Idaho Barley Commission
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IDAHO BARLEY NEWSBRIEF

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Latest word on the Farm Bill…

On Dec. 12 the House of Representatives passed HR 3695 by a voice vote to extend the current farm bill until January 31, 2014. The Senate does not plan to consider an extension. That leaves current farm programs in limbo for now and no funding authorization for export promotion programs like Foreign Market Development and Market Access which are important to U.S. barley and wheat exports.

It is expected the House-Senate farm bill conference committee will meet January 7-9 to finish the conference report. The goal is to have Congress complete the farm bill in January 2014. **More on pages 4-5.**

Succession Planning on tap in southern and eastern Idaho

With funding support from a risk management education grant awarded to the Idaho Barley Commission, the **University of Idaho Extension team** in southern and eastern Idaho will be offering succession planning education this winter:

1-day Succession Planning Short Courses

- **Jan. 7, 2014 from 9:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at Jefferson County Extension Office, 134 N. Clark, Rigby.** $20 registration fee. To register contact Teton Extension at 208-354-2961.
- **Jan. 8 from 9:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at Soda Springs.** $20 registration fee. To register contact Caribou County Extension at 208-547-3205.
- **Jan. 9 from 9:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at Power County Extension Office, 500 Pocatello Ave., American Falls.** $15 registration fee. To register contact Power County Extension at 208-226-7621.
- **Jan. 21 from 9:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at Gooding Extension Office, 203 Lucy Lane, Gooding.** $25 registration free. To register contact Cassia County Extension at 208-878-9461.
- **Jan. 22 at Garibaldi's, 1003 Main St, Buhl.** $25 registration free. To register contact Cassia County Extension at 208-878-9461.
- **Jan. 23 at Con Paulos Chevrolet in Jerome.** $25 registration free. To register contact Cassia County Extension at 208-878-9461.

4-week Farm Succession & Estate Planning Short Courses

featuring accounting, legal and financial planning experts. Topics include:

- Starting the Conversation
- Succession Planning
- Retirement Planning
- Estate Planning Tools

Bonneville County Extension Office, 2925 Rollandet, Idaho Falls.
Starting Feb. 12 through March 5, 2014, 10:00 a.m. to 3 :00 p.m.
Registration fee of $100 per operation. To register, contact Teton County Extension at 208-354-2961.

Zions Bank Building, 102 W. Main Street, Burley.
Starting Jan. 28 through Feb. 20, 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
Registration fee of $100 per operation. To register, contact Cassia County Extension at 208-878-9461.

University of Idaho Gifts of Grain

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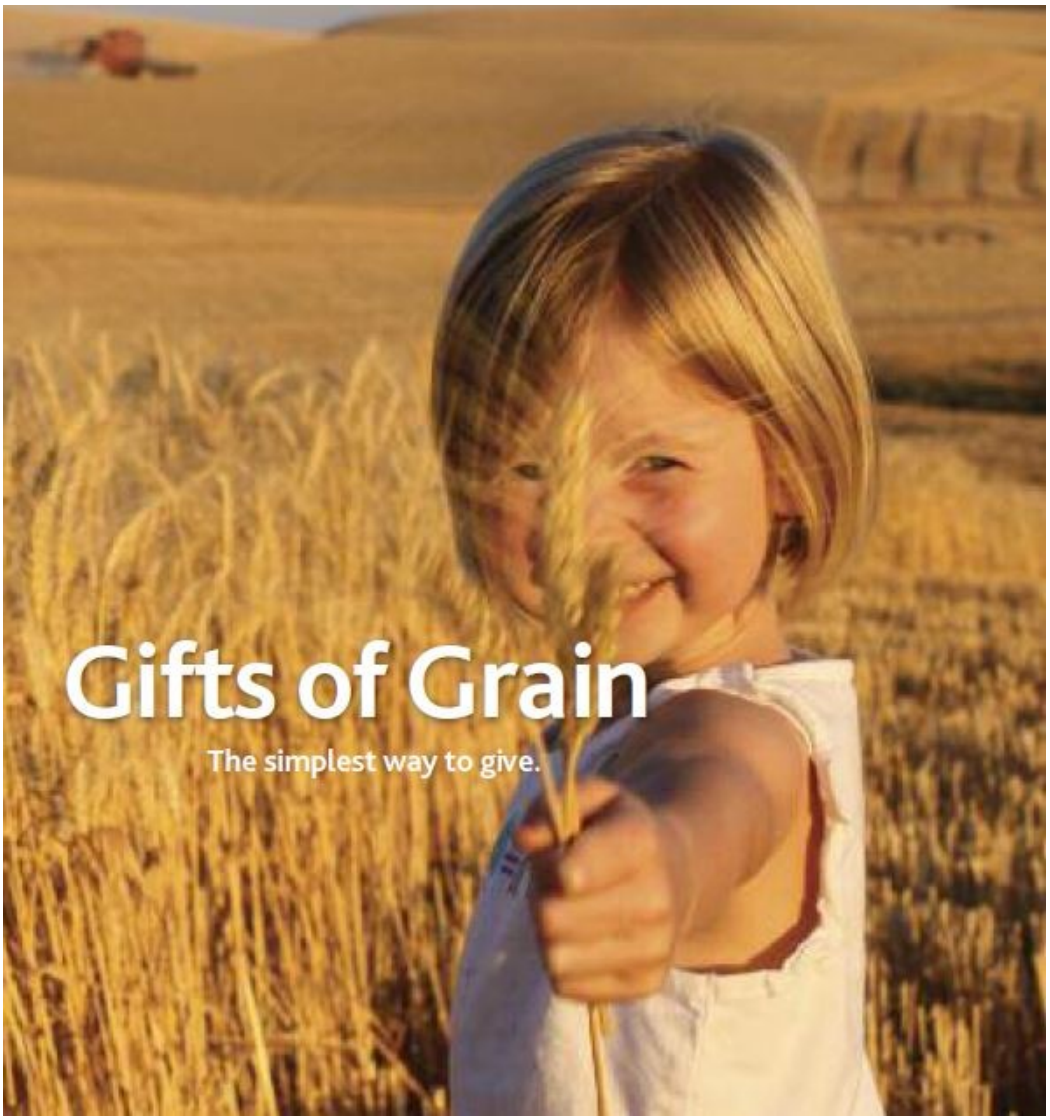

Short Course on Habitat and Conservation Practices for Beneficial Insects on Idaho Farms

A free short course for farmers and agricultural professionals presented by the Integrated Plant Protection Center at Oregon State University in collaboration with The Idaho Nature Conservancy, the Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation, and the Western Region IPM Center

EVENT DATE: Thursday, January 16th, 2014

PLACE: The Nature Conservancy Idaho Field Office, Hailey, ID

TIME: 9:00 am -5:00 pm

REGISTRATION REQUIRED: Gwendolyn Ellen, 541-737-6272, gwendolyn@science.oregonstate.edu

Researchers at the Integrated Plant Protection Center (IPPC) of Oregon State University (OSU), and the Western Region IPM Center at the University of California (UC), Davis and conservationists of The Nature Conservancy Idaho and Xerces are teaming up to provide you a two-day short course on on-farm beneficial insects and the agricultural conservation practices that promote them on your farm. Part one of the course will be a winter day full of details (January 16th, Hailey, ID) on the beneficial insect predators, parasites and pollinators themselves, establishing practices that provide essentials they need to stay on your farm and how to integrate these practices within your farm production plan (various production systems represented). Guest speakers include Ron Bitner of Bitner Vineyards in Caldwell and ID Natural Resources Conservation Service representative Patti Hurley.

Part two of the course will be held in the summer 2014 on a farm near the Twin Falls area (details are being arranged). At the summer day participants will be able to see conservation practices at work. There will be opportunities to reinforce and practice your course acquired field knowledge of beneficials while gaining practical tips from experienced farmers and conservationists on adopting ID agricultural conservation practices.

Important to know: There is no charge for the two-day course and lunch will be provided at both Part One (winter day) and Part Two (summer day) of the course. Registrants of Part One (January 16th, Hailey) of the course can be automatically registered for Part Two (on-farm, summer day) of the course.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from the Idaho Barley Commission

The ~~*2012 2013*~~ 2014 Farm Bill

Special feature contributed by Gordley Associates, Washington, D.C. representatives of the National Barley Growers Association

Don't Put Off Until Tomorrow…

Procrastination. Most of us fall victim to this habitual imperfection from time to time. But those who routinely practice this failing do tend to get caught short more often than not. Decisions left to the last possible moment leaves insufficient time for final details to be worked out. This is especially so if everyday circumstances also decide not to cooperate.

Such was the case with Congress and the Farm Bill as 2013 came to an end.

The two major points of contention – the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) funding levels and the mechanism for support in the Commodity Title – had been known for several years. But those disagreements were not resolved until Thursday, December 5, when a compromise framework was finally hammered out between the four Principles of the farm bill conference committee – Chairs Lucas and Stabenow and Ranking Members Peterson and Cochran – and sent to the Congressional Budget Office (CBO) for a cost estimate, AKA "a score."

This was great news… an agreement! Hallelujah!

But then reality set in. The House was set to adjourn in a little over a week – Friday, December 13. How on earth could the conferees get this tentative compromise framework scored, technicalities worked out, legislation drafted, and to the House floor for a vote in just seven days? Normally, the last scheduled vote prior to an extended recess is late Thursday afternoon/evening, making the actual time slot for action even slimmer.

It takes a pretty serious issue to get between a Member of Congress and Reagan National Airport on a Thursday evening prior to recess. And a farm bill vote is not even close to being on the list of likely "high priority" issues that could put the brakes on the House's departure, even though the Senate was staying in session through December 20.

So of course, getting the farm bill ready for consideration on the floor by the House prior to their recess was not going to happen at such a late hour. And that was likely the case, even before it became known that the CBO senior analyst responsible for the Commodity Title cost estimates had left town about the time the compromise was reached. The analyst had long before committed to attend a family wedding that weekend, and was ultimately caught out of town for several days by a snowstorm that hit the mid-Atlantic region late that weekend into the start of the following work week.

One could surmise that this analyst should have forgone his family obligation given the possibility that an agreement might be reached. One could also surmise that such an agreement should not have been put off until the very last minute. After three years, staff do need to get on with their lives and not wait in a perpetual state of call for a breakthrough that had become seemingly

unobtainable. A year earlier, Congress had remained in session through the holidays, finally passing a stop-gap fiscal cliff bill in the early hours of New Year's Day that included a year-long extension of the 2008 Farm Bill. Worry mounted as time wore on that this precedent was becoming a very real possibility once again since negotiations appeared to be locked in a stalemate.

Ultimately, the four Principles finally had a score in hand on Thursday morning, December 12, a week after their breakthrough compromise agreement. But it was much too late for legislation to be finalized and sent to the floor for a vote before the House left town. Final consideration of a farm bill by Congress would have to be punted into 2014.

The score was cause for cautious optimism, though. Fears that the commodity title would be too costly were put to rest when Chairman Lucas described it as "right on the money" when he emerged from the meeting with his counterparts that morning. Noting concerns about the potential for rising milk costs in January due to provisions of Permanent Law kicking in, the Chairman also said the House would take up an extension of the 2008 farm bill through January 31, 2014, which the Chamber passed by a voice vote later that day before adjourning for the year.

While the Senate remained in session for an additional week, the Democratic leadership refused to consider the farm bill extension, insisting that a full five year authorization was the only legislation the upper chamber would consider.

The good news was that both the House and Senate leadership agreed the intent was to get the bill finished and passed by the end of January, and conferees and their faithful staff worked through the holidays once again to prepare the legislation for final consideration by the House and Senate.

So, after three long years of dashed hopes, setbacks, and acrimony, a farm bill might finally be passed by Congress and signed into law by the President in the next few weeks. Let it be so!