

IDAHO BARLEY NEWS BRIEF

Inside this issue:

New Specialty Type
Barley Insurance
IGPA reports on 2010
Legislative session
2010 Cereal Schools
UI Tetonia Research &
Extension Center

Idaho barley check-off dollars at work...

**Sponsoring Cereal
Schools & GMO
Barley Conference -**
IBC provides cost share
support for the annual **UI
Cereal Schools** in Bur-
ley, Pocatello, Idaho
Falls, Ashton, Preston,
Greencreek, Genesee
and Bonners Ferry. **See
details on dates and
locations on page 2.**

IBC also is teaming up
with the Alberta Barley
Commission to sponsor
a Barley GMO Confer-
ence on April 14-15 in
Banff, Alberta. Re-
searchers and industry
leaders will gather from
the U.S., Canada, Aus-
tralia and Europe to dis-
cuss using advanced
technology in barley
breeding.



Specialty Type Barley Crop Insurance debuts in 2010

The USDA Risk Management Agency has unveiled a new barley crop insurance policy that is available in 2010 for higher valued malting and food barley types, based on a proposal first developed by the Idaho Barley Commission and its two key risk management advisors, Randy Neiwirth, Great Western Malting Co. and Craig Corbett, grower and former IBC member from Grace.

**This new Specialty Type insurance will insure these val-
ued-added barleys (malt, food and certified seed) at
their actual market value. It will insure overall pro-
duction (not quality) loss with the insurance value
based on actual contract prices (subject to an upper
limit over feed barley price coverage). Barley types
covered under this new insurance include:**

- ◆ **Malting barley**
- ◆ **Waxy hulled food barley**
- ◆ **Waxy hullless food barley**
- ◆ **Other hullless barley**
- ◆ **Certified seed for malting, and hullless barley.**

**In addition to the innovative ideas and hard work from
Randy Neiwirth and Craig Corbett, the IBC would like to
acknowledge the strong support we received from the
RMA's Regional Office based in Spokane, led by director
Dave Paul and the RMA policy development team in Kansas
City.**

**For more details on this new policy, please go to the
IBC website at www.idahobarley.org.**

2010 UI Cereal Schools Dates & Locations

SC/E ID - 9 a.m. start time

Feb. 2 - Rupert at
Minidoka Extension
Office, 85 East
Baseline Rd

Feb. 3 - Pocatello at
Red Lion Inn on
Pocatello Creek Rd

Feb. 4 - Idaho Falls
at Red Lion Inn

Feb. 4 - Aston at
Trails Inn

Feb. 5 – Preston at
county fairgrounds

N Idaho - 8 a.m. start time

Feb. 9 - Greencreek
Community Hall

Feb. 10 - Lewiston
Elks Lodge, 3444
Country Club Drive

Feb. 11 - Bonners
Ferry at county fair-
grounds

IGPA Report

IDAHO STATE LEGISLATURE COMMENCES 2010 SESSION

On Monday, January 11, 2010, Governor Otter kicked off the 2nd Regular Session of the 60th Idaho legislature with his “State of the State” address. Governor Otter’s address primarily focused on the continuing economic struggles facing Idaho’s state government. In response to low state revenues, the Governor unveiled his fiscal year 2011 budget proposal that would cut \$83.4 million from current revenue forecasts. In addition, the Governor announced a \$40 million reduction (1.6%) in state spending for the current FY 2010. This current cut is on top of the 4 percent rescission ordered last September.

The Idaho Legislature is already hard at work in attempting to balance the reality of severely low revenues with the needs and priorities of state programs. As lawmakers debate funding issues, the IGPA is closely monitoring their activity to ensure that the needs of Idaho’s wheat and barley farmers are heard.

IGPA PRIORITIES LIMITED FOR 2010 STATE SESSION

As Idaho lawmakers struggle to lessen the impact of reduced state revenues on programs and people, the IGPA will ensure that the policies of our grower-members are strategically addressed. The IGPA is focused on the following priorities affecting Idaho’s wheat and barley growers:

Idaho Soil Conservation Commission – an interim legislative committee is drafting legislation that could result in restructuring the quasi-state agency while reducing its operating budget by roughly \$1.3 million.

UI Agriculture Research & Extension – previous budget cuts totaling \$3.2 million have severely impacted the University of Idaho’s statewide research and extension operations. More cuts are expected in the 2010 legislative session. UI’s Research & Extension functions are vital to Idaho’s wheat and barley growers who need better plant varieties, lower production costs, and cost-effective methods to address pests and diseases.

Taxation – severe revenue shortfalls opens the door to proposals to increase them. Idaho farmers receive state personal property and sales tax exemptions critical to keeping them competitive. Although no effort is yet underfoot to remove these tax benefits, the IGPA is carefully monitoring any attempt to do so.

Focus on UI's Tetonia Research & Extension Center

(reprint from University of Idaho's AgKnowledge #246 weekly publication)

TETONIA AT A GLANCE:

- Established 1917
- 585 acres; 3 greenhouses
- Infrastructure value: \$4.8 million
- Staff of 6

Critically important to Idaho and the Pacific Northwest's potato and small grains industries, the University of Idaho's Tetonia R&E Center, at 6,200 feet elevation, provides both a short growing season and relative isolation ideal for producing potato and small grain seed crops protected from insects and diseases that threaten other Idaho areas.

Foundation (pure) seed. Focus of the Tetonia R&E Center is foundation cereal and potato seed for sale and distribution to certified seed growers: 100% of seed potatoes available through the University Foundation Seed program are produced at Tetonia as is 79% of Foundation cereal seed.

Breeding new varieties. Tetonia also is important for UI's potato and cereal variety development. It is the primary breeding location for spring barley, oat, hard red winter and spring wheat, and dryland and irrigated white wheat varieties.

THE IDAHO LEGISLATURE initially established the High Altitude Branch Station in 1917 near Felt, Idaho. In 1933 the site moved about 5 miles south to Tetonia for dry farming research. By 1950 its acreage had grown to the current 585 acres. Today 240 acres can be irrigated; the remainder are devoted to dryland production.

Foundation seed. In 1949, the University of Idaho strategically redirected Tetonia toward production of foundation seed for the entire state. From foundation seed, Idaho growers produce seed certified to be free of diseases or problems likely to reduce crop yields. Potato and small grains farmers who invest in certified seed are more likely to produce healthy, high-yielding crops.

Crop varieties grown here annually for foundation seed include:

- Wheat—5 to 8 varieties
- Barley—5 to 6 varieties
- Oats—4 to 5 varieties
- Potatoes—20 to 30 varieties.

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 ■ **IBC contributes funds to keep UI Tetonia Research & Extension Center open through 2010 season.** At the request of ■ barley growers, particularly in eastern ■ Idaho, the IBC has agreed to provide ■ \$15,000 in funding to the UI in the current ■ fiscal year to help maintain operations at ■ the Tetonia R&E Center. This research ■ center has a long history of supporting ■ vital barley research, including high elevation ■ testing of new experimental barley ■ varieties and the spring barley foundation ■ seed program. The IBC will continue to ■ engage the UI in discussions on alternative ■ ways to fund the research at Tetonia. ■

Breeding/variety development. Tetonia is also a major experimental location for USDA Agricultural Research Service (ARS)-UI potato and cereal variety development programs.

Potato breeding. Work performed at the Tetonia R&E Center is essential for the production of new potato varieties in Idaho. Between 3,000 and 7,000 new lines of potatoes are tested here each year. Without Tetonia, the 50-year-old joint USDA-ARS University of Idaho breeding program at the UI Aberdeen R&E Center would be severely compromised and even risk closure.

All seed for potato breeding for evaluation in the Tri-State (Idaho, Washington, Oregon) and the Western Regional trials is produced at Tetonia. Between 3,000 and 4,000 single hill (first field generation) breeding potato clones and 100 to 575 second field year breeding clones are tested at Tetonia each year in search of clones suitable for Tri-State and Western Regional trials.

Tuber breeding. As promising breeding tubers move through the system and industry interest in them increases, the need arises for mini-tubers to allow the production of certified seed for commercial evaluations. The UI produces a large majority of these mini-tubers that feed into Idaho's potato certification system. About 66% of the university's mini-tuber production is at Tetonia.

Tetonia also must produce adequate amounts of seed for storage and management production trials, needed before growers can be assured of best fertilizer, water, spacing, and storage recommendations for new varieties.

Cereal breeding. Tetonia is also the primary growing location for small grains foundation seed. From 2005 to 2009, Tetonia produced nearly 80% of all Idaho Foundation class small grain seed including:

- Spring barley
- Oats
- Hard red winter and spring wheat
- Dryland and irrigated white wheat.

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<http://www.uidaho.edu/cals/supportthecenters.aspx>

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