



**IDAHO  
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## **Governor Brad Little's Salmon Workgroup meetings in Lewiston**

On Thursday, September 19 and Friday, September 20, Governor Brad Little's Salmon Workgroup will meet in Lewiston. Among the topics being addressed by the workgroup are potential impacts to wheat farmers if dams are breached. There will be two events where wheat growers can interact with members of the workgroup and express thoughts on the importance of dams to our industry.

A dinner will be hosted by the Idaho Grain Producers Association on September 19 at 5:30 p.m. at Lindsay Creek Vineyards (3107 Powers Avenue in Lewiston). The following afternoon there will be an opportunity for public comment beginning at 2:30 p.m. at the Red Lion Hotel (621 21st Street in Lewiston). The environmental activists have scheduled their annual Flotilla to coincide with these workgroup meetings so they will try to pack the meetings. Although it is a busy time of the year, we are hopeful of getting a large number of wheat growers to these two events.

Please RSVP to (208) 576-0287.

[Read more](#)

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## **Taiwan trade team coming to Lewiston**

The Taiwanese Flour Millers Association (TFMA) will be in Lewiston this weekend and recognized as guests of honor at the Lewiston Roundup on Saturday, September 7.

The TFMA team's visit to the rodeo is arranged by Bill Flory, who is an Idaho Wheat Commissioner and Lewiston Roundup board member. Thank you for your efforts, Bill!

We encourage growers who will attend the Lewiston Roundup on Saturday night to meet the TFMA team and thank them for their business.

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## **Farm groups applaud tentative U.S.-Japan trade agreement**

National and Idaho farm groups quickly applauded the August 25 announcement that the U.S. and Japan have reached a trade agreement in principle. The agreement is expected to be a win for several U.S. farm commodities, including beef, wheat, dairy, potatoes, pork and wine. All of those commodities except for pork are produced in significant amounts in Idaho.

Together, dairy, beef, potatoes and wheat brought in \$5.4 billion in farm cash receipts in Idaho last year and, according to an Idaho Wine Commission study, that industry has a \$170 million economic impact on the state annually. The response from groups representing U.S. farmers and ranchers was swift and positive.

"This trade agreement will benefit growers in Idaho by ensuring that the Japanese market remains open to wheat grown in the U.S.," Idaho Wheat Commission Chairman Ned Moon stated in a news release.

Japan imports about \$14 billion worth of U.S. agricultural products each year and

through the first six months of 2019 was the fifth-largest market for Idaho agricultural exports. According to the Idaho Department of Agriculture, Japan purchased \$25 million worth of agricultural products from the state during the first half of this year.

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## Japan, China and USMCA are the most important export markets

The U.S.-Japan trade deal and the [possible] passage of the U.S.-Mexico-Canada trade deal later this fall are the brightest spots on the agricultural trade front.

Farmers are excited because continued trade negotiations by the US could bring improved export market access, according to the American Farm Bureau Federation (AFBF). Dave Salmonsens, AFBF congressional relations director says the recent agreement between the U.S. and Japan is different from the Trans-Pacific Partnership and will greatly benefit farmers.

"Top U.S. agricultural exports to Japan currently include beef, corn, pork, soybeans and wheat. We appreciate the Administration's work to secure greater access for these farm goods and others," said AFBF President Zippy Duvall.

Trade experts say swinging a deal is vitally important in the negotiation process.

"This is a deal, not a full-blown trade agreement. There's always work to go to fill in the details, and we'll look forward to seeing exactly what comes out when we see what the final deal is. This does not require congressional action, the U.S. isn't really doing anything that requires changes in our laws, so this can go forward once it's signed and there is an effective date, that's when it goes into action," said Salmonsens.

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## **WIC seen as contributing to whole grains intake**

The inclusion of whole grains as an option in the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) has led to increased intake of whole grains by WIC participants, according to a study on the subject published by the Economic Research Service of the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Whole grains intake among WIC participants remains well below levels recommended in the Dietary Guidelines for Americans.

[Read more](#)

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## **Russia's VTB plans to enter grain markets in Africa, Middle East and Asia**

Russian state-controlled VTB bank , which has been expanding its grain business, plans to enter grain markets in Africa, the Middle East and Asia to increase Russian grain exports. VTB, Russia's second largest lender, has recently become the largest operator of the country's grain export infrastructure and is building its own export arm after buying large local grain trader Mirogroup in August.

The goal of VTB's grain project is to gain a significant market share in Russia and abroad, said Vitaly Sergeichuk, deputy head of client relations department in market regions. Sergeichuk said many intermediaries and trading companies, including international firms, are currently playing a key role in the Russian wheat trade.

Two months into the 2019-20 marketing season, VTB's Mirogroup is the fourth-largest grain exporter from Russia's deep-water ports of the Black and Azov Seas after local traders RIF, Aston and Swiss trader Glencore.

[Read more](#)

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## **"Thank a Farmer" magic show entertains, enlightens**

Making milk disappear into a magic corn stock constructed of newspaper delighted youngsters of all ages at the Twin Falls County Fair, but it also provided a segue for Joyce Rice — the "Thank a Farmer Lady" — to educate the audience about corn's many uses, such as ethanol to fuel trucks and cars and corn syrup for soda pop.

Rice and her "Thank a Farmer Magic Show" returned to the fair this year after a successful debut in 2017. The show combines magic tricks and juggling to keep audiences entertained while Rice shares fun facts about agriculture and the importance of farmers and ranchers.

"Kids go to the store and buy stuff, but they don't know where it comes from," she told the audience.

[Read more](#)

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## **Rain-resistant wheat variety developed using genome editing**

Scientists have created a rain-resistant wheat variety using genome-editing technology, a breakthrough that could lead to the development of higher-quality

flour. The research team from the National Agriculture and Food Research Organization and Okayama University said genome editing enabled them to develop the variety in just about a year. It takes nearly 10 years to develop such a wheat species using conventional breeding technology because the plants must be bred over generations.

The wheat used for the study is not a species currently sold on the market, but the team believes the method utilized could someday succeed in developing an edible variety resistant to rain.

[Read more](#)

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## **Idaho ag export value up 7 percent**

Despite trade wars and rumors of trade wars, the total value of Idaho agricultural exports increased 7 percent during the first six months of 2019, compared with the same period last year.

According to data provided by the Idaho State Department of Agriculture, the value of Idaho ag product exports to other nations totaled \$450 million during the first half of 2019, up from \$421 million in 2018.

[Read more](#)

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## **Request for participation in two U.S. Department of Agriculture surveys**

We are including this notice at the request of the Idaho office of the U.S. Department of Agriculture National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS). As this year's small grain harvest winds down and you prepare to plant next year's crop, please take a minute to reply to USDA NASS County Agricultural Production Survey and

September Agricultural Production Survey. These two surveys will provide the data the Farm Service Agency will use to set 2019 Agriculture Risk Coverage County (ARC-CO) yields for small grains. Risk Management Agency will then use the ARC-CO yields to calculate 2019 disaster payments. For questions, please contact Randy Welk, the Idaho State Statistician at (208) 334-1507.

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## Idaho Wheat 1959 - 2019

This year marks the 60th anniversary of the establishment of the Idaho Wheat Commission. We are celebrating all year, and invite you to join us.



Find us @qualitywheatsimplygrown on Facebook and @idahowheat on Instagram, Twitter and Pinterest for more.



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