

IDAHO BARLEY NEWSBRIEF

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IBC met with growers across the state in 2008 to discuss future IBC funding challenges. Due to declining acres, the IBC has seen its income fall in recent years. One possible solution is to give the IBC authority to set the check-off in a range up to 4 cents/Cwt. Before taking any legislative action, the **IBC has committed to hold a grower vote on this check-off proposal. This vote was originally scheduled in Jan. 2009 but has been postponed until the end of 2009 or early 2010.**

CONGRESSIONAL RECORD—SENATE *December 8, 2008*

IDAHO BARLEY COMMISSION 20TH ANNIVERSARY

STATEMENT SUBMITTED BY IDAHO SENATOR MIKE CRAPO.

Mr. President, it is an honor for me to recognize the 20th anniversary of the Idaho Barley Commission, IBC, this year. Barley is grown in almost every county in Idaho, and Idaho ranks second in the Nation in barley production. The IBC has been working for growers for two decades, providing current trends, information and educational opportunities to those in the barley industry and representing the concerns and needs of barley growers to policymakers in Idaho and here in Washington.

The IBC plays an integral role in fostering markets at home and abroad in Taiwan and Japan and is currently developing malting barley markets in Mexico, Peru, and Colombia and through the U.S. Grain Council. It helps ensure that growers' voices are heard in issues like Federal farm policy, Federal malt barley crop insurance, pesticide regulations and irrigation.

The IBC is working with the University of Idaho to establish farm business management schools and provides services to growers that include helping farmers optimize herbicide usage, boost yields, and cut irrigation costs. The IBC supports research on barley breeding, pest management, and extension nurseries.

The IBC has a successful history of working in conjunction with the National Barley Growers Association, the National Barley Foods Council, the U.S. Grains Council, and the Idaho Grain Growers Association. This important collaboration helps keep elected officials informed about their members' needs, policies that work, and those in need of improvement. This partnership has been invaluable to me as I continue to work with IBC to address the needs of an important part of Idaho's agriculture economy.

Congratulations to the IBC on 20 years of support for one of Idaho's most widespread commodities. A healthy barley industry keeps Idaho thriving and contributes to our Nation's economy and food security.

Market Buzz...

IBC zeroes-in on feed and food markets in

Japan and Taiwan

JAPAN has been the largest export market for U.S. barley for the past 10 years (except 2006 when more barley was shipped to Saudi Arabia). Most of this barley is supplied from the PNW, including northern Idaho. Part of our recent success has been due to the implementation of a Simultaneous Buy Sell System by the Japanese government starting back in 1999. Today, all feed barley and a portion of food barley are imported through this SBS system.

Our recent focus in has been on food barley sales. We initiated the first sale of Idaho food barley in 2007, which then led to **contract production in Northern Idaho in both 2007 and 2008.**

New eastern Idaho commissioner Dwight Little will travel to Japan to meet with our customers at the end of Jan. 2009.

TAIWAN has been a smaller but important market for Idaho barley. Sam White with PNW Farmers Coop in Gene-see recently traveled to Taiwan with the Governor's Trade Mission to promote food barley

Economic Watch - Farm Business Management Schools offered by IBC and University of Idaho

Presented by the University of Idaho Cooperative Extension, Idaho Barley Commission and Western Center for Risk Management Education

- **Tuesday, January 13, 2009**, Lewis Clark State College Workforce Training Bldg, 1920 3rd Ave. North, Lewiston from 8:30 am to 3:30 pm
- **Wednesday, January 14, 2009**, University Place, 1770 Science Center Drive, Idaho Falls (Center for Higher Education Classroom) from 8:30 am to 3:30 pm

\$15 registration fee – pre-registration is required (maximum space for 36 participants) by calling the IBC at 208-334-2090 or emailing kolson@idahobarley.org

PROGRAM

Registration – 8:30 - 9:00 am

9:00 am – Noon (lunch will be provided)

Fine-tuning Your Production Costs using Farm Business Decision Tools

- Crop enterprise budgets
- Cost of owning & operating machinery
- Crop leases

12:45 pm - 3:30 pm

Developing a Proactive Grain Marketing Strategy

- Grain Marketing Plans
- Computerized "Mountain View Farms" grain/livestock marketing simulation

PRESENTERS

- Paul Patterson, University of Idaho Extension ag economist, Idaho Falls
- Ben Eborn, University of Idaho Teton County Extension Faculty, Driggs
- Ken Hart, University of Idaho Lewis County Extension Faculty, Nez Perce
- Dr. Kate Painter, University of Idaho ag economist, Moscow
- Dr. Dana Hoag, Colorado State University Agricultural Economist, Fort Collins, CO
- Dr. Jay Parsons, Colorado State University Agricultural Economist, Fort Collins, CO
- Kelly Olson, Administrator, Idaho Barley Commission, Boise

IGPA Report - Grower convention a success

Idaho Grain Producers Association (IGPA) co-hosted with the Oregon Wheat Growers League the 2008 "Oregon-Idaho Grains Conference" December 10-12 at the Coeur d'Alene Resort in Coeur d'Alene.

Nearly three hundred participants attended the conference which featured three days of keynote speakers, educational workshops, and an exhibit hall of agribusinesses before culminating with individual state awards programs. Kansas State University agricultural economics professor Barry Flinchbaugh and policy analyst Ross Korves each keynoted general sessions while nationally renowned guitarist and comedian Mike Rayburn dazzled the audience with his musical talent and positive message.

As part of the annual awards luncheon, the **IGPA recognized three individuals for their contributions to the Idaho grain industry. Honorees included University of Idaho grains researcher Dr. Juliet Windes of Idaho Falls, Capital Press agriculture reporter Pat McCoy of Boise, and grain farmer Robert Brown of Ririe.**

Windes, Assistant Professor of Agronomy and Cereals Cropping Systems at the University of Idaho, Idaho Falls, received the IGPA's "*Outstanding Extension Educator/Researcher*" award for her work in the development of cereal varieties in southern and southeastern Idaho. Dr. Windes was recognized for her work addressing problems with drought, soil diseases, and other production challenges faced by Idaho wheat and barley farmers.

Receiving the award for "*Outstanding Agriculture Journalist*" was Pat McCoy of the Idaho Bureau of the **Capital Press**. McCoy, a twenty-five year employee of the weekly agriculture newspaper, was lauded for her diligence and exemplary work in her field.

Third generation Ririe grain farmer, Robert Brown, was honored with the "*Lifetime Achievement*" honor for nearly three decades of volunteer service to the IGPA. Now mostly retired from his farming operation, Robert served over fifteen years on the Bonneville County IGPA board before stepping down from the post in early 2008.

The convention will return to Coeur d'Alene next year, tentatively scheduled for **December 1-4, 2009**.

2009 IBC CALENDAR

Jan. 6-7 - Barley Improvement Research Conference in San Diego, CA

Jan. 13-14 - IBC/UI Farm Business Management Schools in Lewiston / Idaho Falls

Jan. 25-31 - US Grains Council Annual Barley Mission to Japan

Jan. 30 - National Barley Foods Forum in Sacramento, CA

Feb. 3-6 - UI Cereal Schools in Burley, Pocatello, Idaho Falls, Ashton and Preston

Feb. 7-10 - US Grains Council International Marketing Conference in Guatemala

Feb. 10-12 - UI Cereal Schools in Greencreek, Genesee and Bonners Ferry

Feb. 22-24 - National Barley Growers Association Winter Board Meeting in WDC

Feb. 23-24 - Idaho Ag Summit in Boise

March 3 - IBC's Annual Barley Research Review in Boise

March 5 - Idaho Wheat Commission's Direct Seed Conference in Idaho Falls

Focus on Excellence - IBC presents 2008 Barley Industry Service Awards to UI Weed Scientists

This year, the IBC recognized two well deserving weed scientists from the University of Idaho - **Dr. Donn Thill and Dr. Don Morishita** - for their collective body of weed science research and the development of a one-of-a-kind computerized Expert Herbicide Resistance / Persistence Management System that will be available to Idaho producers this winter. These two weed scientists have many years of experience in research and extension and both currently serve in research and extension management positions. Dr. Thill is Professor of Weed Science, Superintendent of the Palouse Research, Extension and Education Center in Moscow and Assistant Director of the Idaho Agricultural Experiment Station. Dr. Morishita is Extension Professor of Weed Science and Superintendent of the Kimberly Research, Extension and Education Center in Kimberly.

Their new state-of-the-art **Expert Herbicide Resistance / Persistence Management System** will enable growers and field consultants throughout Idaho to make better informed decisions on crop rotations and herbicide applications in order to address two complex two management issues in Idaho – plant back restrictions and weed resistance.

The need for such a real-time management tool was reinforced by the growing occurrence of herbicide resistance in weed populations in the Pacific Northwest. Resistant biotypes have been reported in 14 different weed species in small grain production systems in Idaho. Herbicide resistance is likely to continue escalating because of over-reliance on herbicides with the same modes of action. To address this growing concern, our UI weed scientists published the first-of-their-kind extension publications – PNW Bulletin 571, Herbicide Persistence / Plant Back Restrictions and PNW Bulletin 437, Herbicide Resistant Weed Management.

While these extension bulletins were widely recognized as the authoritative publications on weed management in our region, the UI weed scientist team did not feel satisfied that their grower education efforts were completed. Four years ago they initiated a team project to create an interactive computerized system that would allow growers to input their crop rotations and herbicide selections to determine best weed management strategies over both the short and long term.

According to the UI Research Office, this new Expert Weed Management System will be the first-of-its kind anywhere in the world. They are currently pursuing patents on this new computerized system but will make it widely available at no cost to Idaho producers.

