



IDAHO BARLEY NEWSBRIEF

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Idaho barley check-off dollars at work... Japanese food barley trade team visits Idaho in early August.

The IBC hosted a 9-member food barley trade team from Japan in northern Idaho and eastern Washington on August 2-5. We discussed the 2014 food barley crop in the Bonners Ferry and Genesee areas and opportunities to expand food barley production contracts in northern Idaho.



IBC implements 2014 Malting Barley Crop Crisis Action Plan

Due to highly unusual monsoonal moisture which blanketed a wide section of southern and eastern Idaho during the month of August, where the majority of the Idaho malting barley crop is grown, we are seeing severe sprout damage in the mature but unharvested malting barley crop. This is resulting in as much as 60% or more of crop being rejected for malting purposes and being downgraded as much lower-valued feed barley.

After the extent of loss was becoming clear in early August, the Idaho Barley Commission immediately began implementing a multi-pronged **2014 Malting Barley Quality Crisis Action Plan:**

- ◆ We are fielding questions from barley producers on feed market alternatives and crop insurance questions. The IBC and UI prepared and released a “Producer Guide on Handling Malting Barley that has been Injured by Sprout” (August 19) which can be found on our website at www.barley.idaho.gov. Assisting barley producers will be the commission’s top priority.
- ◆ We are conducting extensive outreach with all malting barley customers to determine the extent of losses and ways to help mitigate the loss of malting barley anticipated from the 2014 harvest.
- ◆ We are conducting extensive outreach to local cattle and dairy feeders, west coast feed users and potential export customers to identify appropriate market options for the unexpectedly large volumes of feed barley (rejected malting barley).
- ◆ We are communicating closely with the USDA Risk Management Agency (RMA), crop insurance companies and growers to clearly understand what quality losses will be covered under various barley crop insurance policies and clear up confusion and misinformation.
- ◆ We are communicating closely with USDA Farm Service Agency and locally affected counties on appropriate disaster declarations which might make additional USDA assistance available to the affected producers in the future.

Barley Agronomist Corner

This has become a challenging growing season to begin as the new barley agronomist at the University of Idaho and for you the barley growers of Idaho. Many of you were on pace to have an excellent production season, but due to the unprecedented weather this year, many of you are facing serious crop damage to your barley due to sprouting despite using best management practices for Idaho. Rainfall in much of southeast Idaho is an inch or more above August normals where Twin Falls was especially hard hit receiving more than 4 inches of rain above normal for the month. The Idaho Barley Commission and the University of Idaho through the efforts of Kelly Olson and Dr. Juliet Marshall have released, "Producer Guide on Handling Malting Barley that has been Injured by Sprout," which I encourage you to take a look at as a resource.



To get up to speed on the issues facing producers, I have been visiting with industry representatives and growers in an attempt to understand the severity of the damage the weather has done to the barley crop this year. Despite these setbacks, my program is moving forward to initiate research this fall and next spring to improve best management practices. I believe it is particularly important to say that we look forward to hearing from you as the feedback and contributions from all growers, county extension personnel, consultants, and barley industry stakeholders are crucial for creating a productive research and extension program to address the current needs of Idaho growers.

Christopher W. Rogers, Ph.D., UI Aberdeen Research and Extension Center



Combine moisture readings likely inaccurate

Contributed by Dr. Juliet Marshall, UI Associate Professor of Cereals Pathology and Agronomy

Grain still standing in the field has been damaged by rain. Each rain event contributes to additional deterioration of grain quality. While the objective is to harvest as quickly as possible, if the grain is going to be stored for later use as feed (or ethanol, etc), please **DO NOT** harvest at high moisture content. Already moldy grain will continue moldy growth unless the moisture is below 12%. To arrest growth, **harvest below 12% and keep air flowing in the bins.**

Moisture sensors in the combine are unlikely to be accurate for sprout damaged grain! Moisture sensors are calibrated to read **sound** grain - that is, grain with density of 60 pounds per bushel. Rain-damaged and sprouted grain lose density and test weights are coming in at 50 to 56 pounds per bushel. The combine moisture sensors cannot recalculate moisture based on these lower test weights and this increases the likelihood that moisture readings are inaccurate!!

Grain reading 12% moisture as you are harvesting MAY ACTUALLY BE 13 - 14% MOISTURE.

If you decide to "push it" and harvest at 13% moisture, you may actually be at 14-15% moisture! Please be aware that those conditions will allow for the development of "hot spots" in storage, and molds will continue to grow. You may end up taking grain out of the bins with a jack hammer and respiration gear!

The “official” instruments for measuring grain moisture are the Perten (<http://www.perten.com/>) and / or the Dickey John (<http://www.dickey-john.com/>). If your elevator does not have the correctly calibrated instrumentation, they may not be getting accurate moisture measurements, either.

REFERENCE:

WHEAT TEST WEIGHT DECREASES WITH DELAYED HARVEST

[HTTP://WWW.SITES.EXT.VT.EDU/NEWSLETTER-ARCHIVE/CSES/2006-06/WHEATTESTWEIGHT.HTML](http://WWW.SITES.EXT.VT.EDU/NEWSLETTER-ARCHIVE/CSES/2006-06/WHEATTESTWEIGHT.HTML)

Crop and Soil Environmental News, June 2006

Wade Thomason, Extension Grains Specialist, Dept. of Crop & Soil Environmental Sciences, Virginia Tech

Juliet Marshall, Ph.D.
Associate Professor, Cereals Pathology and Agronomy
Idaho Falls R&E Center
1776 Science Drive Suite 205
Idaho Falls, ID 83402
208-529-8376 office
208-390-4859 cell



Producer Education coming later this fall...

Farm Bill Safety Net Programs

Grain Marketing Strategies

Barley Crop Insurance

