



# THE FARMSTEAD

BENEWAH COUNTY FARM BUREAU NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 2

OCTOBER 2012

## U OF I HOSTS FIELD DAY NEAR MOSCOW

By Bob Smathers

There are some new happenings at the University of Idaho in wheat breeding. On Monday, July 9, the University Of Idaho (UI) held a field day at the UI Parker Plant Science Farm in Moscow where hundreds of plots of Limagrain and UI wheat varieties were on display. The highlight of the field day was an announcement that the University of Idaho and Limagrain Cereal Seeds have signed an agreement to collaborate in wheat breeding. About 50 people were in attendance.



Field Day at Parker Farm.

Limagrain brings a globally based germplasm and modern technology into this new partnership with UI researchers. Dr. Donn Thill (Superintendent of Palouse Research, Extension and Education Center) says this collaboration between UI and LCS is very new to the University of Idaho and there is still much to be done to work out the details, but he is confident that it will be a good thing for the wheat industry as a whole. "Both entities, the UI and Limagrain, have strengths" says Dr. Jim Peterson (BP Wheat Research, Limagrain and former wheat breeder from Oregon State University) and this collaboration will bring these strengths together. Dr. Peterson says the UI's research and development expertise combined with Limagrains marketing expertise will be the start of a whole new era for wheat breeding at the UI. The ultimate goal will be to improve on-farm profitability and sustainability through collaborative development of wheat varieties with higher-yield potential, improved disease resistance, stress tolerance, and end use quality.

### COMMODITIES?

If you have market commodities such as beef, produce, grain, etc. that you wish to sell or buy, please contact Farm Bureau member Mike Ingersoll at 686-0979 for information.

### FB SAYS "YES" ON 1 & 2

Two of the three education reform laws to be decided by Idaho voters are supported by Idaho Farm Bureau® policy. FB recommends a "Yes" vote for both Props 1 and 2 to eliminate the tenure system and replace it with contracts based on evaluation and performance.

### BENEWAH FARM BUREAU ANNUAL MEETING

You are invited to the County FB Annual Meeting  
Nov. 3rd at 6:00 pm  
In the Luety Building  
711 Jefferson Ave.

R.S.V.P. by Oct. 29th to 245-5568  
or spatterson@idfbins.com

### "NEW CODE OF THE WEST" UPDATE

The "New Code of the West" committee is actively contacting sources of authoritative information for the first draft of the Farm Bureau Brochure. On August 29, Del Rust and Stan McNutt appeared before the County Commissioners to solicit their

support for the project. They reported that the response was excellent. The Commissioners not only expressed their support but had some helpful preliminary suggestions. A follow up meeting with Mary Orr of the Gazette resulted in a story in the paper. Del and

Stan were also interviewed on KOFE AM radio. Other committee members have also submitted preliminary subject matter. Another committee meeting will be called soon to further the collection of input from the assigned committee members.

412 MAIN AVENUE  
ST. MARIES, ID 83861

**Benewah County Board**

**President:** Del Rust  
drusty555@hotmail.com

**Directors:**

Area 1 is vacant  
Area 2 - Bill Duncan  
Area 3 - Bud Steinebach  
Area 4 - Russell Lowry  
Area 5 - Keith Daman/Vice Pres.  
Area 6 - John Ferris/Treasurer  
Area 7 - Carole Rust/Secretary  
Area 8 - Rose Longworth

**Committee Leaders:**

Woman's Committee Chair -  
Brenda Steinebach  
YF and R Chair -  
Colin Longworth

**Regional Manager:**

Bob Smathers  
bsmathers@idahofb.org

**Contact** any board member  
by phone, fax, or e-mail,  
by speaking with our  
County Customer Service  
Representative, Susie Patterson.

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spatterson@idfbins.com



*We know Idaho.*

*We Grew Up Here.*

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Northern Rocky  
Mountains, Idaho

**TIMBERLAND- WOODLOTS  
THINGS TO DO TO IMPROVE FOREST HEALTH**

**John Ferris CF,  
Local forester/tree farmer and  
Benewah County Farm Bureau® board member**

- **Build species diversity** by selective harvest, thinning, or tree planting.
  - ◊ Blister rust resistant white pine, tamarack (western larch), and ponderosa pine are some of the trees that must be replanted to keep your mix as they do not naturally seed in well. Most insects and diseases such as the tussock moth, root rot, and dwarf mistletoe attack only a few species, so a diverse forest halts their ability to spread.
  - ◊ If you rely on natural regeneration, think of genetics before you harvest. Leave your straightest, fastest growing trees for several years, to provide seed until you have enough seedlings, then remove some or all of the overstory. Site preparation by fire, herbicide, or machine scarification is important to reduce slash and competing vegetation so that seeds can germinate and grow. Species and density of leave trees will influence the species mix that regenerates; more open stands will favor pines and western larch, while more shade will favor firs, cedar, and hemlock (on most sites).
- **Saw out forest roads** for firefighter-pumper truck access each summer.
- **Apply for the County Firesafe Program** (free) for homes and out buildings by calling Holly at 208-245-9063. Maintain a 100' buffer by spraying brush each year thereafter. Burn slash piles in the moist fall to lower fire hazard. Open burning usually starts on October 20th. Lop and scatter woods slash so it will rot, lower fire hazard, and mulch soil.
- **Check or maintain road drainage** (i.e. culverts, ditches and waterbars) before winter so roads won't wash out in the snow melt next spring. Reduce soil erosion. Seed disturbed soil to grass and clover in fall.
- **Thin out crowded stands** if you have time and energy and slash down damaged/suppressed trees after logging. Much of this can be done by proper logging but not all. This will increase growth and forest health. In ponderosa or lodgepole pine stands, it will protect your trees from bark beetle attack, as each tree needs enough root space to gather water.
- **Maintain a buffer strip** for shade and erosion control along creeks. If none exists, then replant the banks. Clean water and gravel are good for fish and the ecosystem. Cutthroat trout spawn in gravel in the upper reaches of smaller creeks. Protect and encourage beaver.
- **Prune lower branches** on young white pine to reduce infections by blister rust spores.
- **Mark property** corners with steel posts; property lines with ribbon, blazes, or fence to prevent trespassers; and entrances with "No Trespassing" signs or orange paint.
- **Maintain wildlife habitat** by spraying noxious weeds like yellow hawkweed, yellow-star thistle, or spotted knapweed, which force out wildlife feed. Leave snags for the woodpeckers. Protect our native plants and wildlife.

For in depth information, check with a consultant forester, the Idaho Dept. of Lands service forester 208-245-4551, county extension forester Chris Schnepf 208-446-1680, Coeur D'Alene tribal forestry or fishery 208-686-1800, and join IdahoForestOwners.org.

P.S. Forest health benefits trees, fish, wildlife, birds, endangered species, soil, air quality, water quality, aesthetics, recreation, lowers fire hazard, and greatly improves real estate property values. Pray for that part of God's creation under your stewardship.