



IDAHO BARLEY NEWS BRIEF

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FHB forum looks at control strategies

- A forum to explore the potential threat of Fusarium Head Blight (scab) disease in Idaho barley was hosted by the Idaho Barley Commission on Jan. 9. Experts from the Midwest where the disease has been prevalent for the past two decades helped attendees better understand how the fungus is established, how it spreads and agronomic management to prevent crop losses. Attendees agreed to form Western US Scab Research Initiative.



2014 Farm Bill crosses finish line

A new 5-year Farm Bill is scheduled for a vote in Congress this week. It will cover crop years 2014-2018. Key provisions of the Commodity Title include:

DIRECT PAYMENTS: Eliminated (except for cotton in 2014 only).

SAFETY NET CHOICES: There will be a one-time choose between a **revenue** (Ag Risk Coverage, ARC/Shallow Loss) or **price loss coverage** (PLC, target/reference price) **program**.

Payments will be made on base acres and base yields with a one-time option to update base acres based on 2009-2012 plantings. There also will be a one-time option to update base yields on a commodity-by-commodity basis to 90% of the average 2008-2012 (five years) yields.

ARC PROVISIONS - Payments are triggered once prices fall 14 percentage points below the prior five-year average.

- ◆ **Subsidy covers a narrow 10-point band — from 86 percent to 76 percent of revenues.**
- ◆ **Payments:** 5-year rolling Olympic avg. revenue, with an optional yield/price plug.
- ◆ **Payment factor:** 85% of base acres at County level and 65% at Farm level.

PLC PROVISIONS - Fixed, government-set target prices paid on 85 percent of base acres. Farmers who sign up for PLC will also have available to them a new lower-cost version of revenue insurance based on county-wide losses called Supplemental Coverage Option (SCO), designed to parallel ARC in that it also will have a 14 percent deductible and is intended to cover only that band of losses down to where the farmer has more conventional buy-up crop insurance coverage.

- ◆ **Payment factor:** 85% of base.
- ◆ **Reference/Target Prices:** Barley \$4.95/bu; Wheat \$5.50/bu \$4.95/bu.



SUPPLEMENTAL COVERAGE OPTION (SCO):

- ◆ **Availability:** Begins with 2015 crop for those choosing PLC but not ARC.
- ◆ **Coverage:** Up to 86%
- ◆ **Premium subsidy:** 65%

CROP SUBSIDY PAYMENT CAPS:

- ◆ **Payment limits:** There is a total payment cap of \$125,000 in subsidies per year for individual farmers and \$250,000 for a married couple. Unlike past farm bills, there will be no caps on individual program payments. The Adjusted Gross Income cap for payment eligibility is \$900,000.

CROP INSURANCE: there will be a conservation compliance requirement but no adjusted gross income test or cap on crop insurance payouts.

CONSERVATION:

- ◆ **Conservation Reserve Program (CRP):** Acreage cap lowered to 24 million acres by FY 2018 (about 1.6 million fewer acres than currently in CRP).
- ◆ **Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP):** Maximum acres cut to around 10.3 million acres, or 2.4 million fewer than enrolled in recent years.
- ◆ **Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP):** Continued, carve out for wildlife habitat. The FY 2014 omnibus appropriations bill reduced funding for the program.



UPCOMING IDAHO GRAIN WEBINARS

sponsored by the Idaho Barley Commission

Feb. 3 webinar at 8:30 a.m. MST for 75 minutes. “Developing your 2014 Pre-Harvest Marketing Plan for Wheat” presented by Ed Usset, University of Minnesota. Connect at <http://connect.cals.uidaho.edu/barley>

Feb. 7 webinar at 2:00 pm MST for 90 minutes. “2014 Global Grain Market Outlook and Strategies” presented by Bob Utterback, Utterback Marketing
Connect at <http://connect.cals.uidaho.edu/barley>

Feb. 24 webinar at 8:30 a.m. MST for 60 minutes – “Irrigation Efficiencies in a Water Short Year” presented by Dr. Howard Neibling, UI Kimberly
Connect at <http://connect.cals.uidaho.edu/barley>

sponsored by the Idaho Wheat Commission

RECORDED WEBINAR on Ag Tax Issues presented by Jerry Brown, link can found at...<http://connect.cals.uidaho.edu/p2alaqom18n/>

Don't Miss the 2014 University of Idaho Extension Cereal Schools...

SOUTHERN / EASTERN

Feb. 4 - Burley Inn, Burley (9:00 a.m.)

Feb. 5 - Pocatello Red Lion (9:00 a.m.)

Feb. 6 - Idaho Falls Hotel on the Falls (9:00 a.m.)

Feb. 6 - Ashton Trails Inn Restaurant (9:00 a.m.)

Feb. 7 - Preston Robinson Bldg. (9:00 a.m.)

NORTH

Feb. 11 - Greencreek Community Hall (8:00 a.m.)

Feb. 12- Lewiston Roundup Grounds, 2100 Tammany Creek Rd, (8:00 a.m.)

Feb. 13 - Bonners Ferry, Memorial Hall at Boundary County fairgrounds (8:00 a.m.)

Celebrating
25 Years
of service to Idaho
Barley Producers