

# IDAHO BARLEY NEWS BRIEF

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## Idaho Barley Check-Off Dollars at Work...

**Herbicide Tracking System now available** - With funding from the IBC, UI weed scientists have developed a first of its kind computerized herbicide management program that allows producers to track herbicide use based on mode of action (weed resistance) and soil persistence. The new program is based on a typical north Idaho dryland crop rotation.

A similar program for southern Idaho irrigated crop rotations is under development. The program is available at:

[https://marketplace.uidaho.edu/C20272\\_ustores/web/product\\_detail.jsp?PRODUCTID=1591](https://marketplace.uidaho.edu/C20272_ustores/web/product_detail.jsp?PRODUCTID=1591)

## Idaho Barley Commission sets FY 2010 budget and strategic priorities

The Idaho Barley Commission conducted its quarterly program review and annual budget meeting on May 27-28 in Boise. The complete meeting minutes are available on the IBC website at [www.idahobarley.org](http://www.idahobarley.org), but here are some highlights...

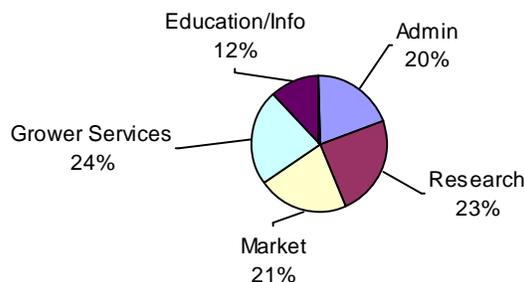
**Assessment vote** - IBC voted to hold a barley producer referendum vote on the question of a flexible assessment rate, ranging from 0.9 cents/bu (2 cents per Cwt) up to 1.9 cents/bu (4 cents per Cwt). This vote will be conducted by the Idaho State Department of Agriculture on the IBC's behalf during the first two weeks of November 2009.

**FY 2010 budget** - IBC set a budget of \$431,241, 4% less than the previous year.

**Strategic priorities** - IBC reviewed progress achieved in its four strategic value-added initiatives, which include:

- ◆ **Malting barley expansion** - forging new relationships with consolidated brewing industry and expanding sales to foreign markets.
- ◆ **Food barleys** - developing new varieties with specific end-use traits like beta-glucan fiber; educating food manufacturers on the versatility of barley in food product formulations; and educating consumers on the health benefits of consuming more barley.
- ◆ **Specialty feed barleys** - developing low phytate barleys and feed barley with other specialty traits for the livestock industry; and demonstrating value of barley in fish diet formulations (working with both domestic and foreign aquaculture farmers).

FY 2010 Budget \$431, 241



## Market Buzz..

### More fish diets using Idaho barley -

The IBC and US Grains Council collaborated on a fish feeding trial in Vietnam last year using a new low phytate barley known as Clearwater that was developed by ARS scientists at Aberdeen, ID. The barley was used at 10%, 20%, and 30% inclusion rates in a fish pellet formulated and fed to 2,000 fresh water Pangasius fish under typical commercial production conditions. The trial lasted six months. The findings will be presented to other aquaculture farmers at the Aqua-Feed Asia trade conference on October 27, 2009 and will be published in Vietnam's aquaculture industry publications.

#### Findings -

- ◆ The barley containing diets were readily consumed by the fish.
- ◆ Feed to gain ratios were slightly better for the control diet compared to the barley diets.
- ◆ Low phytate composition of this barley makes the phosphorous more available to be digested and less excreted as waste.

## Policy Watch... **ACRE calculator tools available**

USDA Farm Service Agency has created new spreadsheet calculator tools to help producer determine whether participation in the new **ACRE** farm support program makes sense for their individual farming operation. This new on-line tool can be accessed at:

<http://www.fsa.usda.gov/FSA/webapp?area=home&subject=dccp&topic=landing>

Producers can visit the IBC website at [www.idahobarley.org](http://www.idahobarley.org) to find a spreadsheet that contains Idaho specific yield and guarantee data that they will need to plug into the ACRE calculator.

**Average Crop Revenue Election (ACRE)** program is an alternative to the traditional countercyclical program. Enrollment is optional but once in the program you must remain through the end of this farm bill. Sign-up deadline is Aug. 14

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## Biofuels debate "heats" up over greenhouse gas emissions and indirect land use impacts

Without question, U.S. corn and soybean markets have become closely tied to biofuel and crude oil markets. And these markets are becoming increasingly nervous about recent regulatory actions that raise some uncertainty about the future demand for biofuels, and corn ethanol in particular. In 2009, corn used for ethanol use is projected to be about 4.1 billion bushels or at least one-third of the total crop. But new provisions proposed by EPA have cast doubt on future demand. On May 5, EPA issued its draft rule implementing the new Renewable Fuels Standard (RFS2) approved by Congress in 2007 that requires an expansion of the existing mandate to 36 billion gallon per year by 2022, starting with 12.0 billion gallons in 2010. The controversy with EPA's proposed rules center on the agency's proposed targets for reducing the lifetime greenhouse gas emissions in order for the fuels to qualify for the expanding mandate - corn ethanol must reduce GHG emissions by 20% relative to gasoline and biodiesel by 50%. Part of this GHG calculation EPA says should include so-called "in-direct" land use impacts. The EPA draft rule is now open for public comment.

The Renewable Fuels Association says that the various models and data sets used by EPA to calculate the life-cycle greenhouse gas emissions and in-direct land impacts have not been made public and therefore cannot be validated by independent analyses for accuracy.

## IGPA works to defeat beer taxes in Congress; supports tax roll back

A letter recently sent to Idaho Senator Mike Crapo expressed the Idaho Grain Producers Association's (IGPA) opposition to proposals seeking to increase the federal excise tax on beer produced in the United States to pay for other national priorities. The Senate Finance Committee, of which Senator Crapo is a member, is considering proposals seeking to impose a 150-percent federal tax on beer generating \$4 billion in increased revenues to assist Congress and the Obama administration's efforts to bolster national healthcare programs.

Eric Hasselstrom, IGPA president, expressed the IGPA's concerns regarding the proposal in the letter to Senator Crapo. Hasselstrom pointed out that, ***"...increased taxation of the magnitude under committee consideration would severely decrease volumes and demand for beer translating to lower state and federal sales tax collection."*** President Hasselstrom continued by highlighting that the ***"...IGPA believes that additional revenues to pay for national healthcare priorities should be derived from broad-based revenue sources, not from highly regressive taxes that harm responsible consumers while jeopardizing thousands of Idaho jobs associated with the barley industry."***

While the direction of Congress is unclear with regard to increased federal beer taxes, the IGPA has worked with Senator Crapo and Idaho Representative Mike Simpson to gain their support for parallel legislation that would roll back existing federal taxes to pre-1991 levels. Specifically, S.1058 and HR 836 would reduce the federal tax per barrel of beer produced in the U.S. from \$18 to \$9. Additionally, both bills would simultaneously assist small brewers through a tax reduction per barrel from \$7 to \$3.50 on the first 60,000 barrels produced.

***"Representative Simpson and Senator Crapo continue to be strong advocates for Idaho's barley industry"***, said Hasselstrom. ***"Tax relief to the brewers we growers supply means more market opportunities for farmers, more jobs, and a robust barley industry in Idaho and the nation."***

### Quotables...

"I recommend...bread, meat, vegetables and beer" - Sophocles's philosophy of a moderate diet.

"Beer, if drunk in moderation, softens the temper, cheers the spirit and promotes health." - Thomas Jefferson

"Beer will get you through times of no money better than money will get you through times of no beer." - Maureen Ogle, beer historian