



STATE OF IDAHO

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

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NEWS RELEASE

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DIRECTOR TAKASUGI FINDS NO ECONOMICALLY VIABLE ALTERNATIVE TO FIELD BURNING

(BOISE) Idaho State Department of Agriculture Director Pat Takasugi has determined that there is no economically viable alternative to open burning of crop residue.

Takasugi noted that while research is continuing on field burning alternatives, none of the alternatives available meet the economically viable requirements set by Idaho law.

Under Idaho law, the director must determine whether there is an economically viable alternative to burning that would allow growers to still dispose of residue, increase yields and control diseases, weeds and insects. While the law doesn't require the director to make an annual review, Takasugi does so anyway in order to examine the latest available information.

The Idaho State Department of Agriculture oversees about 30 percent of the field burning that takes place in northern Idaho. Other field burning is managed by area tribes as sovereign nations.

Takasugi said he has instructed the department's Division of Agricultural Resources to work closely with other state and federal agencies, tribal leaders and local officials to effectively burn crop residue in agricultural fields while minimizing the impacts to the general public.

"I expect to continue to see burns that are thoughtfully and carefully managed, and that farmers will continue to do their part to be considerate of their agricultural neighbors," Takasugi said.

A copy of the director's determination and research materials are available online at www.idahoag.us.

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