

# Idaho Barley Commission **2015 In Review**

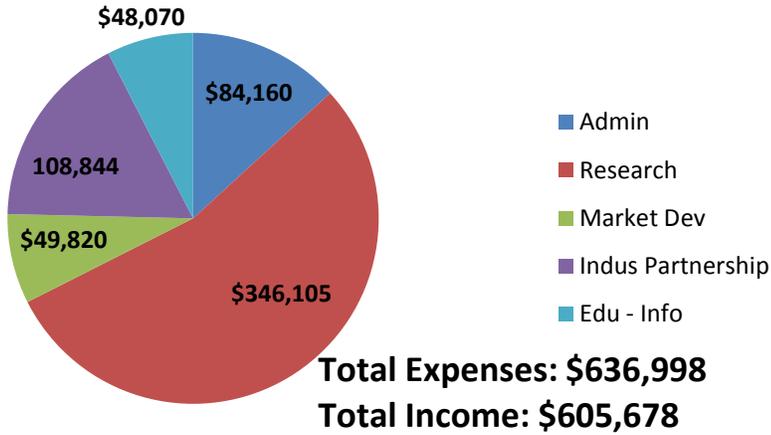
The Idaho Barley Commission's mission is to enhance the profitability of Idaho barley growers through research, market development and grower education. The IBC's strategic investments are currently focused on these priorities:

- University of Idaho Barley Research Agronomist Endowment (five year investment totaling \$1 million)
- Sustainable production practices, including optimizing water and fertilizer inputs
- Pest and disease control
- Malting barley market diversification
- Food barley market development
- Barley producer risk management education.

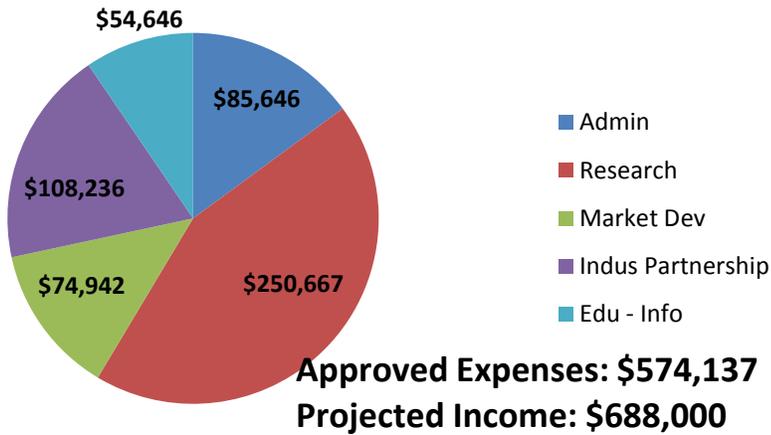
Excessive moisture during the 2014 harvest caused serious quality and economic losses for the Idaho barley producers and industry last year. The IBC immediately initiated an ***Idaho Barley Crop Crisis Action Plan*** that involved several strategies: communicating with producers and industry on testing procedures and handling recommendations for injured by sprout grain; assisting with county disaster declarations; working with insurance companies and the USDA Risk Management Agency on crop insurance issues and pursuing an aggressive feed barley marketing campaign throughout the Western U.S. There is no way to sugar coat the serious economic losses experienced last year, but everyone in the Idaho barley marketing chain learned important lessons and we are better prepared for the possibility of future production challenges.

Because of these economic losses, the IBC experienced an income shortfall in FY 2015 but made some significant adjustments in its budget to trim its deficit. Furthermore, the board has taken a conservative approach in FY 2016 budget to ensure that we maintain funding for key priorities while rebuilding reserves. We are anticipating a significant recovery in 2015 production and quality across southern and eastern Idaho, where at least 92 percent of the state's barley crop is grown. This is great news for our producers and important malting barley industry partners.

### FY 2014/15 IBC Actual Expenses



### FY 2015/16 IBC Approved Budget



#### RESEARCH:

- \$1 million Barley Research Agronomist Endowment at the University of Idaho. Dr. Christopher Rogers was hired as the first Barley Research Agronomist last July and is based at the UI Aberdeen Research & Extension Center. Just one year on the job, Dr. Rogers has established a very comprehensive fertility and barley sustainability research program with collaborative research projects with the malting industry.
- Funding support for USDA ARS's malting and food barley breeding program based at Aberdeen, Idaho, with an emphasis on developing winter varieties adapted to Idaho's diverse growing conditions. ARS has established a collaborative barley

variety development program with the U.S. craft brewing industry and Highland Specialty Grains.

- Disease control – IBC has supported two research forums in the past year to address rising concerns with the spread of Fusarium Head Blight (January 2014) and Barley Yellow Dwarf Virus (July 2015). We are supporting targeted research efforts at controlling the threat of both of these diseases.
- Long-term impacts of manure applications on malting barley production – this eight year study involves cereals, potatoes and sugar beets and is designed to develop recommendations for optimal manure applications rates and timing on basis of yield potential, grain quality, soil quality, disease pressure and nutrient uptake.

### **MARKET DIVERSIFICATION:**

- We continue to work closely with our traditional malting and brewing customers on meeting their needs, including promoting sustainable barley production practices. We also have initiated outreach to the emerging craft brewing industry across Idaho and the Western U.S. The craft beer segment is a growing market for Idaho - craft beers now represent about 12 percent of the U.S. beer market, but they use more than 25 percent of the total malt consumed in the U.S.
- We continue to expand our FOOD BARLEY INITIATIVE, including development of high fiber barley varieties (ARS and Highland Specialty Grains), new product development using barley as a key ingredient and use of barley foods in school meals.
- We have targeted barley export markets in Latin America (malting) and Asia (food), by participating in market development programs sponsored by the U.S. Grains Council, a non-profit export market development organization based in Washington, D.C. with overseas programs in more than 50 markets around the world.

### **GROWER SERVICES:**

- We worked closely with the North Dakota Barley Council on the final development of a new Malting Barley Revenue Insurance Endorsement that will be available for Idaho malting barley producers in 2016. This policy provides better coverage for both contract and non-contract malting barley production, including optional units, with a revenue component priced off of Chicago wheat futures.
- We teamed up with the University of Idaho Extension team in southern Idaho to organize and deliver nine workshops on the 2014 Farm Bill and Crop Insurance last December and January. More than 500 producers attended these workshops across the state, stretching from St. Anthony to Bonners Ferry. The southern and eastern Idaho workshops also included discussions on why pro-harvest sprouting is a concern to malting barley and wheat customers.

- We continue to work with local county extension faculty in offering grain marketing and risk management education across the state. Since 2001, the IBC has won more than \$155,000 in competitive federal grants from the Western Center for Risk Management Education to conduct producer education in managing production and marketing risks. Highlights last year included local Grain Marketing Strategies workshops featuring Brian Ryland with CHS Hedging in Minneapolis and webinars on diverse topics including: Understanding 2014 Harvest Weather Events; Summer 2015 Weather and Water Outlook; Basics of Grain Basis; Cereal Best Management Practices; 2014 Farm Bill Program Details; and 2015 U.S. Economic & Grain Market Outlook.



UI barley research agronomist Chris Rogers (left) and UI research entomologist Arash Rashed evaluate barley research trial at the UI Nutrient Management Field Day in Kimberly in July 2015.



IBC Industry Representative Tim Pella, Anheuser Busch (left), examines malting barley at UI Bonneville County Cereal Field Day in July 2014.