

# IDAHO BARLEY NEWS BRIEF

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## Idaho barley check-off dollars at work...IBC commits to 3rd year of funding for UI Tetonia Research Farm -

The IBC approved \$70,047 in research project funding in FY 2012, up nearly 10% from the previous year. Funding to UI scientists increased by 64% from 2010. **One of IBC's priorities is to provide funding for Tetonia Research & Extension Center** which has been restructured into a research farm and now operates on less than a third its nearly 600 acres. Operations at Tetonia are funded by the UI foundation seed program and the barley, wheat and potato commissions, which rely on the farm for seed production and critical germplasm evaluation in a remote high elevation location.

## University of Idaho CALS looks to future to rebuild state agricultural research and extension programs

The University of Idaho's College of Agricultural and Life Sciences (CALS) began the new Fiscal Year 2012 with a flat state budget of \$22.6 million for Agricultural Research & Extension, which is a big relief for CALS leaders who had feared this winter that there might be more cuts on top of the nearly \$5.7 million or 21% cut from agricultural research and extension in the past two years.

"We have turned an important corner," says Dr. John Hammel, dean of CALS, "but we have a long way to go to rebuild many of our excellent agricultural research programs which have felt the direct effects of deep budget cuts."

"I want to express my deepest appreciation and thanks to the many agricultural leaders across the state who made the case to Governor Otter and the Idaho Legislature that CALS could not sustain additional reductions in FY 2012 without cutting deep into the backbone of our state's premier research facilities and faculty."

Dean Hammel cited numerous **cost efficiency measures that CALS has undertaken** to address the recent budget crisis, including:

- ◆ Consolidating financial services under one office in the college.
- ◆ Combining the School of Food Science with near-by Washington State University.
- ◆ Restructuring the Microbiology, Molecular Biology and Biochemistry (MMMB) Department.

"Going forward we need to determine what our budget needs are and seek more private sector partnerships," emphasized Dean Hammel. "This is a dynamic process and requires industry input from the very early stages, a process that CALS administrators and faculty members are activity pursuing today," concluded Hammel.

### Idaho Agriculture's Impact

Agriculture generated \$5.8 billion in cash receipts in 2010, 12% above 2009 (\$3.2 billion livestock and \$2.6 billion crops).

Idaho barley generated \$202 million in farm-gate receipts.

## Market Buzz ... IBC wins grant to promote barley as cereal food ingredient

The IBC has won a competitive USDA marketing grant to expand the use of barley as an ingredient in cereal food products in Asian, Latin American and U.S. markets.

The IBC and University of Idaho were awarded a grant worth more than \$67,000 to jump start the demand for value-added food barley by facilitating the development of new innovative consumer food products that contain barley as a major ingredient.

The main focus will be new product formulation using barley and technical training for food manufacturers from targeted Asian and Latin American countries.

We also will work with U.S. food companies to create new barley foods suitable for the school lunch program as a way to help combat the incidence of obesity in American children, which has grown from 6.5% in 1980 to nearly 20% today.

## From the federal frontlines...Ag spending cuts are in the mix to achieve a deal on raising the debt limit and reducing deficits

The clock is ticking on a deal between Congress and the Obama Administration to raise the debt ceiling by August 2. As we go to press, a fallback plan is slowly emerging that would allow President Obama to raise the federal debt ceiling in exchange for a **down-payment of at least \$1.5 trillion in spending cuts over 10 years** - savings that will come through cuts to domestic programs. The plan would also create a new 12-member congressional panel that would, by the end of the year, seek to come up with a way of reducing the deficit by trillions of dollars more. There is also a separate debt deal being hammered out by a bipartisan group of six U.S. senators, including Idaho Senator Mike Crapo, that reportedly is comprised of \$3.7 trillion mix of spending reductions and tax changes.

It is widely believed that domestic spending cuts will include about \$30 billion in agricultural cuts with a likely target of reducing or eliminating direct payments.

We asked **National Barley Growers Association President Scott Brown, barley grower from Soda Springs, ID**, how he views the current debt reduction debate and how the proposed cuts in domestic spending will affect federal farm programs.

"We know that agriculture will need to do its part to help reduce our growing budget deficit," Brown stated, "but we think it is unfortunate that direct payments are in the budget crosshairs. These payments have been greatly beneficial in helping producers manage rising production costs as well as serious crop problems, particularly this year. The bottom-line is these payments have helped stabilize rural economies," Brown concluded.

Brown said that the National Barley Growers Association has joined several other national farm organizations in writing to congressional leaders this week on their budget concerns., emphasizing that **"agriculture is prepared to take a proportionate share of the budget cuts provided everything is on the table. Last year, agriculture absorbed a net \$6 billion reduction thus making it clear we have and will do our part to help with spending and deficit control."**

The farm groups also stressed that the Senate and House agriculture committees should determine how the reductions are made, not budget negotiators.

## **Dwight Little and Clay Kaasa re-appointed to the Idaho Barley Commission**

Teton barley grower Dwight Little has been re-appointed by Governor Butch Otter to serve a second three year term as District III barley commissioner, effective July 1.

“I am optimistic about the future of agriculture in Idaho and particularly the strong position of the malting barley industry in eastern Idaho,” said Commissioner Little. “I look forward to working with our long-time and new industry partners to strengthen Idaho’s position as a premier malting barley producing region in North America.”

Ron Elkin, barley producer from Buhl and chairman of the commission, also announced that the **grower commissioners have re-appointed Clay Kaasa to continue serving as the board’s industry representative**. Clay Kaasa is area manager for the Great Western Malting Co., based in Blackfoot.

“We are fortunate to have this opportunity to continuing working with both Dwight and Clay to shore up agricultural research programs in the face of state and federal budget cuts and to expand malting, feed and food barley markets,” stated Chairman Elkin. “Both Dwight and Clay are invaluable representatives of our largest production region in eastern Idaho.”

Dwight Little is a fourth generation farmer and rancher who grows barley, wheat and alfalfa and raises cattle in Fremont, Madison and Teton counties. Dwight holds a degree in political science and minor in farm and ranch management from BYU in Provo, UT. He will continue to represent barley producers from the eastern Idaho region where more than 60% of the state’s barley crop is grown.

Clay Kaasa has worked for Great Western Malting Co. for 18 years and has spent more than 21 years working in the state’s grain industry. He holds a degree in agribusiness from Montana State University in Bozeman, MT.

“I look forward to helping maintain a solid contract base for malting barley production in Idaho that is profitable for everyone, including producers and their customers,” Kaasa said.



## **IBC Administrator to represent UI Aberdeen Research & Extension Center on new advisory committee**

The University of Idaho CALS has established a new Agricultural Research & Extension Center Advisory Committee to help guide future operations of the R&E Centers across the state. Each center will be represented by their superintendent and one industry stakeholder. Kelly Olson, IBC Administrator, has been asked to represent the UI Aberdeen Research & Extension Center.