

IDAHO BARLEY NEWS BRIEF

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Idaho barley check-off dollars at work...IBC reaffirms support for ARS barley breeding efforts in Aberdeen -

The IBC board held their quarterly commission meeting at the ARS National Small Grains Germplasm Research Facility located in Aberdeen and received reports from several scientists on cutting edge research to improve barley for a wide variety of malting and food barley applications. One of these scientists was Dr. Gongshe Hu, a research geneticist who recently transferred into the barley breeding position that was vacated by the departure of Dr. Don Obert last February.

The IBC board approved a funding request of \$22,500 to support barley breeding nurseries and end use evaluations in 2012.

IBC offers 10th round of grain marketing & risk management education

The IBC has been awarded another competitive grant from the **Western Center for Risk Management Education** at Washington State University to conduct grain marketing and risk management education across Idaho in 2011/12. **This year's activities will include:**

- ♦ **Sept. 7 webinar** by Kelly Olson on "Grain Market Outlook and Strategies for 2012 Malting Barley Contract Pricing." Recorded webinar can be downloaded <https://connect.cals.uidaho.edu/p53192408/>
- ♦ **Nov. 9 webinar** at 8:30 a.m. by Craig Corbett on "How to Fine-Tune Malting Barley / Wheat Marketing Strategies in Volatile Grain Markets." Log onto <https://connect.cals.uidaho.edu/barley>
- ♦ **Nov. 28 webinar** at 7:00 p.m. by Bryce Knorr, Senior Editor of *Farm Futures* on "How to Hedge your Farm Energy Inputs." **Same log on as above.**

Dec. 6 Workshop on Integrating Grain Marketing & Crop Insurance into A Comprehensive Risk Management Strategy - presented by Dr. Art Barnaby, Kansas State University, at the Pocatello Red Lion Hotel. Pre-registration is required. For more information see our IBC website at www.idahobarley.org.

Southern/Eastern Idaho Extension –

- ♦ Series of Six Farm & Ranch Management Classes in Burley, Jerome, Pocatello, American Falls, Rexburg.
- ♦ Additional training in Burley and Idaho Falls on Farm Management Tools (computerized tools), Estate Planning, Grain Marketing, Managing Production Costs (precision ag and irrigation management).

North Idaho Extension

- ♦ Business/Succession Planning Short Courses in minimum of two locations.

The IBC also is continuing its 16th year of producing a weekly **Idaho Grain Market Report**, which reports barley and wheat prices for several Idaho locations and analyzes cash and futures market trends for barley, wheat, corn and crude oil. This report is available for free for Idaho producers and \$85/year fee for nonproducers or can be downloaded from the IBC website at www.idahobarley.org.

Federal spending under the knife

Agricultural research funding remains in limbo - Like past years when Congress failed to pass annual spending bills before the beginning of the new fiscal year which begins October 1, most federal government programs such as the barley and wheat agricultural research programs at the National Small Grains & Potato Research Facility in Aberdeen, ID, are currently operating under a Continuing Resolution. This particular CR will expire November 18. The House of Representatives has passed only half of the 12 appropriation bills while the Senate has passed only one - the Military Construction & Veterans Administration bill (HR 2055). The Agriculture Appropriations bill which funds ARS research programs at Aberdeen passed the House on a very narrow vote of 217-203 on June 16 and awaits action in the Senate.

Super Committee mulls farm program spending cuts - Meanwhile funding authority or baseline for the 2012 Farm Bill rests in the hands of the Joint Select Committee on Deficit Reduction or 12 member Super Committee which has been charged with coming up with \$1.2 trillion in savings over the next 10 years. This Super Committee is expected to report its deficit reduction plan by November 23 and then Congress has until December 23 to vote this plan either up or down. If this deadline is not met, across the board cuts in both domestic and military spending will be triggered.

On October 17, the chairmen and co-chairmen of the House and Senate Agriculture Committees sent a letter to the Super Committee pledging to come up with \$23 billion in 10-year savings as part of the new 2012 Farm Bill. This letter was signed by House Agriculture Committee Chairman Frank Lucas (R-Okla.), ranking member Rep. Collin Peterson (D-Minn.) and their Senate counterparts, Sen. Debbie Stabenow (D-Mich.) and Sen. Pat Roberts (R-Kans.)

The four lawmakers stated, "Agriculture has a long legacy of bipartisanship, and today the House and Senate Agriculture Committees are preserving that tradition. In the coming weeks, we will continue working with our House and Senate colleagues to provide the Joint Select Committee a detailed set of policy recommendations for achieving these important savings."

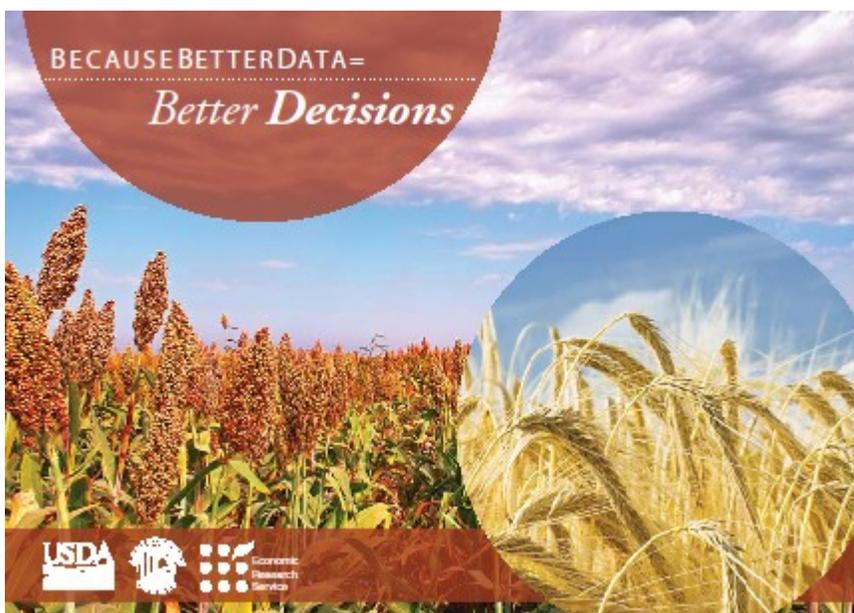
Major national farm organizations have already weighed in with their recommendations for how the cuts can be achieved while preserving a viable farm safety net. In most cases, these plans will eliminate current direct payments, counter-cyclical payments, ACRE and SURE and replace them with a more comprehensive revenue-assurance program.



The TRI-STATE GRAIN GROWERS CONVENTION is scheduled November 16-28, 2011 at the Spokane Davenport Hotel. For more information on the convention agenda and how to register please go to the Idaho Grain Producers Association website at www.idahograin.org.

Idaho Ag Stats conducts barley production practices survey

As the local arm of USDA's data collection agency, the NASS Idaho Field Office (also known as the Idaho Agricultural Statistics Service) conducts a number of surveys each year which benefit barley growers. These include the county estimates of yield used by crop insurers and the annual barley variety survey supported by the Idaho Barley Commission and American Malting Barley Association. Through the growing season, the development of the crop is tracked weekly in the Crop Weather survey and state level production forecasts are published in July, August, and September. Four times a year the stocks of barley in storage are published and every month the price received by farmers is published.



One survey that comes around less frequently is the **Agricultural Resources Management Survey or ARMS – last done for Idaho barley in 2003**. The survey focuses on production practices, fertilizer and chemical use, and pest management strategies. The results published on chemical use provide one of the greatest benefits to growers. In 8 years, much may have changed in the chemicals used, the rates at which they are applied, and the prevalence of split applications. Lacking any new data, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and Extension Educators would be operating with 8-year old assumptions and be out of touch with current conditions. Last year's chemical use results from ARMS for potatoes were cited by Extension specialists as showing accurately the changes that occurred in just 5 years since the previous survey.

Enumerators representing NASS will contact growers starting in mid-October to set up a time to meet and conduct the survey. They will be trained just beforehand on the flow of the questionnaire and the focus of the questions. This is done so they can be as efficient as possible in conducting the interview and guiding each grower through the process.

When the survey results are **compiled and published in May 2012**, the Idaho Field Office will prepare a release with detailed fertilizer and chemical use statistics for the state. Results from other states and information on Idaho's pest control practices will be available in an online database which Field Office personnel can help growers to access for data retrieval.

For any questions about the ARMS survey or NASS programs in general, please contact Vince Matthews at 208 334 1507 or vince.matthews@nass.usda.gov.