

The Idaho State Department of Agriculture

The Idaho Legislature created the Idaho State Department of Agriculture (ISDA) in 1919 to assist and regulate the state's fast-growing agricultural industry. The primary purposes for establishment were to protect Idaho's crops and livestock from the introduction and spread of pests and transmittable diseases, to help provide the industry with a system for the orderly marketing of agricultural commodities, and to protect consumers from contaminated products or fraudulent marketing practices. These purposes still drive the department today.

The department derives its statutory authority from multiple sections of the Idaho Code. Section 22-101 creates the Department of Agriculture and the position of director. Section 22-102 provides that the director "shall organize the department into such divisions and other administrative sub-units as may be necessary in order to efficiently administer the department," and section 22-103 lists specific directorial duties. Title 22 also contains the authority for the Plant Industries Division, the Agricultural Resources Division, and the department's Marketing Bureau. The primary authority for the Animal Industries Division lies within Title 25 and Title 37, while the Agricultural Inspections Division, which includes the Bureaus of Weights and Measures and Bonded Warehouse, derives authority from Titles 69 and 71.

In addition to the seven divisions which primarily make up the ISDA, the Idaho Soil Conservation Commission and most recently the Idaho Rural Partnership were realigned to reside within the Department of Agriculture. While maintaining a level of independence, each entity and the department work cooperatively to coordinate complimentary programs and responsibilities, especially in the areas of agriculture, related natural resources and improving life in rural Idaho. Five commodity commissions - the Idaho Alfalfa and Clover Seed Commission, Idaho Honey Advertising Commission, Idaho Hop Commission, Idaho Mint Commission and Idaho Sheep Commission - are also technically housed within the ISDA, although each entity maintains its autonomy. The department works closely with all other agriculture commodity commissions. The Idaho Food Quality Assurance Laboratory (IFQAL) was assigned by the Idaho Legislature to the Department of Agriculture on July 1, 2005. The department works cooperatively with the Idaho Food Quality Assurance Institute under its authority in Title 67, Chapter 83 to administrator the day-to-day operations of the laboratory.

The Idaho State Department of Agriculture has a current budget of approximately \$46 million. For FY2008, the state general fund accounts for 43.8 percent of the budget. The remainder of the department's funding comes from various types of fees assessed directly to the segment of industry being regulated or receiving services. Federal sources also assist the department with the funding of certain programs. The department is currently staffed with approximately 333 full-time employees. The Bureau of Shipping Point Inspection and other units of the department also hire hundreds of seasonal employees each year with as many as 321 being on-board at any one time in 2006.

The department continues to facilitate efforts to help eradicate Eurasian Watermilfoil. Again this year the Legislature approved \$4 million to help fund eradication of this aquatic nuisance. This spring, Director Gould gave final approval for 14 treatment plans, program funds were distributed and treatment applications will progress through the summer. Post-treatment results will be available on the ISDA website by January 2008. Eurasian Watermilfoil is a noxious weed that is infesting Idaho's waterways, endangering swimmers and destroying fish populations. A small fragment of watermilfoil the size of a postage stamp can break off and form a new infestation.



The Idaho State Department of Agriculture is housed in the Wilson "Bill" Kellogg building dedicated on October 12, 1979.

In May 2007 ISDA and USDA initiated a program to treat fields in Eastern Idaho which tested positive in 2006 for Potato Cyst Nematode (PCN). PCN is a major pest to potato crops. The program includes pre-treatment sampling, fumigation, and post-treatment sampling. After the initial fumigation this spring, oil radish, which is toxic to the PCN, was planted in the infected fields and will help prevent soil erosion. The department's quick response to this pest has been widely praised.

The agriculture industry in Idaho is changing and many new opportunities have emerged. The department stands ready to meet each new challenge and each new opportunity.

A Mission, A Vision, A Philosophy

The Idaho State Department of Agriculture (ISDA) has adopted the following mission, vision and philosophy to help direct the agency's regulatory, promotional, and policy-making activities toward a common goal:

Mission

Serving consumers and agriculture by safeguarding the public, plants, animals, and the environment through education and regulation.

Vision

The Idaho State Department of Agriculture has an ever-important place in one of the state's largest industry sectors. We recognize that Idaho's economic well-being is forever tied to the health of its farming and ranching. We also recognize that new opportunities exist that will redefine the future of agriculture in Idaho. As agriculture changes, ensuring efficient and superior service delivery will continue to be the department's foremost priority. The pledge has been made to optimize the value of principles our farmers and ranchers have framed over the past century.

The director believes that fostering a cooperative atmosphere within the agency and with other state agencies creates the opportunity for increased internal efficiency, as well as, prompt and complete customer-driven service delivery. She will continue to encourage personal and professional development through education and training, and motivate employees by providing meaningful work-related challenges. In addition, her availability to the public and agency employees reinforces her commitment to the success of the industry.

ISDA Goals and Objectives

The Idaho State Department of Agriculture strives to be the model for government agencies, providing a careful balance of education, regulation and promotion of the agriculture industry in the state. ISDA will:

- Offer superior protection to the public and the agriculture industry.
- Improve the quality and uniformity of current services provided to industry.
- Enhance the department's customer service structure.
- Address public concerns regarding animal care, and water and air quality.
- Continue to educate the agriculture industry about environmental stewardship and statutory obligations.
- Work with the agriculture industry to identify Best Management.
- Provide the public with timely and accurate information on regulatory and monitoring activities.
- Support full implementation of a record management program.
- Work closely with the public, agriculture industry and other government agencies to identify emerging issues.
- Promote Idaho agriculture products through trade shows, trade missions, in-store promotions, cooking shows, publications and other events.
- Increase the identity, awareness and consumption of products grown and processed in Idaho through the Idaho Preferred® label.
- Improve domestic and international transportation systems for agricultural products.
- Increase exports through the management of Idaho trade offices in Mexico, Taiwan, Korea, China, and Japan while working to identify and remove trade barriers that prohibit or limit export of Idaho products.
- Continue to ensure the accuracy and reliability of scales and devices that are used by consumers and producers.
- Encourage employee innovation, creativity and forward-thinking.
- Continue to examine the department's organizational and operational framework to find efficiencies.

Idaho State Department of Agriculture Administration



Celia R. Gould Director/Secretary

Director Gould was appointed by Governor C. L. "Butch" Otter to the Idaho State Department of Agriculture in January 2007. Celia is a third generation farmer/rancher and continues to actively participate in the family operation raising black-angus cattle, corn, wheat and hay. Celia's objectives for ISDA include: enhancement of the customer service structure of the agency through quality and uniformity, partnering with Idaho producers to showcase and ensure quality products, retain and train employees to ensure the highest quality of professional expertise; and administer the business of the department efficiently and effectively.



Brian Oakey, Deputy Director

In March of 2007 Brian became the Deputy Director at ISDA. Brian's duties as deputy director include advising the Director, Chief of Staff and administrators on policy related matters and representing the department in interagency and constituent negotiations as assigned by the Director. He previously worked with the Attorney General's office representing the ISDA in litigation, contested case proceedings and advising administration and staff on legal matters including public records, legislation and rule making, contracts and leases, and various other legal matters. He received a Master of Laws degree in Agricultural Law from the University of Arkansas in May 2003 and a Juris doctorate degree from Drake University in 2002. While attending law school, Brian served as the Drake Agricultural Law Society

President and the Editor-in-Chief of the Drake Journal of Agricultural Law.



Pamm Juker, Chief of Staff/Communications Director

Pamm was appointed by Director Gould in April 2007 to assist in fostering a reliable communication system between diverse divisions within the department, as well as, with other state agencies, customers, the public and media. Pamm manages internal communications to encourage innovation and information sharing within the department as well as playing an integral part in the policy component for the agency. In addition, she coordinates public information activities in support of the Director and department. Pamm manages the Records Management program and plans, organizes and directs other department-wide projects. She also assists the Director with administrative, personnel, and policy decision-making. She has served the state for the past 13 years and currently represents the

Department on several advisory committees and the state PIER Team which coordinates state services and agencies in the event of a natural disaster or terror attempt.

Kelly Nielsen, Administrative Support Programs

Kelly oversees the administrative programs of the department including: financial management, human resources, information technology, and legal services. This division is responsible for providing administrative services for the other internal divisions of the Department and external customers including the Soil Conservation Commission, Quality Assurance Institute, Idaho Aquaculture and the Board of Veterinary Services. The services provided include accounting, payroll, training, employee development, help desk, programming, server administration, mail services, building and complex maintenance, and capital projects. This division seeks to provide quality service to both external and internal customers at a minimal overhead cost.

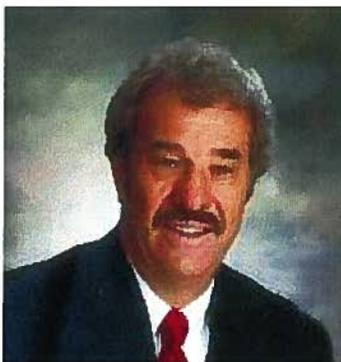


Laura Johnson, International Trade & Domestic Market Development

The goal of the Market Development Division is to increase domestic and international sales opportunities for Idaho food and agricultural products to foster industry growth and profitability. The Division increases the consumption of locally grown products in retail, schools and food service through the Idaho Preferred® program. A comprehensive approach to international market development includes promotion, trade policy, transportation and education. The third area of focus is on Ag diversification including value-added processing and new uses for agricultural products such as energy.



Fred Rios, Division of Agricultural Resources The Division of Agricultural Resources is designated to protect human health, the environment, and animal and wildlife species of the state from potential adverse effects of agricultural activities. The division registers pesticides for sale and use in Idaho and trains and licenses pesticide applicators and chemigators. In coordination with agriculture professionals, agencies, and the public, the department has improved protection of human health, the environment, and fish and wildlife species of the state from potential adverse effects of pesticides. The division also coordinates a statewide pesticide disposal program safely collecting and disposing of 799,508 pounds of unusable pesticides in Idaho since 1993. This division also incorporates the Engineering Section to provide professional engineering services and consultation to Idaho agricultural communities.



Lee Stacey, Division of Agricultural Inspections

The Division of Agricultural Inspections inspects and certifies the grades on more than 10 billion pounds of Idaho commodities. Idaho's commitment to quality is recognized throughout the United States and in the international arena. We are proud of the part we play in this endeavor. In order for our producers to sell their commodities to retailers, they have to have Good Manufacturing Practices (GMP) in place as well as Good Agricultural Practices (GAP). This division is working with the private sector to offer auditing programs to accomplish these important goals. This division also oversees the Bureau of Weights and Measures program which enforces accuracy, design, and operating practices for all commercial weights and measured devices within the state to ensure uniformity and equity for the consumer and the business community. The Bonded Warehouse program also resides within the Division of Agricultural Inspections. It continues to improve with the implementation of new, more effective laws to better protect the producer, including those growers who grow seed under bailment contracts.



Dr. Bill Barton, Division of Animal Industries

The Division of Animal Industries consists of the Bureaus of Dairy/CAFOs; Animal Health and Livestock; Disease Surveillance and Diagnostics; and the Rangeland Management Program. Major functions include: disease control and eradication; animal identification; epidemiology; animal care and inspection; testing of animals; inspection of dairies and milk products; approval and inspection of dairy and beef waste systems; and the inspection and licensing of dairy processing facilities and various other animal agriculture facilities. Staff members also provide leadership in managing Idaho's natural resources and assistance in resolving rangeland management issues enhancing the viability of rural communities. This division's animal lab provides regulatory testing of animals for domestic and foreign markets; detection and control of animal diseases; and the testing of milk and milk products for quality, purity and adherence to standards of identity composition.



Tom Dayley, Division of Plant Industries

The Plant Industries Division is responsible for: consumer protection, export certification, pest exclusion, control of grasshoppers and Mormon crickets, certification of organic food products, and inspections of potato brands and potatoes at retail outlets. Division functions include: field inspections of crops and laboratory analyses for phytosanitary certification; survey and detection of exotic pests and diseases; registration of feeds, fertilizers, soil and plant amendments, nurseries, bee colonies and seed dealers; enforcement of quarantine rules; coordination of regional and statewide weed control activities; and advising and assisting county weed control authorities of noxious weeds. Two labs are also associated with this division: the feed and fertilizer lab which analyzes samples for accurate label claims and the seed lab which performs germination, tetrazolium, purity, noxious weed, cold and other special tests for over 200 different crops from Idaho and nine other western states.

Jerry Nicolescu, Idaho Soil Conservation Commission

The Soil Conservation Commission was created in 1939 to address soil and water conservation and related natural resource issues. Commission staff fulfills this mission by providing support and services to Idaho's 51 soil conservation districts for the wise use and enhancement of soil, water and related resources. Staff members also provide technical, fiscal, and administrative assistance to districts and local landowners and users. Over 20,000 Idaho farmers, ranchers and landowners are served through soil conservation districts.



Shelby Kerns, Idaho Rural Partnership

Shelby Kerns was appointed Executive Director of the Idaho Rural Partnership (IRP) in January 2008. IRP's mission is to join diverse public and private resources in innovative collaborations to strengthen communities and improve life in rural Idaho. The Partnership facilitates collaboration to promote policies and programs that enhance opportunity; reduce or eliminate conflicting or duplicative administrative or regulatory requirements; and provide access to needed resources for rural communities. IRP is governed by a board of directors comprised of the Governor's Office, legislators, federal and state agency directors, tribes, local government, the Idaho National Laboratory, University of Idaho Extension, and the private sector.



ISDA ADVISORY COMMITTEES

Animal Health Advisory Committee
Commodity Indemnity Fund
Crop Residue Disposal Advisory Committee
Fertilizer, Soil and Plant Amendment Advisory Committee
Fish and Game Advisory Committee
Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Inspection Advisory Committee
Idaho Potato Industry Advisory Committee
Idaho Preferred Advisory Board

Idaho Seed Arbitration Committee
Idaho Seed Industry Advisory Committee
Idaho State Seed Laboratory Advisory Board
Noxious Weeds Advisory Committee
Organic Food Advisory Council
Pesticide Licensing Advisory Committee
Rangeland Management Advisory Committee
Seed Indemnity Fund
State Nursery and Florist Advisory Committee

ISDA 2007 Budget Highlights

<i>Operating Budget</i>	FY2005 Actual	FY2006 Actual	FY2007 Approp	FY2007 Actual	FY2008 Approp
<i>By Program:</i>					
Administration	1,704,900	1,793,700	1,939,000	1,773,400	2,114,100
Animal Industries	6,013,900	5,097,000	5,815,600	4,903,800	6,144,700
Agricultural Resources	3,162,900	3,426,700	3,877,500	3,673,300	3,876,800
Plant Industries	3,878,800	5,742,900	11,811,700	11,460,700	17,617,300
Agricultural Inspections	9,998,700	8,191,000	10,557,100	7,611,000	9,964,300
Marketing and Development	1,299,800	1,197,000	1,284,600	1,191,500	1,304,300
Animal Damage Control	362,200	287,700	528,900	429,900	588,100
Sheep Commission	118,300	127,000	179,400	100,800	164,500
Soil Conservation Commission	4,418,200	4,686,500	5,170,300	4,725,600	5,020,200
Total	30,957,700	30,549,500	41,164,100	35,870,000	46,794,300
<i>By Fund Category:</i>					
General	9,572,700	10,059,000	10,727,100	10,727,700	20,533,300
Dedicated/Other	16,562,100	15,686,900	23,932,400	19,932,700	19,514,100
Federal	4,822,900	4,803,600	6,504,600	5,209,600	6,746,900
Total	30,957,700	30,549,500	41,164,100	35,870,000	46,794,300
% Change from Previous Year	18.33%	-1.32%	13.09%	17.42%	13.68%
<i>By Object of Expenditure:</i>					
Personnel Costs	16,805,500	17,973,700	21,685,100	18,109,100	22,861,800
Operating Expenditures	6,532,700	6,779,600	9,070,600	7,638,100	9,218,800
Capital Outlay	902,100	1,202,800	1,279,200	1,124,500	1,049,400
Trustee/Benefit Payments	6,717,400	4,593,400	5,129,200	8,998,300	13,664,300
Lump Sum			4,000,000	0	0
Total	30,957,700	30,549,500	41,164,100	35,870,000	46,794,300
Full-Time Positions (FTP)	212.25	232.25	237.25	237.25	231.6

2007 Agricultural Legislation



Full bill details on legislation impacting ISDA can be found on the internet at:
<http://www3.state.id.us/legislat/legtrack.html>

H0042a: Interagency working group (Transportation) and RediFit - Authorized ISDA to administer the Rural Economic Development and Integrated Freight Transportation Program with input from an interagency working group. The program includes a revolving loan fund for qualified short line rail or intermodal freight shippers to upgrade, expand, rehabilitate, purchase or modernize equipment and facilities for Idaho's freight shipping infrastructure. (Idaho Code, Chapter 29, Title 49)

H0043: Seed Potato Law - This housekeeping legislation amended Section 22-507, Idaho Code which referenced Chapter 10, Title 22, Idaho Code which was repealed in 2002. The correct reference is Chapter 20, Title 22, Idaho Code. (Idaho Code, Chapter 5, Title 22)

H0044: Nursery and Florists Law- Educational Grants - Amended legislation regarding the disbursement of the portion of license fees (\$25.00) paid by nurseries and florists that goes into a research account. Provided not only for nursery and floral research concerning production and pest control, but also for education and outreach. (Idaho Code, Chapter 23, Title 22)

H0056a: Rural Development Partnership Act - Enacted the "Idaho Rural Partnership Act," which is assigned to be a clearinghouse of rural development resources and information, to facilitate pertinent public/private rural collaborations, and to remove obstacles to rural economic growth. Authorized a Board of Directors including the Director of the Department of Agriculture, Co-Chairs and an Executive Director to carry out these purposes. (Idaho Code, Chapter 90, Title 67)

H0058: Organic Food Products - Amended four definitions (livestock, handler, person and producer) in order to be consistent with the National Organic Program. (Idaho Code, Chapter 11, Title 22)

H0156: Oilseed Research and Development - Amended existing law to provide for the Idaho Oilseed Research and Development Act; to replace references to canola and rapeseed with references to oilseeds; and to revise provisions relating to the Idaho Oilseed Commission by adding a member to the commission, changing the production districts, and adding the Department of Agriculture as an ex officio member. (Idaho Code, Chapter 47, Title 22)

H0215: Property Tax- Land – Wildlife Protection – Noxious Weeds - Revised and clarified the application process to claim the tax status as land used to protect wildlife and wildlife habitat. Required that the management plan include controlling noxious weeds; required an annual progress report on management of the target species and controlling noxious weeds when making subsequent annual application; provided conditions that result in loss of the tax status. (Idaho Code, Chapter 6, Title 63)

H0243: Confidentiality of Seed Lab Test Results - Amended existing law relating to records exempt from disclosure to provide that certain records of laboratory test results conducted by the Idaho State Department of Agriculture Seed Laboratory are exempt from disclosure. (Idaho Code, Chapter 3, Title 9)

H0244: Confidentiality of Animal Health Lab Test Results - Amended existing law relating to records exempt from disclosure to provide that certain records of laboratory test results conducted by the Idaho State Department of Agriculture Animal Health Laboratory are exempt from disclosure. (Idaho Code, Chapter 3, Title 9)

Market Development

The mission of ISDA's Market Development program is to "promote Idaho's food and agriculture industry by expanding opportunities in domestic and foreign markets fostering industry growth and profitability." As such, the department promotes Idaho food and agriculture products in Idaho and around the world.

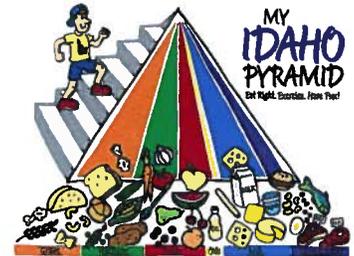


The department's primary domestic program is Idaho Preferred®. This program continues to expand, providing valuable marketing assistance to approximately 125 Idaho producer participants. Growers, processors, specialty food companies and farmers' markets are benefiting from growing consumer awareness of the Idaho Preferred® program by incorporating the logo into labels, signage and websites.

Retailers continue to support Idaho producers by including the Idaho Preferred® logo in print ads, establishing permanent Idaho Preferred® sections, and promoting seasonal products with point of sale materials and special events. A special 10-day outdoor air promotion of all Idaho fresh produce in one participating store increased sales by nearly 17% leading to the expansion of the promotion to 6 more stores for 2007.

Collaboration with the Department of Education has led to many exciting programs in Idaho schools to increase awareness and consumption of nutritious, local products. Meridian School District, the largest in the state with over 27,000 students, served fresh Idaho fruits and vegetables for lunch throughout the months of August and September

prompting the Governor and First Lady to share an all-Idaho lunch at an elementary school as part of a Healthy Harvest Celebration. Idaho potatoes, pluots, peaches, pears, corn, watermelon and apples were served in 25 school districts across the state who participated in the USDA-funded Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program. And, to provide schools with a healthy fund-raising opportunity, Idaho Preferred® offered schools and youth organizations the opportunity to sell Idaho apples, potatoes, barley soup and other healthy food items. In all, 25 organizations sold nearly 4000 items netting schools and Idaho Preferred® companies nearly \$40,000.



My Idaho Pyramid illustrates the healthy foods grown in Idaho.

Over 4300 consumers attended the second annual "Taste of Idaho" sponsored by Idaho Preferred, Albertsons, Sysco, and Clear Channel Communications. Consumers were able to meet local growers, taste and buy Idaho foods and wines and also watch as professional chefs created medal-winning Idaho entrées. Chefs were also the target of "Idaho Culinary Day" at the American Culinary Federation's Western Regional Conference in Coeur d'Alene. Nearly 500 chefs from across the nation attended workshops and the Idaho Trade Show Pavilion to learn about Idaho potatoes, onions, trout, beef, pork and tortillas.



Writers from magazines such as Sunset and NW Food and Wine experience great Idaho cuisine.

The Market Development Division, in conjunction with the Department of Commerce and Labor and several commodity commissions joined forces to take advantage of the growing trend in Culinary Tourism. Two different groups of food and tourism writers were hosted in Idaho to increase awareness of the great quality and diversity of Idaho foods. These media tours helped generate national media attention to Idaho's food and wine industry.

One of the international highlights the past year was a Governor's Trade Mission to Cuba led by Governor C.L. "Butch" Otter. The delegation of more than 35 representatives from 19 companies, trade organizations and universities visited Havana, Cuba in April 2007. This was the first Idaho

Governor's mission to Cuba. Cuba is a growing market for U.S. agriculture products importing more U.S. agricultural products than Singapore or Costa Rica. Companies benefited from Governor Otter's strong relationship with the Cuban government established from previous visits as a Congressman to obtain high-level appointments with key buyers.



Potato industry leaders negotiate with buyers of Alimport in Cuba.

Overall, the division has seen tremendous results in the Mexican market. Mexico has grown to Idaho's second largest export market for food and agriculture. Significant progress has been made with bean seed, onions, wheat and cereal grains. The department worked closely with the Idaho bean industry to expand government contacts as well as seed trials of certified bean seed. Successful trials in Sinaloa and Chihuahua have yielded significant sales to a new market for Idaho bean seed.



Yellow onions featured in Soriana Supermarkets in Mexico

Over 1,500 pounds of certified seed have been exported for the seed trials and another 80 metric tons of certified seed have been sold commercially. The department has aggressively promoted yellow onions including fall 2006 in-store promotions in Gigante and Soriana supermarket chains along with appearances on several televised cooking shows, recipe development, and trade servicing. Idaho yellow onion shippers shipped over 3.2 million pounds to Mexico in the 2006 – 2007 shipping season valued at over \$775,000.

To re-open markets closed to Idaho due to the discovery of potato cyst nematode, the division, in collaboration with other ISDA divisions and the Idaho Potato Commission, submitted and received a grant under the Technical Assistance for Specialty Crops program. Under the grant, the state hosted two Mexican technical teams for site visits. The Mexican market re-opened to Idaho fresh potatoes on April 12, 2007, and potato exports have resumed.

In Asia, one of the highlights of the past year was a menu promotion in Taiwan. An Idaho chef introduced Idaho products and recipes to the Lavender Cottage restaurant chain that created a special menu at their five restaurants. Over \$90,000 in sales and extensive media coverage was generated from the six-week promotion.



Product on display in

To help Idaho agriculture take advantage of the growing China market, ISDA coordinated an in-store promotion with the Lianhua supermarket chain. Consumer responses to Idaho products were evaluated and the positive feedback encouraged the chain to continue purchases. The division also held a product showcase in Macau to capitalize on the Special Administrative Region's growing tourism and gaming industry. Natural pork, wine, fresh and processed potatoes; onions; and apples were promoted to importers and media in Macau.

During the past year, the department also participated in targeted trade shows with Idaho or Regional pavilions at Food and Hotel Korea in Seoul, ANTAD Supermarket show in Guadalajara, Exphotel in Mexico, and the Sysco Foodservice Show in Boise. Further, the division hosted numerous trade teams, sponsored educational workshops and published several brochures and directories including a Guide to Idaho Farmers' Markets.

Governor Otter signed an Executive Order in January 2007 establishing the Idaho 25 x '25 Renewable Energy Council. There is a growing opportunity for crop and livestock producers to become providers of an alternative product – energy. The division began implementation of the order and coordinated the Director's first Council meeting in April.

ISDA also actively addresses international trade barriers such as tariffs, quotas and phytosanitary regulations that restrict Idaho agriculture exports and limit market access. The department maintains an Idaho Trade Issues Report identifying trade issues around the world. The comprehensive report is disseminated to state and federal officials.

ISDA Administrative Support Programs

The **Attorney General's Office** provides for the varied legal needs of the Idaho State Department of Agriculture through two in-house deputy attorneys general. The deputy attorneys serve as legal counsel and advisors to ISDA and associated commissions. Legal services include those relating to legislation, rules, contracts, policies, leases, disclosure of public records, administrative proceedings, contested cases, and personnel issues.

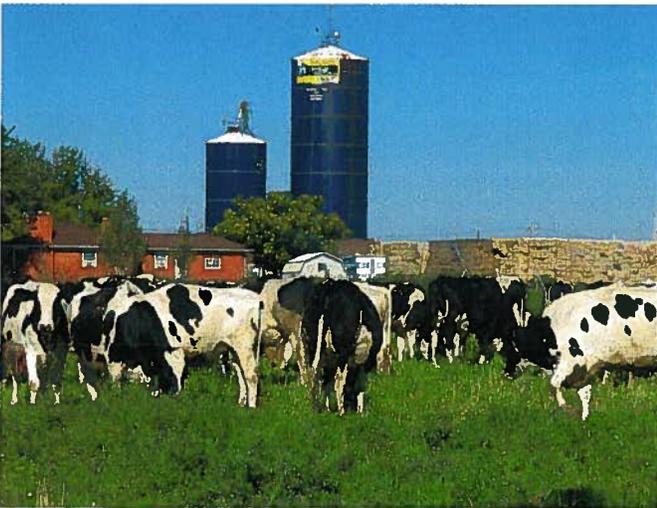
ISDA's **Financial Management** section is designed to manage all budgeting, financial control, accounting, facility maintenance, purchasing, inventory management, and related financial activities for the entire department. The Financial Management section also provides customer assistance for all financial concerns specific to the department.

The department's **Information Technology** section is an integral part of ISDA's mission. By working with other members of the ISDA team, they strive to increase productivity by providing an effective, efficient technology structure for all ISDA employees statewide. ISDA's Web Manager is part of this group.

The department's **Human Resources** section directs all recruitment, compensation, classification, performance management, staff development, civil rights, risk management, payroll, and related human resource management activities for both classified and non-classified employees. ISDA employs more non-classified than classified employees. The programs established for these two groups are similar in most aspects, although there are some differences in hiring and termination procedures. ISDA's staff more than doubles with the addition of temporary employees during seasonal operations.

Division of Animal Industries

The Division of Animal Industries consists of the Dairy Bureau, Animal Health and Livestock Bureau, and the Rangeland Management Program. The division has 49 full-time employees and an annual budget of approximately \$6.3 million. Major functions are described in the following bureau and program summaries.



Dairy Bureau

The **Dairy Bureau** provides oversight of the dairy industry in Idaho. This oversight helps to ensure safe, wholesome milk and milk products for consumers. The programs encompass sanitary inspections of dairy farms, bulk milk haulers, processors, manufacturing and processing equipment, warehouses, stores and other businesses where milk and dairy products are manufactured, stored, sold or offered for sale. The program also includes finished dairy product testing for compliance with state and national standards and an FDA approved laboratory certification program for industry and private laboratories. This bureau is responsible for the protection of ground and surface water from dairy farm waste, which is accomplished through routine inspections and testing of dairy farm waste handling and containment facilities, land application sites, and review

and approval of new or modified systems.

In addition to state enforcement requirements, this bureau works in conjunction with several federal agencies through cooperative agreements or memoranda of agreement to protect the environment and ensure safe food products. Laws and rules require dairy farms to develop Nutrient Management Plans (NMPs) on all licensed dairy farms. These plans aid in the appropriate applications of nutrients to cropland. A certification process has been implemented to assist in the development of these plans. The department conducts NMP inspections and reviews or obtains soil tests to verify compliance. The bureau is responsible for enforcement of the Agriculture Odor Management Act as it relates to Idaho dairy farms. Dairy farms that emit odors in excess of those odors normally associated with agriculture in Idaho will be required to develop an Odor Management Plan to reduce odors. The bureau works in conjunction with the University of Idaho, private industries, and the industry to find economically viable and effective means to minimize offensive odors on dairy farms. The bureau, through a Memorandum of Understanding with the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ), also conducts dairy farm inspections on the larger dairy farms for the control of ammonia emissions.

Bureau of Animal Health and Livestock

The **Animal Health and Livestock Bureau** is responsible for regulatory animal disease control and prevention programs through the inspection and investigation of livestock and livestock facilities, and the regulation of movement of animals in intrastate,



interstate and international commerce and operation of the **State Animal Health Laboratory**. Bureau staff participates in the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Cooperative Disease Control programs for cattle, horses, swine, sheep, domestic cervidae, ratites, llamas, poultry, and fish. The National Animal Identification System (NAIS) is one such program, intended to enable 48-hour traceability of diseased or exposed animals. The bureau shares one veterinarian with the Idaho Department of Fish and Game who works on transmissible diseases of wildlife as well as domestic animals. The bureau and the Idaho Department of Fish and Game are working cooperatively to address Brucellosis in free-ranging elk.

Bureau staff answer numerous questions and inquiries from the public, veterinary practitioners, and livestock producers on matters pertaining to disease control, preventive medicine, interstate shipment, herd management, animal care, and waste management. They issue permits or licenses for animal agriculture functions and provide animal welfare education; investigate animal care complaints; and work cooperatively with law enforcement agencies and the court system in the resolution of animal care cases and animal movement violations.

The Bureau is also responsible for the prevention and control of emerging and emergency diseases affecting animals. Idaho veterinarians and veterinary technicians are trained in emergency disease recognition and response. The bureau coordinates with the Idaho Department of Health and Welfare to address diseases that are transmissible between animals and humans, and with the Bureau of Disaster Services on animal health emergency management. The **State Animal Health Laboratory** serves consumers and agriculture through prioritized testing of animal samples and dairy products for diseases or agents targeted as most important to animal health and human safety.

Additional responsibilities include inspection and grading of establishments where shell eggs are packaged, stored or offered for sale; protecting ground and surface water from waste generated on beef cattle animal feeding operations (accomplished through inspection of waste handling and containment facilities, and review and approval of new or modified facilities), and ensuring the proper disposal of dead animals.

Rangeland Management Program

The Rangeland Management Program provides leadership and technical support to Idaho agriculture producers.

The primary duties of this program are to provide technical support and assistance to Idaho rangeland livestock producers. This support is delivered to both individual producers upon request and to local groups and associations through leadership and participation in collaborative teams such as local sage grouse working groups. Services include assistance for planning and implementing Best Management Practices (BMPs), including grazing systems, range improvements, and inventory and monitoring. Support is provided to livestock producers in reviewing and mediating agency actions, including those actions imposed under the Endangered Species Act, environmental analysis and agency planning and management decisions, which impact private and federal grazing allotments.



The Rangeland Management Program provides service and support to producer groups such as the Idaho Cattle Association and the Idaho Wool Growers Association. It works with and supports the programs of the Idaho Rangeland Resource Commission and professional associations such as the Society for Range Management.

Recent Achievements

- Increased animal care investigations.
- Improved manure/odor management.
- Rewrote numerous regulatory rules for clarity and brevity.
- Over 15,000 Idaho livestock premises registered in the National Animal Identification System.
- Collaborated with Idaho Bureau of Homeland Security on Agro-terrorism tabletop exercise for 8 counties in Magic Valley.
- Collaborated with Idaho State University's Institute of Emergency Management in production of "Agro-terrorism Awareness" interactive training CD, which was distributed statewide.

Future Goals

- Expand Johne's disease management program.
- Develop statewide animal care program in cooperation with counties.
- Continue to implement USDA's National Animal Identification System through premises registration, animal identification, and outreach through U of I Extension Service.
- Participate in National Animal Health Lab Network surveillance for foreign animal diseases.
- Educate more local emergency managers and producers on agro-terrorism potential and outcome to address the National Preparedness Goal for Department of Homeland Security.

Division of Plant Industries

The Plant Industries Division is responsible for: consumer protection, export certification, pest exclusion, control of grasshoppers and Mormon crickets, noxious weeds, the certification of organic food products, and the inspection of potato brands and potatoes at the retail outlets. The division has 46 full-time and 25-40 seasonal temporary employees.



Consumer Protection

In 2006, the division issued 2,260 nursery licenses; 582 seed dealer's licenses; 880 registration certificates for 9,457 feed products; 393 registration certificates for 4,233 fertilizer products; 154 registration certificates for 622 soil and plant amendment products; and 62 beekeeper registrations. Division inspectors randomly sample to test for compliance to truth-in-labeling for pet food, animal feed, fertilizers, and seeds offered for sale. The laboratories conducted 2,848 tests on feed samples; 951 tests on fertilizer samples; and 11,241 tests on seed samples. In most cases, deficiencies were corrected. If not, stop sale orders were issued: 111 on feed products; 3 on fertilizer products, and 9 on nursery products. Inspectors also conducted 1,013 nursery inspections for pests,

diseases and noxious weeds. Through this program, the sale of animal feed products contaminated with aflatoxin, fumonisin or vomitoxin have been prevented. In addition, these measures have prevented the spread of noxious weeds by stopping the sale of contaminated seed lots.

Pest Exclusion and Mitigation

The most important goal of this program is the early detection of invasive or exotic pests. Each year this division conducts surveys on high priority pest threats to the Gem state. This year's surveys were conducted for: apple maggot, gypsy moth, summer fruit tortrix, khapra beetle, Japanese beetle, karnal bunt, potato tuberworm and exotic nematodes including potato cyst nematode. This program also provides data to meet the phytosanitary requirements for a number of countries and states, and validates Idaho quarantines. The single most important challenge to the program and to the Idaho potato industry occurred with the detection of potato cyst nematode (PCN) in eastern Idaho, April 2006. Early detection and rapid response to the first ever PCN discovery in North America tested the cooperative leadership of USDA and ISDA. A unified incident command structure was organized and with over 38,000 delimiting soil samples analyzed, the infestation area was successfully identified. Seven fields tested positive for PCN near Shelley, Idaho. State and federal rules were developed to establish a 14,000 acre regulated area to contain and possibly eradicate the invader. In 2006, no adult Japanese beetles were caught in detection traps although ISDA is watching a serious infestation of the pest in nearby Orem, Utah. In 2006 only six potato tuberworm moths were captured in pheromone traps in southwest Idaho. The early detection of new or emerging pests allows for possible eradication, limiting spread and development of appropriate IPM technologies to mitigate a pest's negative environmental and economic impact to the state.



Cysts of potato cyst nematode (PCN)
Globodera pallida

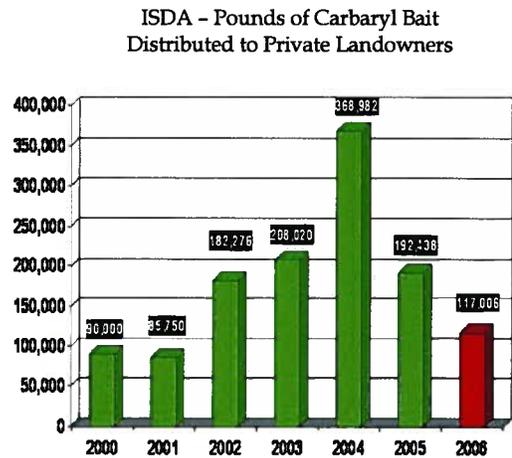
Export Certification

Idaho is a major producer of agricultural seeds. In 2006, Idaho exported over 220 million pounds of alfalfa, field and garden beans, sweet corn, Kentucky bluegrass, peas, onion seeds, and miscellaneous agricultural products to 93 countries.

The division's staff inspected 70,725 acres of crops; the plant pathology laboratory conducted 4,816 tests on 978 plant samples for diseases; and the division issued 678 state and 4,106 federal phytosanitary certificates. The division continues to work to overcome phytosanitary trade barriers, which restrict the export of Idaho agricultural products.

Control of Grasshoppers and Mormon Crickets

Grasshopper and Mormon cricket population levels were not as widespread and damaging this year, although high densities were observed at several isolated locations. North central Idaho (Nez Perce, Idaho, and Lewis counties) continued to have serious outbreak of migratory and red legged grasshoppers. Washington and Adams counties also experience infestations of mix grasshopper and Mormon cricket populations in private rangeland and irrigated pastures. U of I Extension and private businesses cooperated with ISDA to distribute bait to farmers and ranchers in areas with heavy grasshopper infestation. Approximately 117,006 pounds of bait was distributed to land owners in 18 counties in 2006, the lowest level since 2001. ISDA participated with private land owners in cooperative area-wide spray projects protecting 5,586 acres of cricket and grasshopper infested private and state-owned lands. In 2006, Mormon cricket infestations were less severe in Ada, Boise, Elmore, and Owyhee counties but population continued to build in Bannock, Cassia, Oneida, and Power counties.



Noxious Weeds Program

The Noxious Weeds Program has the primary responsibility for implementing the Idaho Noxious Weed Law and Idaho's Strategic Plan for Managing Noxious Weeds. Staff provide leadership, training and support to local Cooperative Weed Management Areas (CWMAs) around the state. The 2006 Cost Share Program provided over \$1,760,182.67 million in grants to CWMAs and statewide groups to implement on-the-ground integrated weed management. The program applicants matched the Cost Share dollars with over \$ 6,075,227.97, treating over 192,934.85 acres and mapping over 1,054,770.19 acres. Over 4,366,921 public contacts were made. Other programs administered by the staff include the Noxious Weed-Free Forage and Straw Program and the Noxious Weeds Mapping and Inventory Program. A new Eurasian Watermilfoil Control Program was created in response to \$4 million provided by the Idaho Legislature, The Eurasian water milfoil program funded 19 projects and completed control of more than 5,040 surface acres of milfoil in Idaho lakes last year. Focus of the projects was eradication. Control methods used were aquatic herbicide applications, bottom barriers, diver assisted vacuum-hand removal, boat wash stations as well as education and prevention



Eurasian Watermilfoil

programs for the public.

Recent Achievements

- Division staff presented information about the exotic pest detection programs at several winter professional meetings and conferences.
- Cooperative Agricultural Pest Survey (CAPS) continues to support a plant pest survey and detection program manager.
- Conducted an industry audit of the feed tonnage reporting system.

Future Goals

- Monitor the survival and establishment of bio-control agents for cereal leaf beetle.
- Expand exotic pest surveys to Silver Y moth and Light Brown Apple moth.
- Cooperate with USDA to eradicate the potato cyst nematode from the state.

- Develop a paperless inspection, sampling and registration system for the pest detection, nursery, florist licenses, as well as the feed, fertilizer, and soil and plant amendment programs.
- Establish a Treasure Valley Field Office.
- Continue to provide education and support to fight noxious weeds in Idaho.

Division of Agricultural Resources

The Division of Agricultural Resources works to promote, direct, and ensure safe agricultural and environmental practices. The division registers pesticides, and trains and licenses pesticide applicator(s) and chemigator(s). Coordination with agriculture professionals, agencies, and the public has improved the processes in protecting human health, the environment, and fish and wildlife species of the state from potential adverse effects of pesticides. Major functions are described below.

The **Enforcement Program** investigates complaints of pesticide misuse, and monitors pesticide use throughout Idaho. ISDA works through a cooperative agreement with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to ensure compliance with federal and state pesticide laws and rules. Compliance is achieved through educational seminars and audits, compliance assistance and regulatory activities. In FY2007 the division conducted 156 investigations, inspections, and compliance audits. Forty-five allegations of pesticide misuse were filed with ISDA, which is the second lowest number of complaints received for a fiscal year. One hundred ninety-eight enforcement actions were taken consisting of 29 hearings and 39 civil complaints against applicators and/or dealers resulting in 17 civil penalties, three license revocations and eight license suspensions. Other enforcement actions consisted of 30 warning letters, 49 regulatory letters, and 13 stop sale, use, or removal orders. Twelve cases were forwarded to EPA for review and potential enforcement action.



*Using mules for pest control
in remote areas.*

The Pesticide Licensing and Certification/Pesticide Applicator Training Program verified recertification credits for 952 seminars throughout Idaho in FY2007, with ISDA actively conducting training in more than 100 of them. Four major applicator training events occurred during FY2007: Environmental Care Association Conference, Idaho Potato School, and two regional events. ISDA continues to update the applicator testing materials to meet the demands of industry and the public. Two categories were revised/upgraded in FY2007. Over 8,000 pesticide applicators and dealers are licensed and supported.

Over 9,000 pesticide products were registered for sale and distribution in Idaho for calendar year 2006 by the Pesticide Registration Program. Pesticide labels are reviewed to ensure compliance with state and federal laws and rules, and assists growers and industry through the registration of emergency and special local need pesticides for agricultural pests.

The Idaho WPS/Farm Worker Safety Program has been recognized as a national leader for its accomplishments. Since implementation of the program, WPS staff has logged over 63,000 contacts with the agriculture community including training 706 certified trainers, 9,597 handlers and 15,926 workers in safe pesticide use. The Worker Protection Program has increased pesticide awareness, promoted proper pesticide use, and encouraged the proper use of personal protective equipment. In FY2007, the field operations staff conducted 37 Tier I inspections, 12 Tier II inspections, and 41 WPS pesticide label inspections. Also during this year, two stop sale, use, or removal orders were issued on products that were not in compliance with the WPS labeling requirements.

The Private Applicator Recordkeeping Program continues to work with the United States Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Agricultural Marketing Service that requires certified private applicators to maintain Restricted Use Pesticide application records for two years. These records are inspected by

ISDA personnel and can be made available to emergency medical personnel in cases of suspected human exposure to pesticides. In FY2007, ISDA conducted 150 initial recordkeeping inspections, issued five warning letters for record violations and conducted ten follow-up inspections from a warning letter issued in FY2006. Since entering into the cooperative agreement with USDA, ISDA has published a recordkeeping handbook in English and Spanish for private applicators in Idaho; worked with the Idaho Food Producers to incorporate a recordkeeping booth in the Agricultural Pavilion at the Western Idaho State Fair and Eastern Idaho State Fair; published a brochure that outlines recordkeeping requirements for private applicators, professional applicators and dealers; made over 5,000 personal contacts concerning the program; and conducted over 1,500 inspections in Idaho. In addition, ISDA is developing a downloadable private applicator recordkeeping program through the Idaho OnePlan.

The Container Recycling Project (CROP) is a free service to users of pesticides to recycle empty pesticide containers that have been properly rinsed. In 2007 CROP became a full-time program and a second truck was added to improve service in eastern Idaho and the Magic Valley. Over 140,000 containers were processed in calendar year 2006. Over 800,000 containers have been recycled since the program started in 1994. The chipped plastic may be recycled into drain field pipe, truck beds, pallets, fence posts, speed bumps, and parking lot stops.

The Pesticide Disposal Program (PDP) is another free service for pesticide users to dispose of unusable pesticides in an environmentally conscientious manner. The program conducts two major collections each year - one in the spring, which serves southwest and northern Idaho, and one in the fall that serves eastern and central Idaho. Since the start of the program in 1993, over three-quarters of a million pounds of unusable pesticides have been safely and properly disposed of.

The Water Quality Program implements agricultural monitoring and protection programs with public and private partners to protect ground and surface water quality. ISDA leads the implementation of the Agricultural Ground Water Quality Protection Program for Idaho (1996) through the Agricultural Ground Water Coordination Committee. ISDA implements ground water monitoring and protection projects related to pesticides, nutrients, and animal waste impacts. ISDA also works with the Idaho Soil Conservation Commission (ISCC) to implement an Agricultural Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) Implementation Monitoring Program related to the Clean Water Act. ISDA works with Soil Conservation Districts to evaluate sources of agricultural contaminants and Best Management Practices (BMPs). Information dissemination and local coordination with the agriculture community and the general public are key to the success of the water quality programs.

The Idaho Pesticide and Chemigation law requires that a minimum of 250 chemigation inspections be conducted each year—305 were conducted in FY2007. Also, as part of the EPA Cooperative Agreement, ISDA conducts a minimum of five chemigation use inspections each year. Six were completed in FY2007. ISDA continues to add chemigation equipment to its list of approved chemigation equipment and has developed application forms for equipment approval and independent laboratory testing. Updated lists of approved chemigation equipment and the equipment approval application and independent laboratory testing forms can be found on ISDA's chemigation web page. Use of approved chemigation equipment and chemigating responsibly will help protect the quality of Idaho's water. There are currently approximately 680 licensed chemigators in Idaho.

The Urban Pesticide Program works with non-agriculture pesticide users to promote the use of Integrated Pest Management (IPM) to control pests in urban situations. During FY2007, the IPM-specific training was largely dedicated to mosquito control techniques with approximately 1,500 individuals attending mosquito control training presentations and participating in pesticide use regulatory activities dedicated to intervening in the outbreak of West Nile Virus infections in Idaho (996 confirmed human cases with 23 fatalities and 338 confirmed equine cases with 77 fatalities). Six

counties declared disasters as a result of the WNV infections and received emergency state funding following a multi-agency review of their mosquito control plans. ISDA assisted Idaho Association of Counties in drafting legislation to expedite the formation of abatement districts in emergency situations. ISDA continues to collaborate with the Idaho Mosquito and Vector Control Association and counties to provide mosquito control training opportunities within Idaho. The emphasis on education and regulatory activities related to mosquito control will continue until adequate personnel and resources have been mobilized to address the West Nile Virus threat in Idaho. The urban pesticide program continues to emphasize the consideration and use of all available pest management control techniques reserving the use of chemical control tools (pesticides) as the last alternative in the development and operation of sustainable mosquito management efforts.

The Engineering Section provides professional engineering services and consultation to the agricultural communities of Idaho. These services include planning, design, construction inspection, and approval of livestock waste facilities and land treatment systems; providing technical information regarding environmental issues; chemigation training and inspections; on-farm implementation of Best Management Practices (BMPs); and engineering support on conservation projects administered by the Idaho Soil Conservation Commission.

Recent Achievements

- Conducted water quality monitoring, and coordinated with statewide and local water quality improvement plans/projects.
- Processed over 140,000 recyclable containers in 2006.
- Since 1993, safely and properly disposed of over three-quarters of a million pounds of unusable pesticides.
- CROP became a full time permanent program and new equipment was purchased to better serve our customers.
- Completed negotiated rule making to establish a response system for detection of pesticides in ground water.
- Exceeded 61,000 contacts with the agriculture community since implementation of the worker protection standard program.

Future Goals

- Food Quality Protection Act implementation.
- Complete and implement Pesticide Management rules.
- Develop BMP effectiveness protocols for agricultural TMDL program.
- Provide IPM training and outreach to retailers of general use pesticides.
- Implement a comprehensive statewide nitrate and ground water protection process.
- Publish separate exams and study guides for greenhouse chemigation and farm chemigation operations.

Division of Agricultural Inspections

Bureau of Shipping Point Inspections

The Federal Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Inspection Service originated in 1917, but its authority was restricted to work in destination markets where the inspections were only made by Federal Market Inspectors. In 1922, Congress extended the service to shipping points by adding to the authority the words, "when offered for interstate shipment," and so began Idaho's Bureau of Shipping Point Inspection. This service is a joint federal-state program entirely supported by fees collected from users of the service.



A potato field observed during a recent food safety ranch (field) audit.

This bureau maintains a Boise headquarters staff along with four district offices strategically located in Idaho's production areas. Present locations are: Parma, Burley, Blackfoot, and Idaho Falls. The bureau is the largest within the Idaho State Department of Agriculture (ISDA), serving producers, shippers and processors in 36 of the state's 44 counties. Annually, the bureau performs inspections on 10 different commodities and certifies over 13 billion pounds of produce. To provide this service, the bureau supports a staff of 475 employees in 17 different job classifications. Although some positions are staffed year-round, 75 percent of the workforce is employed in seasonal, part-time positions.

Employees of the Shipping Point Inspection program inspect commodities for quality and condition at the shipping point, using official grade standards developed by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) and ISDA for fresh fruits and vegetables. The Bureau of Shipping Point Inspection established a third party auditing program that helps Idaho producers and shippers meet the increasing demand for Good Management Practices (GMPs), Good Handling Practices (GHPs), and Good Agricultural Practices (GAPs).

On March 6, 2008, the ISDA signed a cooperative agreement with USDA to conduct surveillance reviews on Country of Origin Labeling (COOL) requirements as mandated by the 2002 farm bill. These reviews will be conducted by the Bureau of Shipping Point Inspection Program. The effective date for all covered commodities was subsequently postponed until September 30, 2006, and later delayed until September 30, 2008. Covered commodities include muscle cuts of beef (including veal), lamb and pork; ground beef, ground lamb and ground pork; farm raised fish and shellfish; wild fish and shellfish; perishable agricultural commodities fresh and frozen (fruits and vegetables); and peanuts.

Recent Achievements

- In cooperation with USDA-Agricultural Marketing Service, developed a customer driven Federal-State Audit Verification and Training program for good agricultural and handling practices resulting in increased marketing opportunities for Idaho's fresh fruit and vegetable industry.
- Issued phytosanitary inspection certificates on loads of fruit and vegetables certified and shipped to 18 different countries.
- Established a chemical maturity monitoring testing station to control sucrose and glucose content levels in potato tubers during the growing and development stages and during storage life.

- Annually conduct over 350 third-party food safety audits for producers and packers.
- Under cooperative agreements with USDA, conducts COOL retail surveillance activities.

Future Goals

- Continue to improve communication between office, field staff, and industry through computer technology.
- Provide industry with services requested in a timely manner and at a cost-effective rate.

- Maintain up-to-date information on all aspects of food safety and food security.
- Develop more precise information gathering and tracking practices through the timesheet entry program.
- Rewrite the Shipping Point Inspection computer program to keep up with technology, requests for electronic communication, and timely results.
- Work with USDA and the Idaho agriculture industry to maintain up-to-date information on all aspects of COOL requirements and to assist Idaho's agriculture industry in meeting those requirements.
- Work with USDA to secure auditor licenses allowing our USDA GAP/GHP audit trained staff to conduct USDA audits.

Organic and Hop Programs

The Idaho State Department of Agriculture is an accredited organic certifying agency with the United States Department of Agriculture National Organic Program (NOP). Currently the Idaho Organic Program provides certification to 230 producers and handlers on 38 different commodities in 36 of Idaho's 44 counties.

Recent Achievements

- Instituted a new electronic tracking procedure to ensure timely inspection and certification to customers.
- Trained all dairy inspectors within the Department Dairy Bureau to conduct organic dairy inspections.
- Trained 14 additional inspectors in 23 counties to perform crop and handler inspections.

Future Goals

- Improve communication between headquarters office, field staff and industry through computer technology.
- Provide customers with timely service at a cost effective rate.

Warehouse Control Program



ISDA's Warehouse Control Program is responsible for regulating public warehouses, commodity dealers and seed buyer facilities. Idaho's agricultural warehouse and seed industries store and market a wide variety of commodities such as wheat, barley, oats, dry edible beans, peas, lentils, and a number of other diverse seed crops grown in Idaho.

Warehouse examiners conduct reviews, which help to ensure that a warehouse operator continues to maintain a stock of commodities reflective of what has been deposited by producers. Commodity dealers are also examined to ensure that producers are being paid for their agricultural commodities.

The Commodity Indemnity Fund (CIF) and the Seed Indemnity Fund (SIF) offer additional protection for producers should a warehouse, commodity dealer, or seed buyer failure occur. These two \$12 million funds are supported by producers' assessments and allow producers to recoup losses due to such a failure.

Recent Achievements

- Developed and implemented a risk-based warehouse examination program.
- Updated warehouse charts and diagrams in an electronic format.

Future Goals

- Develop the ability to perform a more in-depth examination based on risk analysis.
- Continued training of examiners to better serve licensed warehouses, commodity dealers and seed buyer facilities and producers.

Bureau of Weights and Measures

The Bureau of Weights and Measures' responsibilities include statewide inspection of accuracy and suitability of commercial devices such as vehicle and livestock scales, gasoline and fuel meters and propane meters. Packaged products are inspected to ensure net contents meet labeled weight, volume or count. Short delivery and misleading advertising are investigated and gasoline octane is monitored. The bureau also tests to assure accurate weighing of products and commodities bought and sold. The metrology laboratory provides traceable calibration of mass, length and volume.

Recent Achievements

- Instituted decontamination procedures for testing livestock scales to proactively prevent spreading livestock diseases.
- Modified existing field weight lifting system and installed wireless video equipment to improve efficiency in testing large capacity scales.
- Instituted a new tracking procedure to ensure timely investigation and resolution on complaints.

Future Goals

- Continue to work toward accreditation for the Metrology Laboratory by the National Voluntary Laboratory Accreditation Program (NVLAP).
- Continue to develop relationships with regulated industries and service personnel for better compliance with Weights and Measures laws.
- Accomplish 100% annual device inspection.
- Continue training for W&M personnel for safety and professionalism.

Idaho Soil Conservation Commission

Created in 1939, the Idaho Soil Conservation Commission (ISCC) provides support and service to Idaho's Conservation Districts in the wise use and enhancement of soil, water, and related resources. The ISCC consists of five members appointed by Idaho's governor to staggered five-year terms. Three non-voting advisors have authorization to serve at the invitation of the ISCC: the state conservationist with the USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service, the president of the Idaho Association of Soil Conservation Districts, and the dean of the College of Agriculture, University of Idaho. The Commission's 24-member staff is responsible for programs and water quality efforts in agriculture and grazing, conservation program delivery, and conservation district needs. Over 20,000 farmers, ranchers and landowners receive assistance through districts. Most staff work through a Conservation District in the field providing technical assistance directly to Idaho landowners and assisting with projects within public/private, local, state, and federal entities.



Water Conservation in the Eastern Snake Plain Aquifer through the CREP Program

Programs - Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP)
Beginning July 1, 2005, the ISCC was legislatively mandated to implement the state's responsibilities in this USDA program. The primary goal of CREP is to develop and implement Idaho's CREP land use and conservation component to conserve water in the Eastern Snake Plain Aquifer (ESPA) by providing technical support in determining eligibility and enrollment; assisting landowners/users in implementing BMPs; and developing local groundwater management plans. The goal is to reduce water demand by 200,000 acre feet annually.

Water Quality Program for Agriculture (WQPA)

The WQPA was created to protect and enhance the quality and value of Idaho's waters by controlling and abating water pollution from agricultural nonpoint sources. This program provides cost-share assistance to entities implementing water quality projects. The commission selects projects for funding, evaluates program effectiveness

in reducing agricultural nonpoint source pollution, provides technical assistance, and supports conservation districts in further planning and implementation.

The Resource Conservation and Rangeland Development Program (RCRDP) provides long-term, low-interest loans to farmers and ranchers for conservation improvements. Loans are available up to \$125,000 for terms of up to 15 years. Projects should address environmental issues, including (but not limited to) the following items: soil and water resource conservation; efficient and beneficial use of water resources; riparian area improvement; fish and wildlife habitat restoration and preservation; and the increased agricultural productivity of croplands, pasture and hayland, rangeland, and woodland.

The State Revolving Fund (SRF), like RCRDP, provides long-term, low-interest loans for conservation improvements on private and public lands at the rural-urban interface. What makes SRF different is that no pre-set limit has been placed on amounts borrowed. Another important difference is the ranking system employed by the DEQ Board to determine project priority. The following list (in order of importance) is used when prioritizing potential projects: public health emergency or public health hazard; watershed restoration; and watershed protection.

Conservation Improvement Grants (CIG). Monetary grants may be awarded for improvements to water quality and soil conservation, and to demonstrate new or innovative conservation improvement practices/systems for rangeland and riparian areas. This program provides grants up to \$10,000 to individuals, partnerships, trusts, estates, private corporations or other legal entities. Qualifying practices must be implemented on public or private land identified as part of a project plan in Idaho. Grant monies must be matched by the recipient in cash, materials, labor, or use of equipment for the installation of practices. Grants are awarded based on rank according to set priorities. For more information about availability of grant monies or eligibility, visit your local Conservation District, or find us on the web at www.scc.idaho.gov.



Drainage ditch –before conservation practices implemented



Drainage ditch –after conservation practices implemented

Ground Water. The ISCC provides support to Districts for planning and implementation within Idaho’s Nitrate Priority Areas and other critical areas related to ground water quality issues.

Recent Achievements:

- Through WQPA, expended \$850,000 in cost-share incentives to local landowners for the installation of BMPs. The Commission also obligated more than \$3.2 million in BMP and administration funds for new projects.
- The agricultural water quality BMPs initiated through WQPA and the CIG program in FY07 provided treatment to more than 24,000 acres of critical ag land, 32,000 feet of riparian areas, and addressed animal feeding areas totaling 3,000 head.
- Provided support to 32 WQPA watershed projects treating 27 Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) watersheds. Eighteen of these watershed projects addressed AFOs, 16 included protection and improvement of habitat for species listed under ESA, and 7 projects reduced agricultural impacts to ground water quality.
- Completed agriculture and grazing components of seven TMDL watershed implementation plans, bringing the total number of finished plans to 30. Twenty-six additional plans are in various stages of completion.
- Implemented five Ground Water Nitrate Priority Areas
- Approved 22 new RCRDP loans and disbursed \$1,443,017 in low-interest loan funds.
- Four staff members have completed Certified Public Manager training and are certified as public managers.
- Provided training and support to District Supervisors and employees on using QuickBooks, supervisory practices, personnel issues, and accountability.

Future Goals:

- Continue statewide leadership for the development and implementation of TMDL watersheds.
- Complete three TMDL watershed implementation plans and initiate five new TMDL watershed-planning starts.
- Provide maintenance and support to 48 WQPA projects and ensure effectiveness and applicability in meeting TMDL objectives.
- Develop Integrated Pest Management and Range Management methods of the Idaho OnePlan.
- Provide local and statewide leadership for the integration of state and federal funding programs for implementation of BMPs within high priority TMDL watersheds.
- Provide landowner Conservation Plans to utilize newly-established CREP program to focus on water quality and quantity issues in the ESPA.
- Continue to work with the Big Sky Regional Carbon Sequestration Partnership to explore state options.
- Complete statewide workload analysis for groundwater planning and implementation needs.
- Secure additional funding and technical assistance for conservation districts.
- Increase training and support to District Supervisors, District employees, and Conservation Partners.
- Increase funding and participation in the RCRDP and SRF loan programs.