



IDAHO BARLEY NEWS BRIEF

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Idaho barley check-off dollars at work...

IBC weighs in on farm bill - Commissioner Dwight Little, Teton, is one of two Idaho board members on the National Barley Growers Association, which advocates for barley interests at the federal policy level. Little says that the next month will be a critical time for Congress to complete its work on a new 5-year farm bill, which expired in 2012 but was extended through Sept. 30. Little has emphasized the need to keep a strong farm program safety net in place, including cost effective crop insurance. Little reports that the two key House and Senate Ag Committees will meet the end of October to reconcile their differences. **more on page 2**

Experts assess Idaho water supplies & outlook

The Idaho Barley Commission participated in an Inland Northwest Drought Forum held October 18 in Boise to better understand the impacts of the 2012-13 drought on southern Idaho water supplies and carryover, strategies to mitigate drought impacts and determine what we currently know about the upcoming seasonal weather forecast. Here is a summary of what we learned at this one-day forum:

- ◆ Summer 2013 was 3rd warmest on record for PNW.
- ◆ Moderate to Extreme drought conditions (Idaho Drought Monitor map displayed on page 3) currently exist in all of southern Idaho (extreme conditions expanding in southwestern corner of the state).
- ◆ 18 Idaho counties have formal drought declarations in place.
- ◆ April to July 2013 we saw 76% of average run-off levels and spring precipitation was 80% of normal.
- ◆ Reservoir levels are lower than average across most of southern Idaho. Upper Snake River reservoir system will end the 2013 crop year at 13% of capacity.

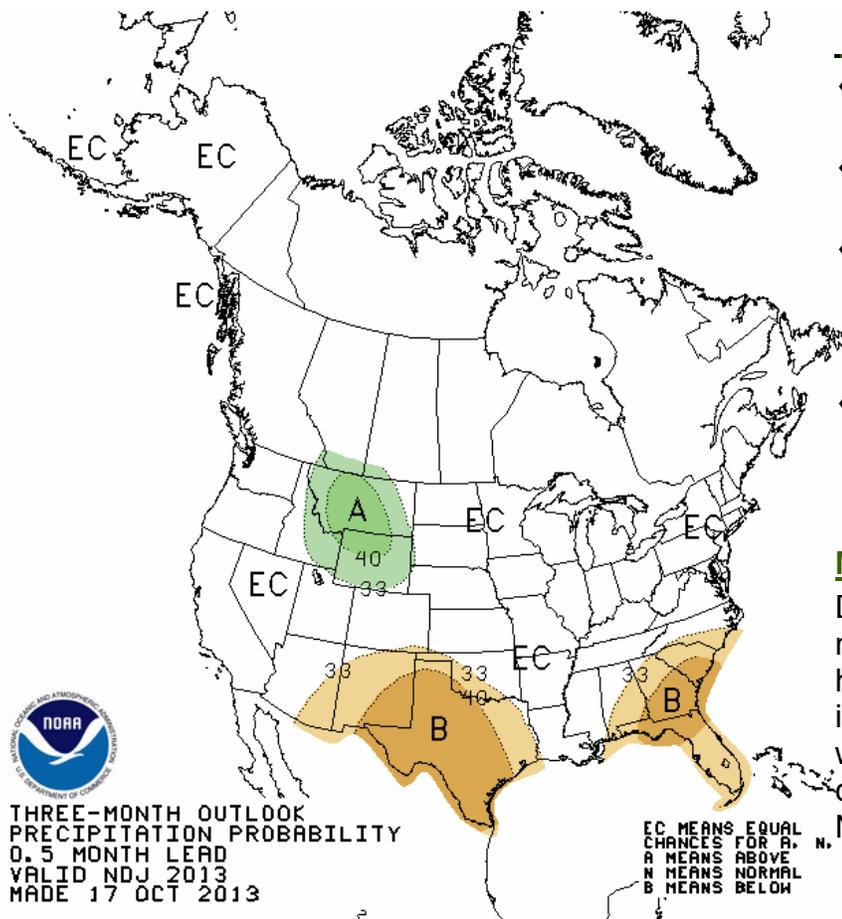
What is needed in Upper Snake River Basin in 2014 to meet Idaho's irrigation needs?

Full Recovery: 110% ave. runoff / 40% probability of occurring.

Squeak by (do no worse than 2013): 75% of ave. runoff / 85% probability of occurring.

Regional Outlook for Fall/Winter 2013

NOAA's Climate Prediction Center outlook shows equal chances of above, below, or normal (33% probability for each) precipitation for most of Idaho, with the exception of the eastern edge which shows slightly higher odds for wetter than normal as depicted in the 3 month seasonal precipitation map on page 2. **more on pages 2-3**



ENSO Impacts in the Pacific Northwest

- ◆ El Nino winters tend to be warmer and drier.
- ◆ La Nina winters tend to be cooler and wetter.
- ◆ ENSO neutral tends to fall in between. **This is the current condition and is projected by models to continue into early 2014.**
- ◆ Snow depth can vary significantly in ENSO-neutral years, with implications for irrigation water supplies.

Mitigation/Adaptation Strategies

Dr. Howard Neibling, UI Extension water management engineer based in Kimberly, has done significant evaluation of different irrigation strategies that can be deployed if water supplies are limited in 2014. Growers can find more information on a Pacific Northwest Irrigation website at <http://irrigation.wsu.edu/>



FARM BILL WATCH

Farm Bill Conferees will meet face-to-face on October 30 to hammer out differences between the House and Senate passed farm bills. Key sticking points include:

Farm Program Safety Net:

- ◆ Price loss coverage (target prices) - favored by House with higher target prices.
- ◆ Revenue loss coverage (Ag Risk/Shallow Loss coverage) - favored by the Senate. Senate conferees favor an “all-in” approach which would allow producers to qualify for both price loss and revenue coverage.
- ◆ Whether to use planted or base acres in calculating payments. If base acres are used, will they be allowed to be updated? This is favored by corn and soybeans which have gained substantial acreage in recent years.



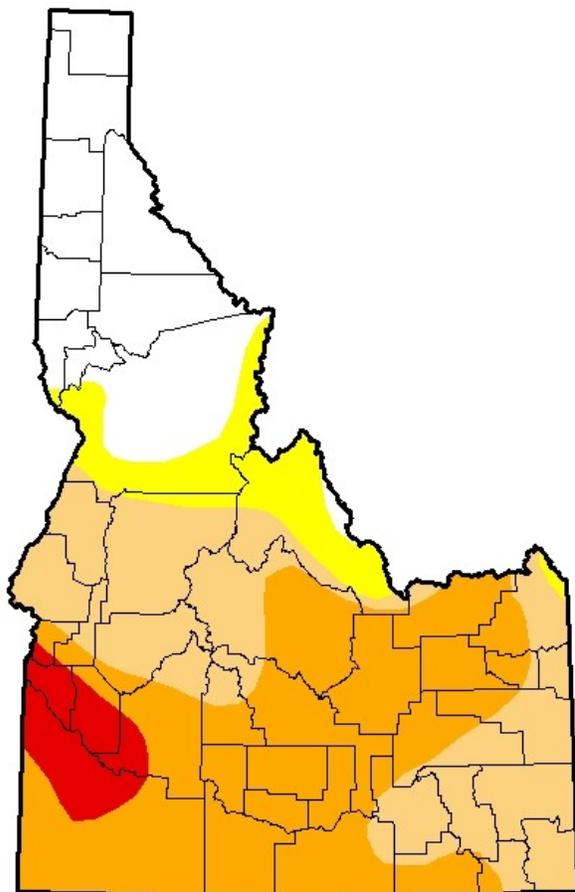
Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program: SNAP costs about \$80 billion/year.

- ◆ House favors \$4 billion annual spending cuts.
- ◆ Senate favors \$400 million annual spending cuts.

Conservation compliance linkage to crop insurance: Senate-passed bill contains this feature while the House bill does not. Conferees may settle on a compromise that will allow time and flexibility for growers to get into compliance.

U.S. Drought Monitor Idaho

October 22, 2013
(Released Thursday, Oct. 24, 2013)
Valid 7 a.m. EDT



Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	21.57	78.43	70.09	41.87	5.09	0.00
Last Week <i>10/15/2013</i>	21.47	78.53	70.09	41.87	5.09	0.00
3 Months Ago <i>7/23/2013</i>	2.35	97.65	94.01	43.09	0.00	0.00
Start of Calendar Year <i>1/1/2013</i>	45.29	54.71	47.63	0.52	0.00	0.00
Start of Water Year <i>10/1/2013</i>	12.06	87.94	76.96	43.33	5.09	0.00
One Year Ago <i>10/23/2012</i>	20.99	79.01	65.64	0.91	0.00	0.00

Intensity:

- D0 Abnormally Dry
- D1 Moderate Drought
- D2 Severe Drought
- D3 Extreme Drought
- D4 Exceptional Drought

The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. See accompanying text summary for forecast statements.

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<http://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/>

2014 Malt Barley contracting continues in Idaho

All of the major companies which annually contract malt barley production in Idaho have released 2014 contract offers. Malting barley growers are encouraged to contact these offices immediately to get their 2014 contracts finalized.

Anheuser Busch - contact Idaho Falls office at 208-524-1080.

Great Western Malting - contact Blackfoot office at 208-785-6333.

InteGrow Malt - contact Idaho Falls office at 208-528-5147.

MillerCoors - contact Burley office at 208-678-3586.

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25 Years

of service to Idaho
Barley Producers