

Idaho Barley Newsbrief

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Inside this edition...IBC sets FY 2019 budget, Retiring Commissioner Pat Purdy honored, New District II Commissioner appointed, UI Research & Extension budget highlights, Update on 2018 Farm Bill and trade disputes



Hundreds of Idaho barley producers and guests enjoyed an afternoon of great food, beer and entertainment at the 2018 Anheuser Busch Idaho Grower Appreciation Day hosted by Idaho's largest barley buyer on July 13.

IBC sets FY 2019 budget

The Idaho Barley Commission held its annual budget meeting on June 21-22 in Picabo, ID. The board set a total budget of \$688,167, which is down 12% from 2018. Prior to finalizing the research budget, which represents 41% of the overall budget, the board heard several University of Idaho presentations. They received a proposal from College of Agricultural and Life Sciences Dean Michael Parrella to expand the UI Barley Research Endowment, which reached its one million dollar goal in 2018. The board agreed to modestly boost the Endowment to provide sufficient resources for Dr. Christopher Rogers' barley research agronomy program, including funding for a graduate

student and post-doc scientist. UI scientists Christopher Rogers and Juliet Marshall reported on current crop conditions and management issues and growers' progress toward meeting the malt industry's sustainable production goals.

IBC recognizes retiring Commissioner Pat Purdy

The IBC board, staff and guests celebrated the many contributions of retiring District II barley commissioner Pat Purdy at a dinner held June 21 on the Purdy Ranch in Picabo. Purdy was appointed to serve his first three-year term in 2012 and a second term in 2015. He was instrumental in helping launch the Idaho Barley Agronomic Research Endowment at the University of Idaho in 2013, which was fully funded by Idaho barley producers this year. This endowment created a permanent barley research agronomist faculty position in southern Idaho, currently held by Dr. Christopher Rogers who splits his time between the University of Idaho Aberdeen and Kimberly research stations.



IBC board presented the Idaho Barley Industry Service Award to Pat Purdy. Left to right: IBC Industry Representative Tim Pella, Anheuser Busch; Chairman Wes Hubbard, grower from Bonners Ferry; Pat Purdy, grower from Picabo; and Scott Brown, grower from Soda Springs.

New District II Commissioner Appointed

Mike Wilkins, Rupert, has been appointed by Governor C.L. "Butch" Otter to serve a

three-year term as South-Central Idaho barley commissioner, effective July 1, 2018.

Mr. Wilkins is a third generation barley producer in Minidoka County, where he farms barley, sugar beets and alfalfa with his son. Wilkins has been a long-time leader in Magic Valley water issues, serving on the Minidoka Irrigation District Board and Committee of Nine when the historic water agreement was crafted between surface and groundwater users on the Snake River Plain Aquifer.

Mr. Wilkins says he “is honored to be appointed to the barley commission by Governor Otter and is excited about the opportunity to serve south-central Idaho barley producers. Barley has been a good crop for my family farm and I want to give back to this dynamic industry. I am sure I will enjoy associating with my peers and learning from their experiences on the board and in the industry. I will make every effort to reach out to producers across the state’s second largest barley growing region.”



UI CALS receives modest bump in FY 2019 state funding

Contributed by Brent Olmstead, CALS Assistant Dean for Government and External Relations

The Fiscal Year 2019 appropriation for the University of Idaho's Research and Extension budget totaled \$31,331,100. This represents an increase of \$43,800 or 0.01%. The budget did not cap the number of positions and includes an across the board decrease in employer contribution for health insurance.

Included in the budget is a 3% ongoing merit-based salary increase for permanent employees that will be distributed at the discretion of the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences.

The state appropriation included \$128,000 for the replacement of irrigation pipe at the Teton Research Farm. The base budget also included the \$500,000 for upgraded student housing at the Research Centers that was funded in last year's budget.

In separate legislation, \$3 million was appropriated in support of a new seed potato germplasm facility that will be supplemented by support from industry and the college to build a new \$5.6 million facility on the Moscow campus, focused on ensuring the sustainability of Idaho's iconic potato industry.

The continued support of the Legislature in funding UI/CALS Research and Education is greatly appreciated and bodes well for future plans to upgrade existing Agricultural Research & Extension Centers around the state.

Southern US Farmers and Media Tour Southeastern Idaho Agriculture

The Idaho Barley Commission and Idaho Grain Producers Association helped organize and host a 17-member delegation of producers and media from across 11 southern states on June 23-28. Tour highlights included visits to the CSI trout research center, Clear Springs commercial trout farm, Si-Ellen Dairy in Jerome, Monsanto phosphate mine, King Creek Ranch public cattle grazing allotment, Wada potato fresh pack operation in Aberdeen, University of Idaho and USDA Agricultural Research Service research labs in Aberdeen, American Falls dam, InteGrow malt plant in Idaho Falls, Larsen hay compaction facility in Dubois, LESA irrigation systems in Hamer and Idahoan dehydrated potato plant in Lewisville. The team also enjoyed crop tours and grower dinners in Filer, Soda Springs, Rockland and Newdale. IBC thanks all of the Idaho growers and local agri-businesses who hosted this team and a big shout out to Laura Wilder, incoming IBC Administrator, for going above and beyond in escorting this team all five days. "It was a great pleasure to escort the group for the week and watch the interactions and conversations between the southern farmers and our Idaho farmers and tour hosts. What a great way to deepen understanding across commodity groups and strengthen agriculture as a whole," said Wilder.



Update on 2018 Farm Bill and Trade Disputes

Last month's *Idaho Barley Newsbrief* provided considerable detail on the new House and Senate Farm Bills and unfolding trade disputes between the U.S. and China, as well as close allies Canada, Mexico and the European Union. Here is a brief update on these important issues, which will directly impact Idaho agriculture's future viability.

2018 Farm Bill making progress...

The House of Representatives passed H.R. 2, the Agricultural and Nutrition Act of 2018, on June 21 on a very close vote of 213-211. This version contains a controversial work requirement to qualify for food assistance. The Senate passed its bill, the Agricultural Improvement Act of 2018, on June 28 with a strong bipartisan vote of 86-11, without the SNAP or food stamp work requirement. **Worth noting, the Senate bill contains an important boost in funding for national barley and wheat scab disease research funding from \$10 million to \$15 million a year.** This week the House is expected to vote to establish a conference committee to begin working out the differences between the two bills.

Trump Administration kick-starts trade wars into high gear this month...

After the Trump Administration announced tariffs against Chinese, Canadian, Mexican

and European steel and aluminum in May, all of these countries have reciprocated with equivalent tariffs against U.S. exports to their markets. These countries intentionally target key U.S. agricultural exports to send a strong signal to the U.S. government that they are serious about fighting U.S. tariffs. In addition, on July 6 President Trump announced import tariffs against \$34 billion of Chinese goods under a separate 301 Trade Case for intellectual property theft. China immediately retaliated with new tariffs on U.S. soybeans, wheat, beef and other major agricultural exports. President Trump quickly followed with an announcement that he is considering imposing tariffs against another \$200 billion of Chinese imports. Treasury Secretary Steve Mnuchin testified before Congress that ongoing attempts to negotiate a tariff cease-fire between the U.S. and China have fallen apart so it appears that, at least for now, agricultural exports like billions of U.S. soybean sales to China remain in the cross-hairs of an escalating trade war.

NAFTA negotiations have been on pause until Mexican presidential election... the NAFTA 2.0 negotiations have been on hold since April, pending the outcome of Mexico's presidential election on July 1. As expected, a leftist populist candidate won this election overwhelmingly which may throw a wrench into efforts to modernize the 25-year-old NAFTA trade agreement. Several senior White House officials visited Mexico City to re-engage with the current and incoming presidential officials on ways forward on NAFTA and immigration conflicts.