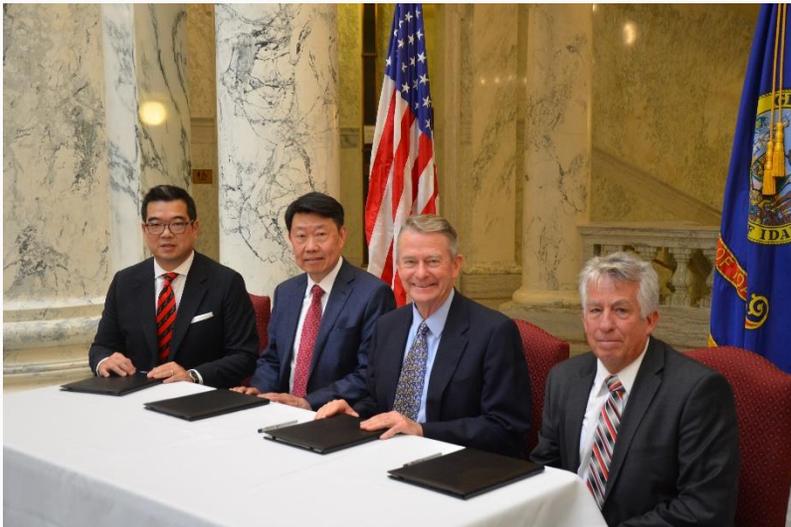




IDAHO WHEAT

QUALITY WHEAT SIMPLY GROWN



Taiwan Goodwill Mission signs \$580 million letter of intent with Idaho Governor Brad Little and Wheat Commission for U.S. wheat

On September 24, representatives from the Taiwan Flour Mills Association (TFMA) signed a letter of intent with Governor Brad Little, the Idaho Wheat Commission and the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office (based in Seattle) in Boise to purchase 1.8 million metric tons (66.1 million bushels) of U.S. wheat at a value of \$576 million between 2020 and 2021. Approximately 10 percent of the wheat will come from Idaho. The TFMA team and other members in the Taiwan Agricultural

Goodwill Mission also met with Idaho agricultural leaders including Idaho Wheat commissioners. Taiwan has purchased Idaho wheat for 40 years.

“Thank you, Taiwan, for being such a long-time partner,” said Governor Little, a rancher and farmer from Emmett. “Taiwan is a loyal customer for our Idaho wheat growers, who proudly produce a high-quality, consistent product. It’s not just a ceremonial signing, Taiwan follows through on their purchases year after year after year. This deal highlights the importance of a viable and competitive transportation network for getting our products to Taiwan and other Asian markets. Wheat, in particular, is dependent upon the Columbia River system for barging our products to the coast.”

“The Taiwan flour millers choose Idaho wheat because of the high-quality we produce and the identity preservation of the wheat available from our state,” Idaho Wheat Commission Chairman Ned Moon said. “We are also able to consistently deliver within the shipment timelines thanks to the Columbia-Snake River system.” Idaho farmers typically grow more than one million acres of wheat each year and that crop brings in about \$400 million in farm-gate receipts to Gem State producers.

IWC Executive Director Blaine Jacobson said five percent of Idaho wheat, or about five million bushels, is sold annually to the TFMA and about 200 Idaho farms are in business because of Taiwan’s annual purchases of wheat.

Tony Yi-Cheun Shu, executive director of the TFMA, said Taiwanese companies prefer purchasing wheat from the United States because U.S. growers “provide a very high quality of wheat for Taiwan.”

Update: Bonneville Navigation Lock expected to return to service this weekend

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers announced on Thursday that the Bonneville Navigation Lock will reopen to Columbia River traffic between tonight and tomorrow morning depending on final operational testing results for the lock and newly repaired concrete sill. Favorable weather conditions allowed for more rapid construction work and the accelerated opening. The lock has been drained and closed since September 6.

For status updates from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers about the Bonneville Navigation Lock, see the link below.

[Read more](#)

U.S. and Japan announce tariff and quota deal that will benefit Idaho wheat growers

President Donald Trump and Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe on Wednesday announced major progress on a new trade agreement between the two countries. The Japanese Parliament is expected to approve the agreement, which mainly relates to agriculture, later this fall. It may take effect as early as January 1, 2020, according to the American Farm Bureau Federation.

“I was actually in the room with one of the biggest millers in Japan last November and they said, ‘Absolutely no bilaterals,’ but yet here we are with a bilateral agreement,” said Darren Padgett, Oregon Wheat Commission board member and vice chairman of U.S. Wheat Associates, the overseas marketing arm for the industry. “So it can be done.”

The agreement is “in many ways the same” as the original Trans-Pacific Partnership, from which Trump withdrew in January 2017, said Dave Salmonsén, senior director for congressional relations at the Farm Bureau. No action by Congress is necessary, as this is not a full trade agreement that involves substantive changes to existing U.S. law, according to the Farm Bureau.

Wheat and other products will have guaranteed access to Japan through quotas.

[Read more](#)

NW Power Council public hearings scheduled for Monday and Tuesday in Boise and Lewiston

The NW Power Council is holding public hearings in Boise (September 30 from 5:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. in the Lincoln Auditorium in the State Capitol) and Lewiston (October 1 from 5:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. in the Idaho Department of Fish and Game Clearwater Regional Office, 3316 16th Street) on a draft Fish and Wildlife addendum to its 2014 program. The council is asking for the perspective of growers, elevators and infrastructure operators. The Bonneville Power Administration seeks to hold the line on fish costs and respect NW ratepayers. It is critical to keep dams on the Columbia-Snake River in order to ensure the region's multipurpose activities and clean energy portfolio can continue.

[Read more](#)

Wheat harvest draws to close

But it's not always about just getting a better price for grain buyers. The Melvilles emphasized the better quality of U.S. grain. "People will buy from other places, but the quality is not as good," Tim Melville said. "When people can't buy the quality they want from other places, they'll buy here."

Trevor Collins, who has about 200 irrigated acres of dark northern spring wheat along Elk Mountain Road east of Enterprise, manages an operation owned by his

mother that's been there 32 years. "Prices this year are so bad, there was no reason to lock them in in May," he said, adding that prices are about \$1 per bushel less than at this time last year.

Last year, as usual, he contracted about a third of his crop in May, another third during the summer and the rest at harvest. Because of the market's volatility this year, he didn't bother with a contract. "Prices on my farm were weak before this so it's likely they haven't recovered as quickly as a result (of the tariffs)," he said. "It can't not have something to do with it, particularly on the recovery time."

[Read more](#)

Wheat Commission to participate in Treasure Our Valley farmland education and protection event on October 5

On Saturday, October 5, the Idaho Wheat Commission, Idaho Grain Producers Association and Idaho Barley Commission will have a booth at Treasure Our Valley, a festival to celebrate and encourage the protection of farm and rangeland. The event is from 4:00 to 8:00 p.m. at Indian Creek Plaza, 120 S. Kimball Avenue in Caldwell.

Participants will be able to "come and celebrate, have a good time, sample food and wine from local producers, and maybe learn a little about the importance of farmland in the Treasure Valley," said George Crookham, CEO of Crookham Co. It's an opportunity to connect with food producers "and hear about their stories and the things they do, in a fun environment."

Some of the events scheduled for children include hands-on learning about grains, making ice cream and butter, using a cider press and setting an irrigation siphon tube and going on a scavenger hunt sponsored by the Farm Bureau.

[Read more](#)

Researchers: The rising cost of bread will be a harbinger for climate change

Climate change-induced droughts threaten to affect more than half of the world's wheat fields, prompting scientists to warn of potential market upheavals and political unrest. That's the conclusion of new peer-reviewed research published in the journal *Science Advances*. The grain that accounts for a fifth of mankind's daily calories will be harder to grow because of more severe and prolonged water shortages. Their projections show that 60 percent of current wheat growing areas could face droughts by the end of the century, if climate change isn't mitigated, compared with 15 percent today.

"These developments may increase food insecurity and, consequently, political instability and migration," wrote researchers from organizations including the International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis in Austria. Even keeping the Earth's rising temperatures within limits prescribed by the Paris Agreement will double the area of cultivation under threat, they wrote.

The world's top wheat exporters in the EU, Russia and U.S. face severe water scarcity while farmers in South America may only be "marginally effected," according to the study. Wheat is different than other grain crops because it generally isn't irrigated, instead relying on natural rain patterns to grow. The researchers used more than two dozen climate and hydrological models to reach their conclusions.

[Read more](#)

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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