Idaho Barley Commission
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IDAHO BARLEY NEWSBRIEF

Inside this Edition:

Idaho barley check-off dollars at work…

The Idaho Barley Commission hosts Japanese trade team - The IBC hosted a 9-member trade team from Japan, one of our largest barley export customers, in Lewiston and Genesee on June 23-24. The team was interested in food barley and high quality 2-row feed barley produced in the PNW.

Last year, Japan imported 67.5 TMT of barley from the U.S., up sharply from the previous year. The team was sponsored by the US Grains Council.

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TETONIA BARLEY & POTATO FIELD DAY

WHEN: JULY 25TH, 2013, 12 PM - 2 PM

WHERE: UI TETONIA RESEARCH FARM
888 West Highway 33, Newdale ID 83436

FEATURING:

Official Announcement of the Idaho Barley Commission's Barley Agronomist Endowment to U of I CALS Barley and Potato Research Tours

♦♦♦ BBQ Lunch provided by Teton County 4-H ♦♦♦

HOSTED BY:

UNIVERSITY OF IDAHO CALS
IDAHO BARLEY COMMISSION
IDAHO POTATO COMMISSION
USDA AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH SERVICE

CO-SPONSORED BY:

Busch Ag
Great Western Malting Co.
InteGrow Malt
MillerCoors
General Mills
Trost Feed and Seed
Reinke Grain
Ririe Grain

Fond Farewell to Steve Balster

On June 26, our good friend and industry colleague, Steve Balster, director of Western US Barley Operations for the Anheuser Busch Company, lost his seven-year battle with cancer. Steve served as the Industry Representative on the Idaho Barley Commission from 2002-2008. He was 54 years old and is survived by his mother Darlene Balster, of Sioux Falls, SD; wife Candace of Roberts, ID; daughters Jessica Balster of Denver, CO and Megan Morton of Menan, ID; sons Aaron Balster of Roberts, ID; Kyle Balster of Plant City, FL; and Travis Lufkin, of Roberts, ID.

With permission from Steve's family, we reprint a poem written in living memory of Steve…

That Man is a Success

Who has lived well, laughed often and loved much
Who has gained the respect of intelligent men,
And the love of children.
Who has filled his niche and accomplished his task.
Who leaves the world better than he found it,
whether by an improved field of barley,
The winning time, or the trophy elk.
Who never lacked appreciation of earth's beauty
Or failed to express it.
Who looked for the best in others,
And gave the best he had.

Steve will be sorely missed by the Idaho barley family but not forgotten. The Idaho Barley Commission is dedicating its Idaho Barley All Stars Award in 2013 to Steve Balster and will make a contribution to the Leadership Idaho Agriculture program in his name.

USDA Delivers Satellite-based Vegetative Crop Condition Information

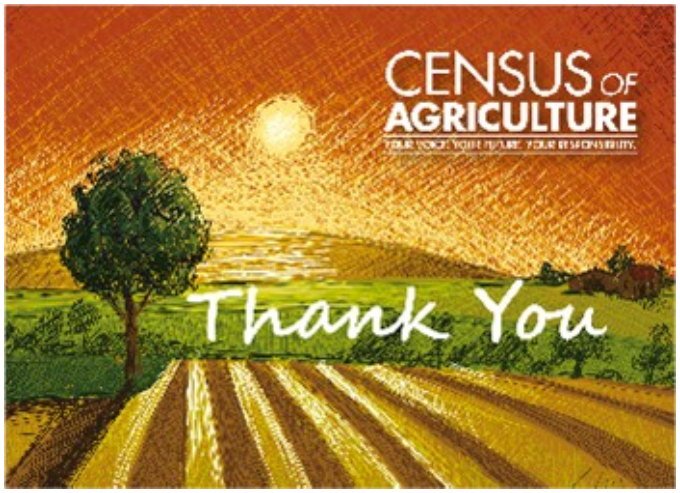
The U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) announces the launch of a new state-of-the-art, satellite-based U.S. crop condition vegetation assessment and monitoring service named ***VegScape* http://nassgeodata.gmu.edu/VegScape/**. Like the popular *CropScape* geospatial product, *VegScape* delivers interactive vegetation indices so that web users can explore, visualize, query, and disseminate current vegetative cover maps and data without the need for specialized expertise, software, or high end computers.

The agricultural community, policy makers, researchers and other interested parties now have a tool for policy decisions, scientific inquiry, and educational efforts. New satellite-based data are loaded on a weekly basis during the growing season. One can compare year-to-year change for 12 years, compare conditions at a given time to mean, median and ratio vegetative cover over the 12 year span, and can overlay a crop mask to help identify crop land versus non-crop land, among many functions. When viewing the maps in most cases the deeper the green color the stronger the plant vigor while yellow/brown indicates poorer conditions.

Vegetation indices, such as the NDVI (Normalized Difference Vegetation Index), and mean, median, and ratio comparisons to prior years have proven useful for assessing crop condition and identifying the land area impacted by floods, drought, major weather anomalies, and vulnerabilities of early/late season crops. Additionally, the National Aeronautics Space Administration's MODIS satellite that NASS uses for this project provides imaging at 250 meter (15 acres) per pixel resolution and 12 years of data history. The high quality spatial information and daily satellite overpasses deliver detailed timely crop specific condition information. Additionally, the data can be directly exported to Google Earth for mashups or delivered to other applications via web services.

In addition to the new *VegScape* product, NASS released the 2012 Cropland Data Layer (CDL) on January 31, 2013 via NASS' *CropScape* geospatial portal http://nassgeodata.gmu.edu/CropScape. The newly released 2012 CDL product depicts agricultural land cover over the continental United States at 30 meters resolution.

Both *CropScape* and *VegScape* support the idea of data democracy by providing free and open access to digital geospatial data layers using open geospatial standards, thereby supporting transparent and collaborative government initiatives. NASS developed both services in cooperation with the Center for Spatial Information Science and Systems, George Mason University, Fairfax, VA. The research and development of *VegScape* and *CropScape* and the NASS partnership with George Mason University reflect NASS' commitment to improve U.S. agricultural production, sustainability, and food security. This successful collaboration results in web applications that benefit the needs of the U.S. agricultural industry, society, and the economy.



USDA NASS thanks ALL who responded. To the Census of Agriculture Survey. Look for results in February 2014.