



# STATE OF IDAHO

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

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## NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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### **ISDA FIGHTS GRASSHOPPER INFESTATION IN IDAHO, LEWIS, NEZ PERCE COUNTIES**

#### **AGENCY RESPONDS IMMEDIATELY WITH 35,000 POUNDS OF BAIT**

(BOISE) The Idaho State Department of Agriculture is responding to a grasshopper infestation in Idaho, Lewis and Nez Perce counties by deploying 35,000 pounds of bait to growers in the area. It is unusual to encounter a grasshopper infestation of this magnitude in this region of the state.

Lewis County Extension Agent Ken Hart notified the department of the problem on Friday, July 15, and ISDA's Mormon Cricket and Grasshopper Control Program immediately responded by transporting 17,500 pounds of bait to Grangeville. The department followed that with another 17,500 pounds of bait. Les Tschohl, ISDA's grasshopper/Mormon cricket program manager, said growers have complimented the department for responding so quickly to the infestation. Thousands of grasshoppers are on the ground, and populations may be between 15 and 45 per square yard, Tschohl said.

The infestation starts north of Kooskia and runs south along both sides of the Clearwater River to Highway 13 six miles east of Grangeville. So far, the infestation has not migrated to the Camas Prairie.

Grasshopper infestations are more common in the Snake River Plains of southern Idaho and the Owyhee mountain range. This infestation likely manifested itself because of the mild winter and extremely wet spring. This particular infestation involves the redlegged grasshopper, which can be found throughout North America, except for high mountain altitudes and frigid climates. Tall vegetation, meadows and grasslands are habitat favorites for the redlegged grasshopper.

For more information about ISDA's grasshopper/Mormon cricket program, visit our Web site, <http://www.idahoag.us>. To report a problem with grasshoppers or Mormon crickets, call our hotline number at (208) 685-6977 for western Idaho, or 208-733-5119 for Twin Falls County and counties eastward.

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