risk by Optimizing Crop Choice and Irrigation" was funded by a one-year, \$291,606 Rapid Response to Weather Events grant from the U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Institute for Food and Agriculture, under award No. 2026-69019-46523, of which 100% was the federal share.

Everyone who got any kind of water curtailment in eastern Idaho is going to show interest in this project.

Joseph Sagors

! PROTECT OUR EXPORT MARKETS !

BUCKWHEAT AND SOYBEAN ARE DEADLY ALLERGENS THAT PUT OUR INTERNATIONAL MARKETS AT RISK.

- CLEAN TRUCKS = NO FOREIGN MATERIAL
- AVOID COVER CROP MIXES THAT CONTAIN BUCKWHEAT
- WAIT ONE YEAR AFTER BUCKWHEAT BEFORE GROWING WHEAT

OREGON WHEAT WASHINGTON GRAIN COMMISSION IDAHO WHEAT

IDAHO BARLEY COMMISSION

The Idaho Barley Commission is a grower driven, grower funded, and grower governed agency of the State of Idaho that invests in the future of the Idaho barley industry on behalf of Idaho barley growers through research, market development, promotion, information and education programs.

Idaho's altitude, high desert climate and agronomic conditions, including abundant irrigation water, make it an ideal location to grow a consistent, reliable supply of premium-quality barley, highly sought after by the malting industry, as well as for livestock feed and food barley products.



Idaho Barley Growers Well Represented at USGBC Board of Delegates Meeting

Idaho Barley Commission (IBC) Industry Representative Dustin Camphouse and IBC Executive Director Laura Wilder participated in the U.S. Grains & BioProducts Council (USGBC) 66th Annual Board of Delegates Meeting in Milwaukee, Wisconsin in July.

"IBC membership and engagement with USGBC benefits Idaho growers through pursuing market opportunities and active participation in positive trade policy development," said Camphouse. "We can leverage grower dollars to utilize expertise and contacts in global export markets as well as bring potential buyer to Idaho."

This meeting spotlighted impactful conversations around new markets, trade policy impacts, strengthening supply chains and highlighted USGBC program successes. Several panels were featured including one on advancing U.S. trade and agricultural priorities moderated by USGBC President Ryan LeGrand and included U.S. Trade Representative Ambassador Julie Callahan and U.S. Department of Agriculture Under Secretary Luke Lindberg, a presentation from Wisconsin Department of Agriculture Secretary Randy Romanski and global trade policy outlook discussions, and another one featuring local brewers who shared their perspective on the future of barley and malt

Advisory-Team (A-Team) and sector meetings happened throughout the event where members had the opportunity to make recommendations to the USGBC board for consideration on future programs and priorities.



Idaho Barley Commissioner Dustin Camphouse reported on Barley Sector Priorities to the U.S. Grains and BioProducts Council (USGBC) Board of Delegates at their annual meeting in Milwaukee in July.

The conference concluded with a USGBC Board of Delegates meeting, financial, A-Team and sector reports and a vote for new members of the Council's board of directors. Camphouse served as a member of the Western Hemisphere A-Team and represented the Barley Sector in reporting to the delegates.

IBC Welcomes New Commissioner

The Idaho Barley Commission (IBC) is pleased to announce the appointment of Jake Ozburn as its newest commissioner. Governor Brad Little appointed Ozburn to represent District 3, serving eastern Idaho. He officially began his three-year term on July 1, 2026, succeeding Allen Young, who completed two three-year terms on the commission.

Ozburn farms north of Soda Springs, where his family has operated a dryland farming operation since 1914. Today, the Ozburn family grows primarily malt barley, along with wheat, spring green peas, winter peas and, for the first time this year, canola.

Although barley remains the foundation of the operation, Ozburn says his interest in serving on the Idaho Barley Commission stems from the support he received as a new grower.

"When I first came back to the farm as a new grower, the Idaho Barley Commission was one of the first organizations to reach out to me," Ozburn said. "The marketing resources and educational programs gave me the tools I needed to understand grain markets, read price charts and make informed marketing decisions. Those resources really paved the way for making meaningful contributions to our farm, and over the years I came to appreciate how important our



Idaho Barley Commissioner District 3 Commissioner Jake Ozburn – Soda Springs

commodity organizations are. I always hoped that one day I would have the opportunity to serve as a commissioner and give back to an organization that invested in me.”

Ozburn believes the commission plays a critical role in ensuring the long-term success of Idaho barley growers. “Research is one of the most important investments the Idaho Barley Commission makes,” he said. “It helps provide growers with the information and innovations we need to remain productive and competitive. Supporting that work is one of the biggest reasons I wanted to serve.”

In addition to farming, Ozburn has served on the Idaho Grain Producers Association (IGPA) Executive Board as a State

Director, representing Caribou County since 2012. His experience as both a producer and industry advocate brings valuable perspective to the commission as it continues investing in research, market development, grower education and promotion.

The Idaho Barley Commission welcomes Ozburn to the board and looks forward to working alongside him to advance its mission of supporting Idaho barley growers through research, market development, education and promotion, helping ensure a strong future for Idaho's barley industry.

International Course Highlights Growing Demand for U.S. Food Barley

The Idaho Barley Commission (IBC) joined industry partners to support the Northern Crops Institute's (NCI) Food Barley & Sorghum Uses Course, held in June, in Fargo, North Dakota. Hosted in collaboration with the U.S. Grains & BioProducts Council (USGBC), the course brought together nine participants from the United States, Mexico and Malaysia to explore opportunities for expanding the use of U.S. food barley.

Through presentations, laboratory demonstrations and hands-on product development activities, participants learned about barley production, breeding, milling, functionality and food applications. Highlights included baking demonstrations and tours of NCI's milling facilities and DakotaMB's barley processing plant.

Sydney Anderson of the IBC presented on food barley and sustainability, while Sarah Tee of Inspire Nutrition also shared insights on the nutritional and immunological benefits of barley, emphasizing its role as a nutrient-dense ingredient. Anderson also joined Brett Wilken, barley merchant with Scoular, to present on food barley markets, sustainability and contracting opportunities, providing participants with insight into market development and the growing demand.

The course concluded with sessions on sorghum processing and product applications before participants received certificates recognizing their completion of the program.



NCI Course Participants engage in baking demonstration in NCI's Bake Lab.

IBC was proud to support this educational opportunity alongside the USGBC Council, North Dakota Barley Council and Bay State Milling. By connecting international customers with barley experts and industry leaders, programs like NCI's Food Barley & Sorghum Uses Course help expand awareness and demand for high-quality U.S. food barley.

IBC Hosts Korean Food Barley Team

In August, the Idaho Barley Commission (IBC) hosted a team of Korean food barley buyers in North Idaho. The team was sponsored by the U.S. Grains and BioProducts Council (USGBC), an important market development partner of the Commission. Besides Idaho, the team also visited key barley growing regions in North Dakota and Washington.

The delegation consisted of seven Korean buyers from major food manufacturers, grain importers, specialty grain distributors, and food processing companies and two representatives from the USGBC Korea office. IBC Executive Director Laura Wilder set the Idaho schedule and escorted the group in Idaho.

Continued on next page

Korean Food Barley Team, continued from previous page

The primary objective of the program was to enhance participants' understanding of the U.S. food barley industry and procurement opportunities by providing firsthand exposure to the U.S. barley supply chain, from production and handling to processing and export. The program also facilitated networking among Korean buyers and end-users, encouraging greater collaboration and exploring opportunities for future collective procurement of U.S. food barley.

Participants attended educational sessions led by U.S. barley experts, met with state barley organizations including the Idaho Barley Commission, exporters, processors, and producers, toured barley processing and export facilities, and observe barley harvest operations. These activities provided participants with a comprehensive perspective on the U.S. food barley industry and strengthened commercial relationships that support the long-term growth of U.S. barley exports to Korea.

"Showcasing Idaho barley growers and industry partners to potential buyers is crucial to growing potential market opportunities," said Wilder. "This was an exceptional team



Idaho Barley Commissioner Josh Jones hosted the U.S. Grains & BioProducts Council (USGBC) Korean Barley Buyers Team at his farm in Troy in August.

that was highly engaged in discovering barley procurement possibilities in the U.S."

IBC Engages in U.S. Malting Summit

The Idaho Barley Commission (IBC) joined the U.S. Grains and BioProducts Council (USGBC) for the first U.S. Malting Summit August 3-7 in Seattle and Spokane. The Summit was intended for international end users of barley and malt to meet with U.S. producers and USGBC members about the quality and applications of U.S. barley and malt. Through educational sessions led by U.S. industry experts, participants gained insight into brewing and malting practices, ingredient performance, quality standards, and the latest innovations in the U.S. craft brewing sector.

The week-long program promoted U.S. barley and malt for export to a team of nearly 30 buyers and wholesaler attendees, as well as USGBC marketing specialists representing Japan, China, Vietnam, Thailand, Philippines, Malaysia, Mexico, and El Salvador

and included USGBC members Briess Malt & Ingredient, Cold Stream Malt & Grain, the Idaho Barley Commission and Mountain Malt. Montana Wheat & Barley and the Washington Grain Commission also engaged with the program.

"We are very pleased with the success of this first U.S. Malting Summit," said IBC Executive Director Laura Wilder who helped host the participants. "We appreciate the leadership of USGBC in organizing this event and bringing an excellent group of potential buyers and end users of U.S. barley and malt to the Pacific Northwest. I saw first-hand how the program expanded business connections and relationships between participants and helped identify opportunities for them to incorporate U.S. malt into their operations."



The Idaho Barley Commission (IBC) joined U.S. Grains & BioProducts Council (USGBC) staff based around the world in August in hosting teams of brewing industry stakeholders to the Pacific Northwest for a Malting Summit, introducing them to U.S. suppliers and malt varieties.



SEEDSTART™

ZEUS

THE START OF GREATNESS

Some seedlings emerge.
Others establish their advantage.



WITH SEEDSTART ZEUS™



WITHOUT

PROVEN TO
ADD **BUSHEL** TO THE BIN.

+6

**AVG. BUSHEL
ADVANTAGE**

Across multi-year,
multi-location trials.

When seedlings emerge stronger and establish roots faster, they gain an advantage that can last all season. **SEEDSTART ZEUS™** delivers a bolt of highly available zinc and proven root-building biostimulants to power early development, helping crops build the foundation for greater vigor, resilience, and yield potential when every day—and every root—counts.



microFuze
TECHNOLOGY

WWW.MCGREGOR.COM

CUSTOMIZED SEED SECURITY.

WITH VIRTUALLY ENDLESS CUSTOM BLEND POSSIBILITIES,
WE'VE JUST BEGUN TO SCRATCH THE SURFACE.

What's on your seed is just as important as the traits and genetics in it. Since 2013, Albaugh has been elevating the science of seed treatment, designing over 1,000 specialized solutions for specific geographic and agronomic conditions – right for the seed, right from the start.



GET THE INSIDE STORY AT
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.