

IDAHO BARLEY NEWSBRIEF

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Great Western Malting announces expansion of Pocatello malt plant

GrainCorp, the parent company of Great Western Malting Co., announced on May 19 a significant expansion of malt production capacity at its Great Western Malting facility in Pocatello, Idaho. The project will increase capacity at Pocatello by 120,000 metric tons, bringing the total annual malting capacity of the facility to 220,000 metric tons.

GrainCorp Managing Director & CEO Mark Palmquist said a significant proportion of the new capacity would be underpinned by long term supply agreements and relationships with major customers. The balance of the capacity would enable GrainCorp to increase its exposure to sustained demand growth from the North American craft brewing sector.

“We are very excited about the opportunities for GrainCorp Malt arising from the ongoing growth in demand for malt, particularly from craft brewers,” Mr Palmquist said.

“The craft sector in the United States has been growing consistently at 10-15% per annum over recent years and is expected to make up 20% of that country’s beer market in the next five years. The fact that craft beer consumes larger quantities of malt per litre also means that existing malting capacity is under some pressure.

“It is pleasing that we are in a position to take advantage of this step-change opportunity which extends our growth within the Malt group. Investing in our supply chain, supporting customer growth and positioning ourselves to capture further value within the craft beer sector is perfectly aligned with our focus on building out the more reliable earnings streams within our business,” Mr Palmquist said.

President of GrainCorp Malt Greg Friberg said that GrainCorp had strong connections with North American major and craft brewers through its Great Western Malting, Canada Malting Company and Country Malt Group businesses.

“Building our capacity at Pocatello makes sense on a number of levels,” Mr Friberg said. “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.

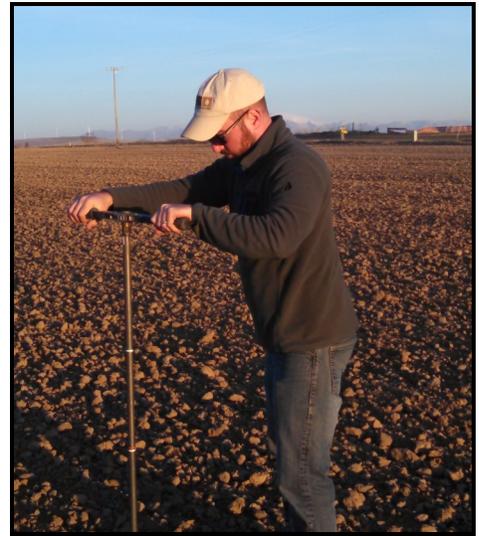
“We have strong customer demand and support; a group of engaged and dedicated employees who are very passionate about the industry; and good positive working relationships with the community, Bannock Development Corporation and the City of Pocatello. Pocatello Mayor Brian Blad and his team have been instrumental in getting this project brought to Pocatello.” Mr Friberg said.

GrainCorp will invest approximately US\$75 million (AUD\$95 million) in the project, funded from cash flow and debt facilities and spread evenly over FY16 and FY17.

Barley Agronomist Corner

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

It seems that field planting has been a whirlwind and that our winter barley is heading and progressing quickly towards harvest. In the Aberdeen area we saw subfreezing, and potentially damaging temperatures for winter barley during late-boot and early head emergence. At the Aberdeen R&E Center we observed lows of 29 and 32°F on May 10 and 11. Sub-freezing temperatures (< 32°F) during these later growth periods can negatively impact grain yields. The results of these temperatures can include sterility and lack of development in damaged seeds. Symptoms may include, most noticeably white awns and heads as well as damage to the stem if freeze occurred during boot to flowering. While most of you weren't this far along, if barley was at the milk or dough stages, shrunken and discolored kernels may be observed as well as potential reduction in seed germination. Differences in maturity within a head, which are likely, at the time of freeze injury may result in variation in damage even within a single head. Spring crops that were below the surface are largely protected by the soils insulating properties; however, young plants may present symptoms of "freeze banding" on the leaves indicating some cold damage. Further information on freeze injury can be found in the UI Extension publication, "Spring Freeze Injury to Idaho Cereals - http://digital.lib.uidaho.edu/cdm/ref/collection/ui_ep/id/1426."



In spring barley, you may be looking for options to reduce potential lodging by using plant growth regulators. Two options on the market are ethephon (e.g., Cerone) and Trinexpac-ethyl (i.e., Palisade EC or 2EC). To maximize your returns, it is important that you check your labels and follow the guideline pertaining to growth stage, application amount, and tank mix restrictions. In particular, Palisade comes in EC and 2EC formulations, which vary on the specific application rates. If in doubt, consult with your supplier or agronomist to ensure appropriate applications are made. 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.

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SPRING BARLEY QUICK FACTS...Check out Chris Roger's new publication entitled Southern Idaho 2015 Spring Barley Quick Facts. You can find an on-line a link at <http://www.cals.uidaho.edu/edcomm/pdf/CIS/CIS1217.pdf>

Crop insurance conservation compliance deadline is June 1

Information below has been provided by the USDA Risk Management Service Spokane, WA regional office, May 6, 2015 —

The USDA’s Risk Management Agency (RMA) reminds producers, including nursery, fruit and vegetable producers, that they need to have their Highly Erodible Conservation and Wetland Conservation Certification form ([AD-1026](#)) on file with their local [USDA service center](#) by June 1, 2015. The 2014 Farm Bill required all producers have the form on file by the June 1 deadline to become or remain eligible for crop insurance premium support.

“Most producers already have a certification form on file, however, some such as nursery, fruit and vegetable producers who are new to crop insurance or who may not participate in other USDA programs may not be aware that they need to do this,” said Ben Thiel, director, Spokane Regional Office. “We have taken many steps recently to broaden participation in the crop insurance program as part of the farm safety net, including offering new policies such as the Whole-Farm Revenue Protection and extending organic price elections to many new crops.”

Producers should visit their local USDA service center and talk with their crop insurance agent before the June 1, 2015, deadline to ask questions, get additional information or learn more about conservation compliance procedures. Producers who file their form by the deadline will be eligible for federal crop insurance premium support during the 2016 reinsurance year, which begins July, 1, 2015.

Additional information about federal crop insurance and the HELC and WC provisions is available on the [RMA Farm Bill webpage](#).

Crop insurance is sold and delivered solely through private crop insurance agents. A list of crop insurance agents is available at all USDA Service Centers and online at the RMA [Agent Locator](#). Producers can use the RMA [Cost Estimator](#) to get a premium amount estimate of their insurance needs online. Learn more about crop insurance and the modern farm safety net at www.rma.usda.gov.

