

# IDAHO BARLEY NEWS BRIEF

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## Message from the Idaho Barley Commission on barley check-off legislation and fu- ture Idaho barley assessments...

The IBC wants to thank Idaho barley producers and Idaho Grain Producers Association for your support of legislation that recently passed the Idaho Legislature (SB 1304) that will give the commission authority to set the Idaho barley assessment at a rate not to exceed 4 cents per hundredweight (less than 2 cents per bushel). The Idaho barley assessment has been fixed in law since the commission's inception in 1988 at 2 cents per hundredweight.

We also want to assure you that the IBC does not intend to raise the assessment in July.

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## USDA planting intentions & March 1 stocks

### USDA released key reports today (March 30) that will drive near-by price action...

**2012 Barley Planting Intentions** – USDA pegged U.S. barley acreage at 3.33 million, up 30% from last year. **Idaho barley acreage was pegged at 590,000, up 13% from last year.**

**Barley Quarterly Stocks** – USDA pegged **barley stocks on March 1 at 93.7 million bu**, down 32% from a year ago. The indicated disappearance for the period December through February was **45.3 million bu**, up 7% from the same period a year ago. Idaho barley stocks are pegged at 24.056 million bu, down 10% from the same period a year ago.

**2012 Wheat Planting Intentions** – USDA pegged **all wheat acreage at 55.9 million**, up 3% from last year. This is **1.7 million acres below the average pre-report trade estimate of 57.6 million**. Winter wheat acres are pegged at 41.7 million, up 3% from last year. Other **spring wheat acres are pegged at 12.0 million**, down 3% from last year and well below the average pre-report trade estimate of 13.4 million acres. Idaho wheat acres are pegged at 1.335 million, down 9% from last year [winter wheat 780,000 (-5%) and spring wheat 540,000 (-16%)].

**Wheat Quarterly Stocks** – USDA pegged **wheat stocks on March 1 at 1.20 billion bu**, down 16% from a year ago, and **below the average pre-report trade estimate of 1.255 billion bu**. The indicated disappearance for the period December through February was **462 million bu**, down 9% from the same period a year ago. Idaho wheat stocks are pegged at 41.6 million bu, up 4% from a year ago.

**2012 Corn Planting Intentions** - USDA pegged **corn acreage at 95.9 million**, up 4% from last year and up 9% from two years ago, which is **above the average pre-report trade estimate of 94.7 million Ac**. If realized, this will be the highest planted corn acreage in the U.S. since 1937.

**Corn Quarterly Stocks** - USDA pegged **corn stocks on March 1 at 6.01 billion bu**, down 8% from a year ago, and below the average pre-report trade estimate of 6.151 billion bu. The indicated disappearance for the period December through February was **3.64 billion bu**, up 3% from the same period a year ago.

## Idaho Barley Commission statement on barley check-off legislation and future barley assessments in Idaho, continued from page 1...

What we were seeking was the flexibility to make prudent long-term investments, particularly in research that requires a sustained effort over a number of years in order to generate results. Because of fluctuating barley production in Idaho in recent years the commission has seen its funding base become less predictable during a critical period of time in which we been called upon to increase our share of research costs to make up for lost state and federal investments in barley research.

We want to assure all of our growers that we will maintain the current IBC philosophy of being very selective in how we spend your check-off dollars to ensure a good return on investment. For several years, the IBC has maintained a comfortable reserve in order to be able to address emerging needs and opportunities and we will continue to use this reserve before we consider raising your assessment. We also pledge our full effort to maintain effective communications with our growers across Idaho on funding needs before any future action is taken on the assessment. We encourage your input at any time and hope to see you at various field days and Barley Commission events scheduled this summer and fall.

**Chairman Tim Dillin, Bonners Ferry (District I)**

**Vice Chairman Dwight Little, Teton (District III)**

**Commissioner Ron Elkin, Buhl (District II)**

**Industry Representative Clay Kaasa, Great Western Malting Co., Blackfoot**



### Fifteen percent ethanol blend is coming this summer

After a year of waiting since EPA approved higher ethanol blended fuels in 2001 and newer vehicles, 15% ethanol blends could be hitting the streets by this summer. The Renewable Fuels Association (RFA) says this is good news for the domestic ethanol industry, which has seen the demand for ethanol stagnate because it had hit the 10% blending wall due to declining overall gasoline usage in the past year (recent 4-week average showed gasoline usage was down more than 6% compared to a year ago).

The RFA and other groups also are mounting a major educational campaign in Congress to urge lawmakers to **maintain their support for the existing Renewable Fuels Standard** and reject any moves to change it. "Thanks in part to the RFS, U.S. oil imports fell below 50% in 2010 for the first time since 1997, and, oil imports stand as just 45% today," stated RFA's letter to congressional leaders. "Efforts to amend or reform the RFS would send a chilling signal to a marketplace at just the time when the advanced and cellulosic biofuels industries are on the cusp of commercial production to help meet this nation's energy independence and security needs."



## CEREAL RESEARCH ROUND-UP

◆ **ARS Aberdeen operating funds for barley research plummet over past 10 years** - Due to escalating cutbacks in federal research funding for barley and other cereal crops, the amount of operating funds available to support malting and food barley variety development research at the National Small Grains Germplasm Research Facility has fallen by 58% over the past decade. **These serious funding con-**

**straints put pressure on the Idaho Barley Commission and other private funding partners like the American Malting Barley Association to increase our cost-share support** or face serious erosion in both Aberdeen’s research infrastructure and a much slower progress in bringing better yielding and higher quality barleys to the marketplace.



### UI Research & Extension receives funding boost in Fiscal Year 2013

**Now for some good news on research funding...** The IBC is pleased to report that the UI College of Agricultural and Life Sciences has received a 4.6% increase in state appropriations for its Agricultural Research and Extension Service, with total state funding set at **\$23,654,100 for Fiscal Year 2013**, which begins July 1. Increases include:

- ◆ Permanent increase in employee compensation and benefits - **\$720,100**
- ◆ One-time replacement of equipment and facility maintenance at specific experiment stations - **\$325,000**. This includes \$100,000 for new or used general farm tractor for the Tetonia Research Farm and \$65,000 for HVAC modifications, greenhouse renovation at the Aberdeen Research & Extension Center.

These funding enhancements were strongly supported by the Idaho Agriculture Experiment Station Advisory Committee during the 2012 legislative session. The IAES Advisory Committee was formed last fall by CALS to gather critical stakeholder input and to generate broad grass-roots support to begin the process of restoring the \$5.7 million that was cut from CALS Research and Extension during the past three years. The IBC serves on this advisory committee on behalf of the Aberdeen station.



### Stripe Rust Scouting Report from Dr. Juliet Marshall, UI cereal agronomist/pathologist in Idaho Falls, March 29, 2012 (jmarshall@uidaho.edu, 208-529-8376)

Winter wheat has broken dormancy (is in Feekes GS 3) in southern and southeast Idaho and is greening up fast. We are full swing into planting spring wheat. In the Extension Variety trials in Aberdeen, ID I could see NO overwintering stripe rust at this time. Older leaves of the susceptible soft white winter variety Brundage were collected and examined under the microscope. There was no evidence of viable lesions. **Scouting will continue and notifications of further observations will be sent out to growers.**

## USDA Agencies Undertake Streamlined Acreage Reporting Initiative

The U.S. Department of Agriculture’s (USDA) Risk Management Agency (RMA) and Farm Service Agency (FSA) are implementing an **Acreage Crop Reporting and Streamlining Initiative (ACRSI)** as a major step to reduce the duplication of reporting to FSA and crop insurance agents. ACRSI is a joint effort between FSA, RMA, Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) and will help reduce USDA operating costs by allowing sharing of similar data across participating agencies within USDA.

Implementation of common acreage reporting dates (ARDs) are the first step the cooperating agencies are taking to **reduce the reporting burden on producers while reducing USDA operating costs by sharing similar data across participating agencies.**

The initiative began during summer 2010, when FSA and USDA’s Office of the Chief Information Officer talked to producers in listening sessions around the country about acreage reporting practices. Some common themes emerged:

- 1) Producers want to provide their information such as acreage reporting data, just once, and expect USDA agencies to share the data internally,
- 2) Producers currently provide the same information to different USDA agencies multiple times.
- 3) We all need better accuracy

In the past year, the joint RMA-FSA review team looked at RMA’s 54 ARDs for 122 crops, and FSA’s 17 ARDs for 273 crops, and consolidated them into the **15 common ARDs**. RMA and FSA will implement the July 15 ARDs for certain commodities in Idaho during the 2012 crop/program year:

<b>IDAHO</b>	*The 7/15 date is the only date change for 2012 crop reporting. Check with your crop insurance agent for details on all acreage reporting dates and other changes for 2012.
1/15	Apples, Cherries, Fresh Apricots, Fresh Freestone Peaches, Fresh Nectarines, Grapes, Plums
7/15*	Spring Alfalfa Seed, Spring Barley, Spring Canola, Corn, Dry Beans, Dry Peas, Flax, Green Peas, Spring Mint, Mustard, Oats, Onions, Potatoes, Processing Beans, Safflower, Sugar Beets, Sweet Corn, Spring Wheat and all other crops not listed
11/15	Apiculture, PRF
12/15	Fall Alfalfa Seed, Fall Barley, Fall Canola, Dry Peas, Fall Mint, Fall Wheat, and all other Fall Seeded Small Grains

In addition to the common ARDs, RMA and FSA are developing procedures to allow producers in the future to submit crop acreage information electronically in certain situations, rather than in person. We expect a pilot to begin as soon as 2013.

RMA and FSA remind producers that farmers and ranchers should continue to complete surveys for NASS promptly. Common ARDs for farmers and ranchers will not replace responding to NASS surveys.