



THE FARMSTEAD

BENEWAH COUNTY FARM BUREAU® NEWSLETTER
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THE GOOD, THE BAD, & THE UGLY

You may remember a Western Film in the sixties by that name starring Clint Eastwood. While I do not recall much of the film, I remember the name and it seems there was some “whistling” associated to the film’s intro. I just recall that there was a good guy, a bad guy, and frankly a fellow who wasn’t so pretty.

I suppose this year’s crops could be described in a similar way. The Good, the Bad, and the Ugly. This year’s growing season was a challenging one to be sure. It started last fall with an exceptionally wet October. For many this made it difficult to get the fall wheat seeded on schedule and there were a few fields that did not get seeded that were intended for fall wheat.

“But not to worry we still can seed in the spring.” (I should point out here that farmers are eternal optimists) Well fast forward to April and May, when spring crops are put in the ground and to everyone’s dismay the wet weather continues. And once again we find it impossible to get all the seed in the ground. For those who did plant, much of it was seeded late into muddy conditions. **“But not to worry a few showers through the early summer and it will be fine.”**

The BAD - Well it seems that when the weatherman decided that it was time to stop the rain it stopped (I know, I know the weatherman did not stop the rain but it’s nice to blame someone). Spokane set a record for the longest period (80 consecutive days) without measurable precipitation along with record consecutive days above 90 degrees. This my friends resulted in the Bad. Many experienced a “half a crop” on the spring seeded crops.

THE UGLY - The weather also impacted some of the Fall seeded wheat. The wet fall, winter, and spring caused some of the wheat in the lower wetter soils to drown out resulting in inadequate stands to produce a good crop .



“Not to worry, we will reseed these areas to spring wheat and all will be good.” However due to the continued excessive moisture the reseeding could not be accomplished and those areas remained very thin all the way to harvest. And frankly these areas were not so pretty.

THE GOOD - Yes I saved the good until last. **“Not to worry there is always a good.”** That’s what keeps us farmers doing what we do. The eternal optimist if not this year, next year will be good...

There was good this year. The abundant moisture this spring on the perennial grass crops was perfect, combined with a dry summer the Hay was harvested in very good condition. The rains also benefited the area’s bluegrass production and with strong prices for bluegrass seed and Timothy Hay these crops were very Good. So there you have it The Bad, The Ugly and the Good. Always end with the Good... **“Not to worry next year I am sure it will be Great”**... Did I mention that farmers are the eternal optimists?

~ Keith Daman, Commodities Chairman

BENEWAH FARM BUREAU ANNUAL MEETING

You are invited to the
County FB Annual Meeting

October 28th @ 7pm

Gateway Café in Plummer

R.S.V.P. by Oct. 16th to 245-5568 or
stmaries@idfbins.com

STATE WOMEN’S COMMITTEE CHANGES

New Mission Statement for Idaho Farm Bureau Women’s Leadership Committee:

“The Idaho Farm Bureau Women’s Leadership Committee engages women by offering opportunities to develop communication and leadership skills, enabling them to promote and educate

consumers about agriculture thereby empowering them as strong effective leaders”

The 2018 theme is “Agriculture: the Engine that Pulls Idaho’s Economy.” County Mini Grants were raised from \$1000.00 to \$1500.00 for projects that have never been done in a county before because of no Funds. The Video Contest will not be continued after 2017.

~ Carole Rust, District 5 Women’s Leadership

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NEWSLETTER
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Benewah County Board

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- Area 1 - Vacant
- Area 2 - Rachael Johnson
- Area 3 - Bud Steinebach/VP
- Area 4 - Russell Lowry
- Area 5 - Keith Daman
- Area 6 - Vacant
- Area 7 - Carole Rust/Sec.
- Area 8 - Al Stifanick

Committee Leaders:

Woman's Committee Chair
Brenda Steinebach
Young Farmers and Ranchers
Chair - Jon Patterson

Regional Manager:

Bob Smathers
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To Contact the board

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We know Idaho.

We Grew Up Here.

**Benewah County Farm
Bureau is on the Web!**
[www.benewahcounty
idaho.org](http://www.benewahcountyidaho.org)

- ⇒ Code of the New West
- ⇒ Membership Benefits

INDUSTRIAL HEMP IS A VERSATILE POWER-PLANT

When people think of hemp, they often associate it with the psychoactive high that marijuana delivers. Unfortunately, that couldn't be further from the truth. In fact, industrial hemp, which has less than 0.3% THC content, has zero psychoactive effects. Industrial hemp is a game-changing plant that can be used for a variety of means.

Building Materials - In the recent past, hemp was discovered to be a fantastic resource for multiple types of building materials. In fact, the first iteration of hempcrete (a concrete like mixture with a hemp base) debuted in France in 1986, when Charles Rasetti restored the Maison de la Turque in Nogent-sur-Seine. Industrial hemp fibers are extremely strong and durable, making them perfect for a wide range of construction projects. Typically, hemp is used to reinforce traditional building materials like brick, steel and wood. But, recent advancements in industrial hemp have given way to hemp-based materials that can completely replace wood – which has led to very strong, breathable homes. Industrial hemp for construction is also used as insulation, building panels, fiber boards, thermal insulation and acoustic insulation.

Clothing and Textiles - The first use – and the most popular use – of hemp is as a source of fiber. Hemp is one of the oldest sources of textile fiber, with remains of hemp cloth dating back to ancient China, around 6000 BC. From Asia, hemp as a source for fiber exploded into Egypt and Europe between 1000 and 2000 BC, and eventually making its way to North America in the early 1600's. In fact, hemp cultivation boomed during WWII, when allied forces were running low on cotton to produce textiles. Unfortunately, the "Marihuana Tax Act" of 1938 essentially killed hemp production in the United States, which is only recently making a strong come back.



Nutrition - Hemp is an incredibly versatile nutritional supplement, and it all starts with hempseed. Hempseed is packed with healthy fats, b-vitamins, calcium, iron, and protein. In fact, it has more protein than almonds and flax seeds, making it a popular post-workout meal for athletes and gym-goers. It is classified as a "complete protein," meaning that it has an adequate proportion of all nine of the essential amino acids necessary for the dietary needs of humans or other animals. Hempseed can also be ground into a meal, sprouted, or made into dried sprout powder. Hemp leaves can be made into hemp milk, juice and other baking mixes.

Biofuel - In 1892, Rudolf Diesel invented the diesel engine, and intended to power it with a variety of fuels, including vegetable and seed oils. Biofuel made from hemp is derived from hempseed oil. Biofuel is a much cleaner alternative to gasoline, and the modes of production have a far smaller carbon footprint than traditional gasoline and natural gas extraction. If you have a diesel engine, then hemp can power your car.

CBD Oil - Industrial hemp is also a great resource for cannabidiol oil, or CBD oil, which is used to treat a variety of ailments in animals and humans. Some cannabinoids, like CBD which occurs naturally in industrial hemp, do not cause the high associated with marijuana. CBD is used around the world to treat multiple sclerosis, epilepsy, anxiety, muscle tightness and fatigue, and depression. In Canada and the United Kingdom, a patient can get medical CBD products with a prescription. Currently, you do not need a prescription to obtain CBD in the United States.

Hemp Production Matters - Utilizing hemp is almost as old as humanity itself. Hemp offers the marketplace a versatile product that could be a true cash crop.

~ Bud Steinebach, Hemp Education Chairman



"Why use up the forests which were centuries in the making and the mines which required ages to lay down, if we can get the equivalent of forest and mineral products in the annual growth of the hemp fields?"

Henry Ford