

IDAHO BARLEY NEWS BRIEF

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March 8 webinar on crop insurance

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Dean John Foltz
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Barley, Alfalfa and Livestock Crop Insurance Options on March 8 at 8:30 AM

presented by Dave Paul, director, Risk Management Agency Spokane Regional Office. **To participate from your own computer, log onto: <http://connect.cals.uidaho.edu/barley>**

For 2013 barley insurance, the **feed barley price guarantee** will be announced early next week. It is calculated based on the average of the daily closing price of September 2013 corn futures traded in the month of February times a factor of .8920. It looks like a price of \$5.24.

Investing in Idaho Barley Research

After a 9-month in-depth feasibility assessment on the need and cost-effectiveness of pursuing a greatly expanded research partnership with the University of Idaho, the **Idaho Barley Commission board voted unanimously on February 20 at a quarterly meeting held in Boise, to fund a \$1 million Barley Research Endowment with the University of Idaho, which would be funded over a period of five years. This endowment will allow the University of Idaho to create a dedicated Barley Agronomist / Soil Fertility Professorship (70% applied research and 30% extension) to be located at the UI's Aberdeen Research & Extension Center.**

The University of Idaho is committing an equal or greater investment, which includes covering 100% of the cost of a new scientist's salary and some technical support immediately and up until after the 5-year period when funds become available from the IBC's endowment investment. **The UI also agrees to help cost-share this scientist into perpetuity, guaranteeing that this research position will NOT be eliminated even in the face of future funding cuts.**

In order to meet this \$1 million investment over the next five years, the **IBC board voted to raise the Idaho barley assessment from the current rate of \$.02 per hundredweight (less than 1 cent/bu) to \$0.03 per hundredweight (1.4 cents/bu). This barley check-off WILL SUNSET AFTER 5 YEARS unless a future IBC board votes to continue the \$.03/Cwt. rate. Without a positive vote by the IBC at the conclusion of the five year period, the barley check-off returns to \$.02/Cwt.**

The IBC wants to hear from growers about this research investment and the assessment increase. Barley producers are encouraged to contact:
Kelly Olson, Administrator, Boise, 208-334-2090, kolson@idahobarley.org
Dwight Little, eastern ID commissioner, littlefarming@hotmail.com
Pat Purdy, south-central ID commissioner, pat@purdyent.com
Tim Dillin, north ID commissioner, tdillin@hotmail.com

It's not too late to respond to the USDA Census of Agriculture

Idaho farmers and ranchers are not missing an opportunity to have their voices heard and their farms represented in the 2012 Census of Agriculture. The U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) reports that 16,000 Census forms were submitted by state farmers, helping ensure Idaho's communities and agricultural industry have a voice in the future. For producers who missed the deadline, NASS is alerting them that it's not too late to be counted.

Every Idaho farm and ranch is important and needs to be counted in the 2012 Census of Agriculture. Whether you operate on two acres or 2,000, the information gathered from all producers is important, so it can provide a true picture of U.S. agriculture today and help everyone plan appropriately for tomorrow's needs.

Conducted once every five years by NASS, the Census provides detailed data covering nearly every facet of U.S. agriculture at the national, state and county levels. It looks at land use and ownership, production practices, expenditures and other factors that affect the way farmers do business. Decision makers and commodity groups at the local and state level use the Census of Agriculture to make decisions that directly impact Idaho farmers, their businesses and their communities.

The deadline for submitting Census forms was February 4. Those who have not responded will receive a second copy of the form in the mail to give them another opportunity. Farmers can return their forms by mail or online by visiting a secure website, www.agcensus.usda.gov. Federal law requires all agricultural producers to participate in the Census and requires NASS to keep all individual information confidential.

If you have questions about the Census or need help filling out your form, visit www.agcensus.usda.gov or call 1-888-4AG-STAT (1-888-424-7828). NASS has helpful tips available and people standing by to provide assistance to make the Census a successful and complete count of Idaho's agriculture.

For more information please contact:

Vince Matthews, Director, USDA, NASS, Idaho Field Office
(208) 334-1507 or (800) 691-9987

vince.matthews@usda.gov

