



# IDAHO BARLEY NEWSBRIEF

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## Idaho barley check-off dollars at work...

### IBC supports research field days.

We have been crisscrossing the state this month attending field days in Bonners Ferry, Moscow, Kimberly, Aberdeen, Soda Springs, Idaho Falls and Ririe. All of these successful events are possible because of the excellent work conducted by a team of talented and hard working scientists from the University of Idaho, USDA Agricultural Research Service and our private sector malting and brewing companies. We want to thank these scientists for their tireless efforts to improve the economic and agronomic performance of barley in Idaho.

## Great Western Malting Co. breaks ground on major malt plant expansion

It was a gloriously sunny day at the Great Western Malting plant in Pocatello today (July 24) when dignitaries from Great Western's parent company, GrainCorp, Pocatello Mayor Brian Blad and Governor Butch Otter gathered to ceremoniously break ground on a major expansion of the 26-year old malt plant. This \$75 million expansion will increase malt processing capacity at Pocatello from 96 thousand metric tons per year to 220 thousand metric tons, an increase of 130 percent.

"This is fabulous news for Idaho barley growers," says Scott Brown, Idaho Barley Commission Vice Chairman and barley grower from Soda Springs. "This expansion is a strong sign that the malt processing industry recognizes that Idaho growers are reliable suppliers of very high quality barley."

"Building our capacity at Pocatello makes sense on a number of levels," says Mr. Greg Friberg, President of GrainCorp Malt. "Idaho is one of the most reliable sources of quality malting barley in North America and Great Western Malting has developed very close relationships with Idaho malting barley growers over 30 years. Freight and utility costs are competitive and the plant is well located to key target markets."

According to GrainCorp Managing Director & CEO Mark Palmquist, "a significant portion of the new capacity will be underpinned by long term supply agreements and relationships with major brewing customers. The balance of the capacity will enable GrainCorp to meet the demand from the craft brewing sector which has been growing consistently at 10-15% per year and is expected to make up 20% of the U.S. beer market in the next five years."



Pictured above from left to right are Randy Neiwirth, 41-year veteran field man for Great Western based in Blackfoot; Scott Brown, barley grower from Soda Springs and Vice Chairman of the Idaho Barley Commission; Greg Friberg, President of GrainCorp Malt unit based in Vancouver, WA; and Clay Kaasa, Director of US Barley Operations based in Blackfoot.

# Barley Agronomist Corner

**Dr. Christopher W. Rogers, University of Idaho Barley Research Agronomist , Aberdeen Research & Center**

Spring planting has wrapped up for many of you with a few areas with fields **Email: [cwrogers@uidaho.edu](mailto:cwrogers@uidaho.edu) Twitter: [@UIbarley](https://twitter.com/UIbarley)**



It has been exactly one year since I began as the Endowed Barley Research Agronomist at the University of Idaho, and it has been a wonderful experience to get to know those working with barley and you the growers. At this time last year, exceptional yield and quality goals were on the horizon for spring grain harvest and then despite all the best efforts of Idaho growers monsoonal rains came that devastated our crops. This year, harvest of winter barley is well underway and we are slightly ahead of the average timing for harvest. We are working to get our spring trials out of the field as soon as they are ready, and we completed harvest of our winter nurseries early this month. In our fields, we have also finished our final irrigations, which occurred at soft dough where the soil profile was filled to ensure adequate soil moisture to complete the growing season. If you are still looking for information to help you make this decision you can find information in the article, "Scheduling the last irrigation on wheat and barley" available from the University of Idaho. If you are looking for new technologies to add to your farm toolbox I would encourage you to investigate the Irrigation Scheduler system that utilizes AgriMet weather stations to help you estimate the amount of available water in your fields. Instructional videos on how to access and setup an account are available from the University of Idaho - <http://www.uidaho.edu/extension/drought/irrigation-scheduler-mobile-how-to-videos>. We have completed most of our field days and have had exceptional turnout at them. We are appreciative of the support and encourage your feedback on topics of interest for both field days and cereal schools in the upcoming year. Finally, we look forward to hearing from you, as the feedback and contributions from all growers, county extension personnel, consultants, and barley industry stakeholders are crucial for creating a productive research and extension program to address the current needs of Idaho growers.



## Enrollment is open for USDA farm support ARC and PLC programs

Producers may now formally enroll in the new federal farm support programs Agricultural Risk Coverage (ARC) and Price Loss Coverage (PLC) . **The enrollment period began on June 17 and will continue through September 30, 2015.** These new programs were established by the 2014 Farm Bill and will trigger payments when prices or revenue drop below pre-established levels.



# Donn Thill, UI CALS Associate Dean of Research and Director of the Idaho Agricultural Experiment Stations, retires July 31

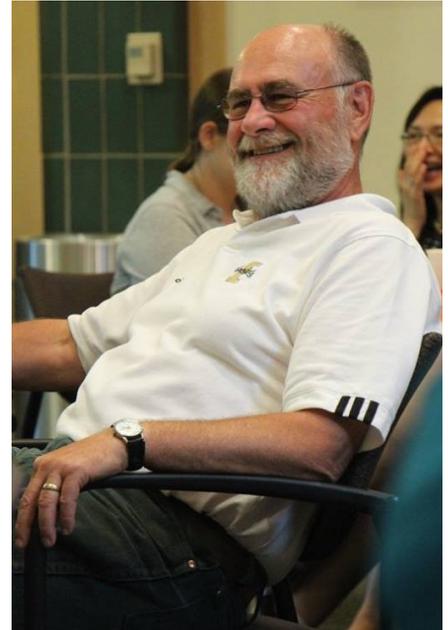
Donn Thill’s goals when he arrived at the University of Idaho 35 years ago were to train graduate students in applied and basic weed science to solve real world grower problems and to help dry land small grain growers manage weed problems in their cropping systems in an environmentally sustainable manner.

Donn Thill received many accolades over his 35 year career, including the Idaho Barley Commission Industry Service Award in 2008 and the Idaho Grain Producers Lifetime Achievement Award in 2014.

### We asked Donn to reflect on his 35 years at the University of Idaho...

“The University of Idaho has been a great place to spend most of my professional career because of the importance of agriculture to the State and region. It has been great to work with such a passionate group of farmers and agricultural professionals. I appreciate the support I have received from commodity associations such as the Idaho Barley and the Idaho Wheat Commissions. These commissions provide funding I was able to use to help solve weeds problems in Idaho and PNW grain fields. It has been a wonderful and productive partnership. I will miss the work, but more importantly, I will miss the people I have worked with over the years.”

**In recognition of Donn’s successful and productive career, the University of Idaho has established the Weed Science Graduate Student Endowment. Organizations, companies and individuals can contribute to this endowment by contacting Kim O’Neill, CALS Assistant Dean of Advancement at [koneill@uidaho.edu](mailto:koneill@uidaho.edu).**



**75+**  
classes taught

**1M**  
miles traveled helping growers across Idaho

**49**  
graduate students mentored

**140+**  
referred journal articles and book chapters

**75,000**  
acres of crops impacted

**\$9.5M**  
grants

**\$65.6M**  
return on research

## University of Idaho Extension fills key county & multi-county faculty positions across Idaho

**University of Idaho Extension celebrated its centennial last year**, marking 100 years of providing reliable, research based education and information to help people, businesses and communities solve problems, develop skills and build a better future. But deep budget cuts during the recession took its toll on Extension's ability to fill vacant positions across the state. With state funding nearly restored to pre-recession levels, the University of Idaho Extension is now in a position to fill county faculty positions that are important to grain producers.

According to Barbara Petty, Interim Director of Extension in Moscow, they are taking a new approach by "creating Area Extension Educator positions to provide an opportunity for more focused research and program delivery in a multi-county area. The Area Extension Educators will work closely with Extension specialists and county based Extension educators to provide additional support for the producers."

**Jon Hogge has been appointed to a six-county grain position, based in Rexburg, effective June 22.** He will cover Bonneville, Jefferson, Madison, Clark, Fremont and Teton counties. Barbara Petty says Jon was an excellent choice for the new multi-county position. "He brings to this position his passion for helping people be successful in life and his interest in conducting the research to discover new knowledge and to find answers to problems." Jon says he is eager to work alongside Juliet Marshall, UI cereal agronomist/pathologist, on a variety of grain cropping issues, including disease and pest management. Jon plans to conduct on-farm research and produce extension publications to advise growers on the latest research findings and recommendations. Jon holds a masters degree in agricultural education from the University of Idaho and prior to this new appointment served as Jefferson County Extension Educator for three years.



**On July 1 Carlo Moreno was appointed to fill the long-vacant Minidoka County Extension Educator position based in Rupert.** Carlo comes to Idaho from a post-doctorate research position at the University of Texas Rio Grande Valley where he conducted research on potato and vegetable production and ecosystem management in cropping systems. "I am excited to join the University of Idaho Extension team in south-central Idaho where I believe I can bring expertise in sustainable best management practices," says Moreno. In addition to research projects in the Rio Grande Valley, Dr. Moreno has conducted research with potato producers in Venezuela on pest and irrigation management and organic strawberry producers in California on pest and disease management. Carlo holds a Ph.D. in Agroecology and Environmental Studies.



**On July 20, Kate Painter was appointed to fill the vacant Extension Educator position in Boundary County**, where her responsibilities will focus on cereals and horticulture crops. For the past six and a half years Kate has been on staff in the UI Agricultural Economics and Rural Sociology Department compiling crop and livestock enterprise budgets and created the new Idaho Ag Biz website. Kate also taught undergraduate courses in enterprise budgets and farm and ranch management. "I am excited to have this opportunity to come out from behind the desk and be part of the Extension team working directly with farmers and ranchers on solving problems and seizing new opportunities," said Dr. Painter. Kate holds a Ph.D. in agricultural economics from Washington State University.