

# IDAHO BARLEY NEWS BRIEF

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## IBC News...

Governor C.L. "Butch" Otter has appointed **Pat Purdy, Picabo**, to fill the South-Central Idaho commissioner seat being vacated by Ron Elkin, Buhl, who completes six years of service on the commission at the end of June.

Pat Purdy is the farm manager of **Picabo Livestock Company**, a fifth generation farm and ranching operation based in Blaine County. The Purdys farm about 4,300 acres of alfalfa and malting barley alongside their large beef cattle operation. Pat works in partnership with his grandfather Bud and father Nick in all aspects of the family farming and cattle operation. Pat also is co-owner and manager of **Purdy Enterprises, Inc.**, which includes a farm and ranch supply store in Picabo and a commercial/industrial

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## Update on key EPA regulations

In recent years U.S. farmers and ranchers have feared that EPA regulations were running amok, triggering loud calls for political leaders to rein in this environmental regulatory agency. Some of agriculture's most recent concerns have centered on mandatory oil spill prevention planning and new pesticide permits for applications near or over U.S. waterways.

For the record these new regulations are not as bad as originally feared. Here we provide a summary of two key rules and discuss whether they will apply to your farms and ranches.

For more complete information on whether your farm practices fall under these specific rules, please visit [www.epa.gov](http://www.epa.gov).

## Spill Prevention Control and Countermeasure (SPCC) Plans - compliance date is May 10, 2013:

Will apply to your farm or ranch if:

- ◆ Stores, transfers, uses or consumes oil or oil products, such as diesel fuel, gasoline, lube oil, hydraulic oil, adjuvant oil, crop oil, vegetable oil or animal fat; and
- ◆ Stores more than 1,320 US gallons in total of all aboveground containers (only count containers with 55 gallons or greater storage capacity) or more than 42,000 gallons in completely buried containers; and
- ◆ Could reasonably be expected to discharge oil to navigable waters of the US or adjoining shorelines, such as lakes, rivers and streams.

**How do you determine if your farm could reasonably discharge oil into or upon navigable waters?** You can determine this by considering the geography and location of your farm relative to nearby navigable waters (such as lakes, rivers, streams, creeks and other waterways) or adjoining shorelines. You should consider if ditches, gullies, storm sewers or other drainage systems may transport an oil spill to nearby navigable waters or adjoining shorelines. Estimate the volume of oil that could be spilled in an incident and how that oil might drain or flow from your farm and the soil conditions or geographic features that might affect the flow

## USDA: The Farm, Food, and Jobs Department

*OP-ED by Dick Rush, State Executive Director, USDA Farm Service Agency, Idaho  
June 2012*



One hundred and fifty years ago, in the midst of a great Civil War, President Lincoln signed legislation to establish a Department of Agriculture in order to “acquire and to diffuse among the people of the United States useful information on subjects connected with agriculture ... and to procure, propagate, and distribute among the people new and valuable seeds and plants.”

Armed with these broad mandates, the “People’s Department,” as he called it, set about to serve American farmers and a mostly rural American landscape. At that time, almost half of all Americans lived on farms, compared with about 2 percent today. The population in 1862 was then about 31.4 million and today, that number has increased tenfold to almost 313 million people. Over the last 150 years, through the department’s work on food science, agricultural research, nutrition assistance, bio-fuel production, economic and community development, natural resource conservation, international trade, credit, and a host of other issues, the USDA still fulfills Abraham Lincoln’s original vision – touching the lives of every American, every day in almost every way.

By any measure, it’s been a very successful 150 years for USDA. Americans benefit from safe, abundant, and reasonably priced food. We produce 85% of what we consume and therefore enjoy food security. Our food, fuel, and fiber industries provide employment for more than 20 million Americans. Agricultural exports continue to post significant trade surpluses which, in turn, have generated almost 1 million jobs alone.

As we look to the decades ahead, USDA must continue to contribute to the strength and health of the nation by becoming a more modern and effective service provider. We must tighten our belt, just as many Americans are doing with their household budgets.

In the past few decades, American agriculture has become one of the most productive sectors of our economy, thanks to farmers, ranchers and growers adopting technology, reducing their debt, and effectively managing risk. USDA is adopting these same lessons in its *Blueprint for Stronger Service*, announced by Secretary Vilsack earlier this year.

The *Blueprint for Stronger Service* aims to build a modern and efficient service organization that is closely aligned with technological innovations - and better suited to respond to 21st century agricultural challenges.

The challenges ahead are many, both for USDA and American agriculture, but by focusing on a strong safety net for farmers and ranchers, supporting policies that encourage sustainable productivity, and by promoting vibrant markets that help feed consumers at home and abroad, the “People’s Department” will continue to help create jobs, support working families, strengthen rural communities, and build on the success and productivity of the America’s farmers and ranchers.

## Key EPA regulations, continued from page 1

toward navigable waters or adjoining shorelines. Also you may want to consider whether precipitation runoff could transport oil into navigable waters or adjoining shorelines.

**If your farm does not have fuel storage that will flow into navigable waters by a ditch, river, stream or lake, do you have to prepare a SPCC Plan?** No. EPA suggests you use a common sense approach. If one of your oil storage tanks leaks, and the spilled oil would not flow into navigable waters or adjoining shorelines, you do not have to prepare a Plan. Remember that you still have the responsibility to clean up any spilled oil and a containment system (for example, a dirt berm around the tank) makes this easier. EPA recommends that you check with your state environmental contacts to determine if there are requirements when oil is spilled to soil only. Also, EPA recommends that you document the reasons why you think an oil spill would not reach water to demonstrate to regional inspectors, if necessary, that your facility is not subject to the SPCC rule.

## NPDES Pesticide General Permits - compliance date was October 31, 2011

EPA issued new rules on NPDES Pesticide General Permits in response to a 2009 US 6th Circuit Court of Appeals ruling. These rules require new permits for point source pesticide applications to waters of the U.S., specifically covering pesticide applications that leave a residue from the following pesticide use patterns (most farms and ranches will not be affected):

- ◆ Mosquito and other flying insect control,
- ◆ Aquatic weed or algae control,
- ◆ Animal pest control,
- ◆ Forest canopy pest control.



## Pat Purdy Appointed to the IBC, continued from page 1

pumping system manufacturing operation in Boise.

Pat is currently serving as a member of the Leadership Idaho Agriculture Board of Trustees and chairs the LIA Fund Development Committee. He also is president of the Blaine County Chapter of the Idaho Grain Producers Association, board member of the Capitol View Irrigation District and past board member of the Idaho Irrigation Equipment Association. He holds a B.S. degree in mechanical engineering from the University of Idaho.

“I am excited to accept this appointment to the Idaho Barley Commission,” Pat said. “I am prepared to work hard to support all efforts to improve barley production across Idaho. I feel it is vital to our barley industry that we partner more closely with the University of Idaho to conduct research and field trials to determine how to improve barley yields and quality through improved soil nutrition, pest management and disease resistance. Through these efforts, Idaho will continue to lead the nation in barley production.”

Tim Dillin, IBC chairman and barley grower from Bonners Ferry, welcomes Pat Purdy to the commission. “Pat brings considerable vision and leadership to the commission and the board looks forward to working with him on programs that will help keep barley a competitive crop in Idaho.”