



IDAHO BARLEY NEWSBRIEF

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sets conservative FY 2016 budget -

The IBC board met June 15-16 in Boise to set their FY 2016 budget. After experiencing a significant drawdown in reserves in the current FY 2015 (estimated at about \$89,000), the board set a conservative budget for the new year, but noted they would reevaluate many spending items at their fall meeting. They approved a **FY 2016 budget of \$574,137, down 16% from 2015.**

Allocations include:

- ♦ Research - 44%
- ♦ Grower Services -19%
- ♦ Marketing -13%
- ♦ Info / education - 9%
- ♦ Admin - 15%

Idaho malting industry focuses on water use efficiency

With drought and potential water calls making headlines this summer, Idaho's malt industry has made a major commitment to

improve water use efficiency in their malting barley production. Last year, Anheuser Busch launched its global **SmartBarley** sustainability Initiative to optimize value to the grower by increasing crop productivity and improving barley quality while protecting the environment. One of its technology centerpieces is a collaboration with the Bureau of Reclamation, University of Idaho and Washington State University to expand the **net-work of AgriMet**

weather stations throughout their southeastern Idaho growing region. These stations provide real-time weather data that growers need to successfully use an **Irrigation Scheduler Mobile** tool designed by WSU and UI water engineers to boost water use efficiency. Smartphone apps make this tool readily available for field use. Features:

- ♦ Tracks simple water balance based on ET, using data retrieved directly from AgriMet.
- ♦ Generates 7 day crop water use forecasts.
- ♦ Calculates hours of irrigation run time instead of inches of applied water.

Growers can download at www.weather.wsu.edu/is/



Surface Water Coalition - Groundwater Pumpers strike deal to avoid water curtailments this year

A landmark water agreement was reached in May between senior surface water users and junior groundwater pumpers that will end an ongoing lawsuit and pending water curtailment orders by the Idaho Department of Water Resources. If approved by July 1, this deal calls for participating groundwater users who pump water out of the Eastern Snake Plain Aquifer to reduce their overall diversions by about 240,000 acre-feet annually, starting in 2016. For 2015, the groundwater pumpers will lease a specified amount of water for assignment to the Surface Water Coalition and lease as much additional water as possible for ongoing conversion projects.

Barley Agronomist Corner

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

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Crop producers are increasingly being asked to increase production efficiency. These practices improve the overall sustainability of their farming operation. In particular, barley production in many areas of southeastern Idaho relies on irrigation to meet yield and quality goals. Water management is a fundamental area in which improved practices can lead to improvements in efficiency. Continued research efforts into water management practices ensure Idaho is producing high quality and high yielding barley. A study was initiated this year at the Kimberly Research and Extension Center to investigate the impact of irrigation cutoff timing and nitrogen application rate on barley grain yield and quality (support from Miller Coors LLC.). This work builds on previous work conducted in the early 2000s that indicated on soils with adequate water holding capacity the final irrigation could occur at soft dough if the root zone was full. Additionally, it was determined that approximately 2 to 2.5 inches of water was used between soft dough and physiological maturity. The current study will provide improved data on final irrigation scheduling using current varieties as well as multiple nitrogen levels (very low to above optimum) as related to both grain yield and protein levels. These two factors are critical in ensuring the most efficient and sustainable production practices are being recommended for Idaho growers. Research concentrated on improving water and nutrient efficiency will ensure that agronomically, economically, and environmentally sound management practices are being developed for use by Idaho's barley growers. **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.**



Idaho Barley Industry Pays Tribute to Retiring UI Ag Economist Paul Patterson

We asked Paul Patterson to reflect on his 33 plus year career as a University of Idaho regional agricultural economist based at the UI's Idaho Falls Center as he prepares for retirement on June 30.

" I have had a great career and have been very fortunate to have had wonderful colleagues to work with, both within and outside my department at the U of I. Whatever I've managed to achieve in my career at the U of I is only partly due to my efforts. There wasn't the formal mentoring program that's in place today for new faculty members back when I started, but Wilson Gray, Neil Rimbe, Neil Meyer and Dick Schermerhorn certainly served that role for me and got me started in the right direction. I'm not sure if I would have survived the University's tenure and promotion process without their assistance; and even if I had my accomplishments over my career would have been much reduced without their help. And more recently, working with Chris McIntosh and Yuliya Bolitova helped give my career a much needed reset. I have also had the pleasure of working with some truly exceptional specialists from the Department of Plant, Soil and Entomological Sciences and outstanding county faculty throughout the state.



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I have had the great fortune of having strong support from various agricultural industries and commodity groups, including barley, wheat, potatoes and sugarbeets. The **Pat Takasugi Agriculture Leadership Award** that I received at the Larry Branen Ag Summit in 2014 recognizes my efforts to serve a broad segment of Idaho agriculture. I'm also the proud recipient of the **2005 Idaho Barley Industry Service Award and the 2015 Idaho Barley All Stars Award**. Recognition by the agricultural industries in Idaho means a lot to me, and means far more than recognition given by a professional society. But even more, it's the friendships and the "thank yous" that I've heard from people I've tried to help over the years. I've always maintained that I don't work for the University of Idaho but for the taxpayers of the state of Idaho. And I've always tried to provide them with good value for the salary and support that they have provided. While my efforts weren't always successful, I've always tried my best.

Like a lot of people at the end of a long career, this is certainly a bitter-sweet moment for me. I'm looking forward to not having to deal with the University's bureaucracy and having more time to fish and to increase the demand for malt barley. But I'm going to miss the challenge and the interaction with colleagues and clientele. While it may have been frustrating at times, it was never boring that's for sure!"

Here are some highlights of Paul Patterson's many accomplishments:

- ◆ Working with producers throughout the state during the farm financial crisis of the 1980's and in particular workshops using the FINPACK financial management and planning software. It was a very challenging time for producers and Paul's work made a real difference.
- ◆ Conducting "Using Computers in Farm Management Workshops" in the 1980's showing farmers and ranchers the potential use of a microcomputer as a management tool.
- ◆ Developing new and revising existing University of Idaho's crop enterprise budgets over the past 33 years and in particular his work with the Potato Cost of Production Advisory Committee.
- ◆ Consulting opportunities overseas in Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan related to cost of production
- ◆ Trying to be responsive to the needs of clientele (county agents, other specialists, farmers & ranchers, or agribusiness), whether simply answering a question, providing or directing them to a resource, or helping them deal with a particularly challenging issue.



Ben Eborn tapped for new UI Extension

Area Ag Economist position - Starting June 22, Ben Eborn, veteran Teton County Extension Educator based in Driggs, will assume a new position created by the UI College of Agricultural and Life Sciences to focus on farm and ranch economics across southeastern Idaho, including educating producers on business management decision-making, marketing and succession planning; development of crop enterprise budgets that help producers manage their variable input costs; and preparation of annual Idaho farm income forecasts that are used by the Idaho Legislature to estimate state tax revenues. Ben and his family will relocate from Driggs to Soda Springs where he will base his regional program. Ben says, "I am really excited to have this new opportunity to focus more intensely on farm economics which I have always been passionate about."





Source: Brewers Association, Boulder, CO



2014 Federal Farm Program Enrollment Statistics for Idaho Cereals

- ◆ 93% of Idaho's total eligible DCP acreage were enrolled in 2014 federal farm programs.
- ◆ Nationally, for all program crops – 23% base acres enrolled in PLC and 76% in ARC County.
- ◆ Nationally, 75% of barley base acres enrolled in PLC, 22% ARC County and 4% ARC Individual. Idaho barley base acres - 86% enrolled in PLC, 12% ARC County and 2% ARC Individual.
- ◆ Nationally, 42% of wheat base acres enrolled in PLC, 56% in ARC County and 2% ARC Individual. Idaho wheat base acres – 60% enrolled in PLC, 36% in ARC County and 4% ARC Individual.