



IDAHO BARLEY NEWSBRIEF

Making sense of the new Farm Bill Commodity Title

Inside this Edition:

Farm Safety Net Choices
 Producer webinars
 2014 water outlook

Idaho barley check-off dollars at work...

IBC offers producer educational webinars -

Right Risk: Evaluating Risk Management Options for Idaho Grain Producers featuring Dr. Jay Parsons, Optimal Ag/Colorado State Univ.. Link at <http://connect.cals.uidaho.edu/p7h1jt0m22a/>

Irrigation Efficiencies in a Water Short Year featuring Dr. Howard Neibling, UI Kimberly. Link at <http://connect.cals.uidaho.edu/p88owiek00j/>

2014 Global Grain Market Outlook and Strategies featuring Bob Utterback, Utterback marketing. Link at <http://connect.cals.uidaho.edu/p818x8sgjo4/>

Developing your 2014 Pre-Harvest Marketing Plan for Wheat featuring Ed Usset, Univ. of Minnesota. Link at <http://connect.cals.uidaho.edu/p4nnx7ry9of/>

The Agricultural Act of 2014 replaces direct payments, countercyclical payments and ACRE with two new farm safety net programs, known as PLC and ARC. Producers will be faced with a complicated set of choices once USDA writes the new regulations to implement these programs and sign-up begins, which is not expected until Fall 2014. **The first payments which might be triggered under PLC or ARC for the 2014 crop year won't be available until October 2015.**

- ◆ **One time choice between PLC or ARC on a commodity-by-commodity basis.*** Both to be paid on historical base acres, not current year planted acres. *Exception is if producer selects ARC farm-level coverage then all commodities on that farm must be enrolled in this program.
- ◆ **Updating base acres** - One time option to re-allocate base acres to the simple average of planted and prevented plant acres during the 2009-2012 crop years, not to exceed the aggregate of current base acres .
- ◆ **Updating yields** - One time option to update yields to 90% of the average 2008-2012 yields.

Price Loss Coverage (PLC)	Agriculture Risk Coverage (ARC)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Similar to old counter-cyclical program with higher reference or target prices. ◆ Paid on 85% of base acres. ◆ Payments will be triggered if the 12 month national average price is lower than the established reference price. Reference prices for barley: \$4.95/bu and wheat \$5.50. ◆ Payment = Ref. Price minus marketing year average (MYA) Price x Program Yield. ◆ Supplemental Coverage Option (SCO) - supplemental crop insurance can be purchased for individual crops. More on page 2 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Similar to old ACRE program but county yield is used rather than state yields. ◆ One time choice between county level or farm level (for this option all crops must be enrolled in ARC). ◆ Paid on 85% of base acres for county level and 65% of base for farm level. ◆ ARC guarantee = 86% of prev. 5-year Olympic ave. of revenue (benchmark yield x benchmark price). ◆ Payment triggered when current crop revenue is less than ARC guarantee, but limited to 10% band of revenue between 86% and 76%. More on page 2

More on the Agricultural Act of 2014:

Price Loss Coverage (PLC) + SCO

Supplemental Coverage Option -

- ◆ Yearly opt-in/opt-out for SCO coverage for individual crops.
- ◆ Reference price - crop insurance prices based on futures prices.
- ◆ Benchmark Yield - Expected County Yield
- ◆ Benchmark Guarantee - $86\% \times \text{Ref. Price} \times \text{Benchmark Yield}$
- ◆ Actual Revenue - $\text{County Yield} \times \text{Harvest Price}$
- ◆ **Payment per acre = Benchmark Guarantee minus Actual Revenue**

PLC Payment Limitation: \$125,000 per producer, \$250,000 for producer and spouse.

Agriculture Risk Coverage (ARC)

- ◆ Reference Price - 5-year Olympic Market Year Average (MYA) price
- ◆ Benchmark Yield - Expected County Yield
- ◆ Benchmark Revenue - $\text{Reference Price} \times \text{Benchmark Yield}$
- ◆ Benchmark Guarantee - $86\% \times \text{Ref. Price} \times \text{Benchmark Yield}$
- ◆ Actual Revenue - $\text{County yield} \times \text{MYA Price}$
- ◆ $\text{Payment per acre} = \text{Benchmark Guarantee} - \text{County Revenue}$
- ◆ **Maximum Payment: 10% of Benchmark Revenue.**

ARC Payment Limitation: \$125,000 per producer, \$250,000 for producer and spouse.



Craig Corbett receives 2014 Governor's Award from Lt. Governor Brad Little on Feb. 18.

Craig Corbett wins 2014 Governor's Award for Excellence in Marketing

Craig Corbett, former Idaho barley commissioner from eastern Idaho, former president of the National Barley Growers Association and long-time risk management education advisor to the IBC, received **one of 5 Governor's Awards for Excellence in Agriculture on February 18 during the 2014 Idaho Ag Summit**. Craig was recognized for his service in providing grain marketing education to fellow grain producers in Idaho, for his pioneering work in developing new barley crop insurance products available to Idaho producers and for his own efforts in developing and implementing grain marketing plans and strategies.

Celebrating
25 Years
 of service to Idaho
 Barley Producers



2014 Water Outlook & Irrigation Recommendations in a Water Short Year

High pressure dominated Idaho's weather in January, resulting in below normal snowpack across almost all water basins in the state. But good news arrived in February in the form of multiple storm systems tracking across the southern part of Idaho, significantly improving snow water equivalent levels to 88% in the Boise Basin to 143% in the Snake Basin Above Palisades, as depicted in the Mountain Snow Water Equivalent map to the right.

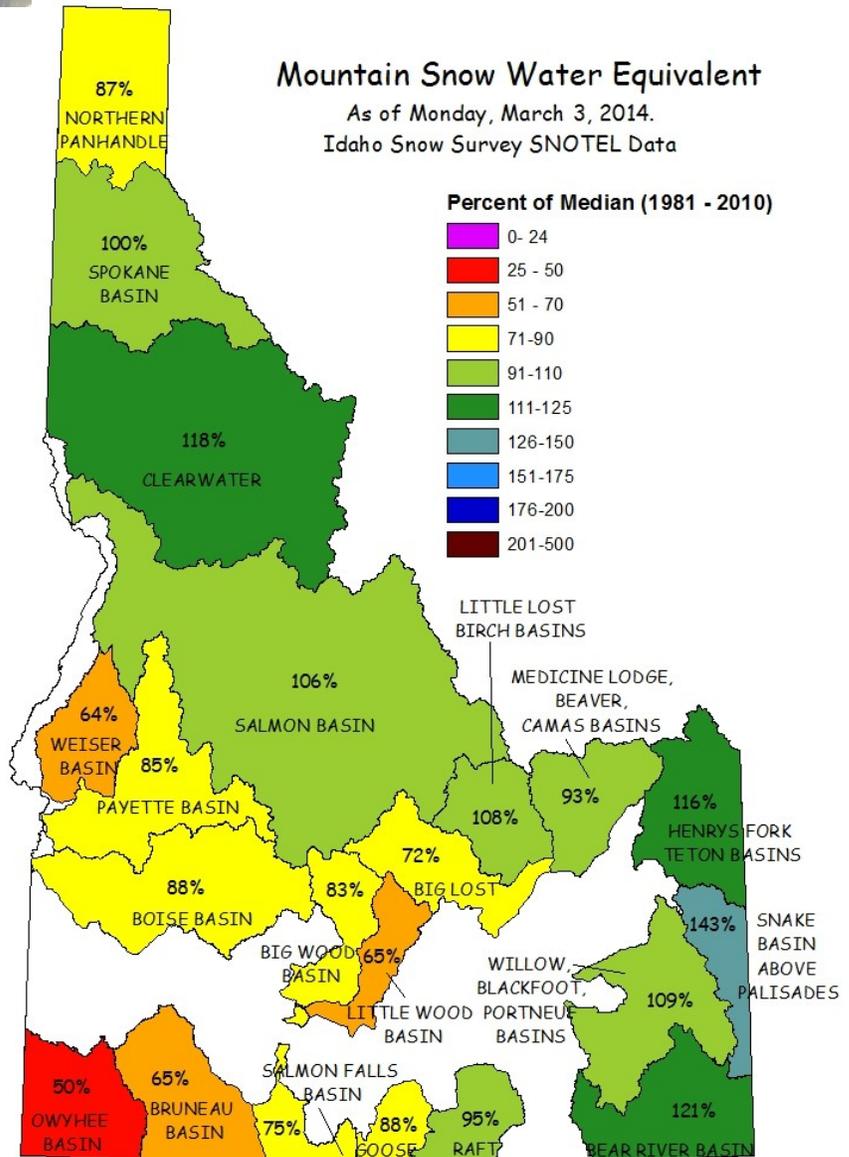
Dr. Howard Neibling, UI Extension Irrigation Engineer, presented a webinar this winter (see link to recorded webinar on page 4), to recommend irrigation strategies that can be employed to improve irrigation efficiencies and/or to minimize usage if reduced water delivery is anticipated:

Fixing or replacing sprinkler system packages:

- ◆ If system is more than 5 years old, replace sprinkler package.
- ◆ Fix leaks and replace worn nozzles.
- ◆ Use shorter set times to avoid over watering.
- ◆ Skip sets with lowest crop productivity.
- ◆ Shut off end gun and re-nozzle.
- ◆ Shut off end gun and outer span if necessary.
- ◆ Run system as slow as possible without runoff to minimize evaporation losses.
- ◆ Plant one-half of field to early crop and other half to later crop.

Early Season Management

- ◆ Check soil moisture to anticipated maximum rooting depth (24-30 in).
- ◆ Be aware of early-season crop root depth and moisture in root zone.
- ◆ If water is available and root zone is dry, irrigate to fill profile and avoid stress before tillering (MAD<0.5).
- ◆ If water is not available until after tillering but maximum root zone is only partially full, irrigate to fill root zone before boot stage.



More on Water Outlook and Irrigation Strategies:

Late Season Recommendations:

- ◆ For optimum yield, water use and grain quality have >2" avail water at soft dough:
 - stop irrigation with full profile at soft dough on deep, non-sandy soils.
 - give one irrigation after soft dough on shallow or sandy soils.
 - cut off water at or before soft dough if high pumping costs or water is needed elsewhere.
- ◆ Water past soft dough on most soils:
 - does not improve yield
 - may reduce test weight & protein
 - may increase blacktip infestation
 - wastes water and energy (adds cost for no benefit)
 - can leach crop nutrients
- ◆ Soft dough:
 - Squeeze kernel & inside is somewhere between milk and hard dough
 - Indentation made by thumbnail disappears almost immediately after pressure is release.

Use irrigation scheduling to best match water applied to crop need during the growing season:

- ◆ Water budget with AgriMet.
- ◆ Shovel or soil probe with soil feel and appearance method.
- ◆ Soil sensors with in-field data loggers.
- ◆ Soil sensors with data transmitted to web server and accessible from internet.

Irrigation Scheduler Mobile (<http://weather.wsu.edu/is>)

- ◆ Simple soil water balance based on ET.
- ◆ Designed for use on a smart phone, but usable on any desktop web browser.
- ◆ Designed for usability #1.
- ◆ Quick & easy to set up.
- ◆ Automatically pulls ET data from selected weather stations.
- ◆ Can run on any weather network who's data can be automatically accessed.

Dr. Neibling webinar on Irrigation Efficiencies in a Water Short Year.... Link at <http://connect.cals.uidaho.edu/p88owiek00j/>

Other available resources can be found at <http://irrigation.wsu.edu>