

Idaho State Department of Agriculture

Annual Report 2006

Pat Takasugi, Director



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Idaho State Department of Agriculture Administration



Patrick A. Takasugi, Director/Secretary

Director Takasugi was first appointed to the Idaho State Department of Agriculture in March 1996, and recently re-appointed by Governor Risch in June 2006. Pat is a grower/shipper and continues to farm over 1,300 irrigated row crop acres of alfalfa seed, onions, wheat, pea seed and garden bean seed on fields near Wilder and Homedale. Pat is a 56-year resident of Idaho and a 30-year third generation farmer. Pat is presently a member of USDA's Agricultural Air Quality Task Force and on the board of the National Association of State Departments of Agriculture (NASDA), having served as president in 2003. He is also a member of the Farm Foundation, and the University of Idaho's College of Agriculture and Life Sciences Dean's Advisory Board. Pat's objectives for ISDA include: working with all Idaho commodity organizations in proactive, problem-solving partnerships; promoting and educating consumers about Idaho agriculture; and efficiently administering the department in a business-like manner.

International Trade & Domestic Market Development and Administrative Support Programs

The objective of the International Trade & Domestic Market Development group is to enhance the diversity and profitability of Idaho's food and agricultural enterprises. Our agriculture diversification programs help stimulate rural economic growth through the development of new crops, new uses of existing crops and value-added processing. Export market development is also a priority, which we enhance with ongoing promotions in key international markets. Along with supervising the above activities, the director also oversees the administrative programs of the department including: financial management, human resources, information technology, and legal services.



Phil Bandy, Deputy Director, Division of Agricultural Resources, Administrator

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, 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. This division also incorporates the Engineering Section to provide professional engineering services and consultation to Idaho agricultural communities.

ISDA's Crop Residue Disposal Program (CRDP) operates under the auspices of the Agricultural Resources Division and is administrated in cooperation with the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality (IDEQ) throughout the state, and with the Nez Perce Tribe, Coeur d'Alene Tribe, Kootenai Tribe of Idaho and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) on those Indian reservations. The overall purpose of the ISDA CRDP is to regulate the practice of field burning to minimize the impact on Idaho citizens from smoke generated by crop residue burning.

The deputy director also oversees the Bureau of Weights and Measures. This program 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.



Lee Stacey, Bureau of Shipping Point Inspection

The Bureau of Shipping Point Inspection 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.

Dr. Greg Ledbetter, Division of Animal Industries

The Division of Animal Industries consists of the Bureaus of Dairy and Eggs; 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. The Bonded Warehouse program also resides within the Division of Plant Industries. 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.



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.



ISDA ADVISORY COMMITTEES

- Ag in the Classroom
- Commodity Indemnity Fund
- Crop Residue Disposal Advisory Committee
- Fertilizer, Soil and Plant Amendment Advisory Committee
- Fresh Fruits & Vegetables Inspection 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

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 1997, the Idaho Soil Conservation Commission was realigned to reside within the Department of Agriculture. While maintaining a level of independence, the commission and department work cooperatively to coordinate complimentary programs and responsibilities, especially in the areas of agriculture and related natural resources. The commission's authority is derived from Title 22, Chapter 27. 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 \$41 million. Only 26 percent of the budget comes from the state general fund. The vast majority 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 320 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 325 being on-board at any one time in 2005.

This year, the Legislature approved \$4 million to help eradicate Eurasian Watermilfoil. This noxious weed 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. This summer, ISDA Director Pat Takasugi signed off on the first

distribution of money for watermilfoil eradication. So far, the news from those eradication efforts has been positive. The department is a proud participant in this newest program to protect the state's waterways. Also this year, the department confronted a major threat to the state's potato industry - the discovery of Potato Cyst Nematode in eastern Idaho. The department's quick response to this pest has been widely praised.

The agriculture industry in Idaho is changing, and the Idaho State Department of Agriculture is changing, too. The department of the 21st century recognizes that agriculture has a broad constituency that includes not only the industry, but the consumers of agriculture products and farm and ranch neighbors. The department stands ready to meet each new challenge - and each new opportunity - head on.



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

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 director and his administrative staff believe that fostering an atmosphere of mutual respect, which encourages personal and professional development through education and training, is crucial to departmental success. Personnel strive to work cooperatively at all levels, utilizing appropriate technologies and tools to support creative, responsive and accurate decisions. Above all, ISDA employees pledge to optimize the value of those funds entrusted to them, and to dedicate all of their resources to working towards the optimal benefit of all Idahoans.

Operating Philosophy

ISDA employees strive to maintain logical, harmonious and proactive working relationships with producers, processors and consumers to ensure the public safe food, alternative fuel and a domestic fiber supply, while simultaneously safeguarding the environment. Department members are a team of professionals dedicated to effective performance and are unwavering in their promotion of a positive future for Idaho agriculture. ISDA leadership seeks to promote a creative and highly motivated workplace that emphasizes personal and professional growth, while at the same time allowing individuals and agency policies to remain open to meet new challenges and seek new opportunities. Department personnel are committed to serving in a responsive, fair and ethical manner.

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 by focusing resources on animal and plant disease control and prevention.
- Devote department resources to 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 Practice and provide engineering, work and farm safety, and other technical support.
- 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.
- 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.

ISDA 2006 Budget Highlights

<i>Operating Budget</i>	FY2004 Actual	FY2005 Actual	FY2006 Actual	FY2006 Approp	FY2007 Approp
<i>By Program:</i>					
Administration	1,722,800	1,704,900	1,793,700	1,959,400	1,939,000
Animal Industries	4,926,200	6,013,900	5,097,000	6,073,400	5,815,600
Agricultural Resources	2,869,500	3,162,900	3,426,700	3,613,400	3,877,500
Plant Industries	3,652,300	3,878,800	5,742,900	7,382,400	11,811,700
Agricultural Inspections	6,956,600	9,998,700	8,191,000	10,883,700	10,557,100
Marketing and Development	1,354,500	1,299,800	1,197,000	1,036,600	1,284,600
Animal Damage Control	381,300	362,200	287,700	407,300	528,900
Sheep Commission	116,300	118,300	127,000	182,800	179,400
Soil Conservation Commission	4,181,800	4,418,200	4,686,500	4,859,900	5,170,300
Total	26,161,300	30,957,700	30,549,500	36,398,900	41,164,100
<i>By Fund Category:</i>					
General	9,442,800	9,572,700	10,059,000	9,962,800	10,727,100
Dedicated/Other	12,857,000	16,562,100	15,686,900	19,941,500	23,932,400
Federal	3,861,500	4,822,900	4,803,600	6,494,600	6,504,600
Total	26,161,300	30,957,700	30,549,500	36,398,900	41,164,100
% Change from Previous Year	-14.70%	18.33%	-1.32%	16.56%	13.09%
<i>By Object of Expenditure:</i>					
Personnel Costs	15,169,500	16,805,500	17,973,700	22,186,000	21,685,100
Operating Expenditures	6,134,600	6,532,700	6,779,600	8,264,100	9,070,600
Capital Outlay	622,900	902,100	1,202,800	1,265,100	1,279,200
Trustee/Benefit Payments	4,234,300	6,717,400	4,593,400	4,683,700	5,129,200
Lump Sum				0	4,000,000
Total	26,161,300	30,957,700	30,549,500	36,398,900	41,164,100
Full-Time Positions (FTP)	202.6	212.25	232.25	226.6	237.25

2006 Agricultural Legislation



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

- H410: Meat Inspections** - Law repealed - All regulatory responsibilities for meat inspection in the state of Idaho have been under the jurisdiction of the USDA/Food Safety and Inspection Service for over 20 years (Idaho Code, Section 5-338)
- H411: Tuberculosis Indemnity** - Amends law to make the indemnity provisions for Tuberculosis consistent with the indemnity provisions for Brucellosis. (Idaho Code, Section 25-402)
- H412: Bangs** - Aligns the requirements for the identification of animals that have a positive reaction to an official Brucellosis test with the federal uniform methods and rules. (Idaho Code, Section 25-610)
- H465: Commercial Feeding** - Updates current law to meet the Association of American Feed Control Officials uniform code; and exempted from registration single ingredient minerals, high moisture food processing waste, live or whole animals, and animal remedies. Penalties for the distribution of unregistered product and late renewal submission will be adopted. (Idaho Code, Sections 25-2701 through 25-2717)
- H466: Carbon Sequestration Advisory Committee** - Expands the committee from 16 to 19 members by adding a geologist, an economist, and a representative from one of the American Indian tribes within the state. (Idaho Code, Section 22-5202)
- H490: Honey Bees** - Expands the duties of the commission to allow research support, and register hobbyist bee keepers on a voluntary basis. (Idaho Code, Sections 22-2807 through 22-2811)
- H492: Site Advisory Team** - Changes the Confined Animal Feeding Operation (CAFO) definition from the old EPA standard of "animal units" to the current EPA standard of "actual animal numbers." (Idaho Code, Sections 67-6529C and 6529E)
- H493: Bee Inspections** - Revises guidelines and investigations to ensure that bee inspections are adequate and exempt hobbyist beekeepers from registration. (Idaho Code, Sections 22-2501 through 22-2513)
- H513: Duties of the Director - Ag Technology** - Requires the director of the Department of Agriculture to cooperate with specified entities to encourage the growth of agricultural technology in the state and to protect the integrity of existing agriculture and agricultural marketing channels. (Idaho Code, Sections 22-103)
- H514: Deficiency Warrants for Pest Control** - Increase the limit of deficiency warrants authorized by the Board of Examiners against the General Fund from \$500,000 to \$5,000,000 to cover a major pest threat. (Idaho Code, Section 22-2019)
- H593: Crop Residue - CRP** - Clarifies existing smoke management law to allow Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) land to be burned, under certain circumstances, even if it has not been harvested. (Idaho Code, Section 22-4802)
- H594: Noxious Weeds** - Revises duties of the Director of the Department of Agriculture relating to noxious weeds; the duties of counties relating to noxious weeds; the purposes of noxious weed control as it relates to landowners and citizens; and provides and revises penalty provisions for violations. (Idaho Code, Section 22-2402 through 22-2411)
- H596: Fur Farms** - Revises provisions relating to the possession, sale, trade, barter, exchange and importation of certain animals in Idaho; the definition of domestic furbearing animals and domestic cervidae; provisions relating to those premises deemed farms, fur farms or fur ranches. (Idaho Code, Sections 25-236, 25-3001, and 36-711)
- H869: Appropriations - Eurasian Watermilfoil** - Appropriates an additional \$4,000,000 for eradication of Eurasian Watermilfoil for fiscal years 2007 and 2008; authorizes one additional limited service, full-time equivalent position; and provides legislative intent regarding the future funding of the Eurasian Watermilfoil Control Program.
- S1396: Animal Cruelty** - Clarifies and expands enforcement authority and duties on animal cruelty for animal care and control agencies; provides for possession and care of cruelly treated animals; provides for the termination of violators' rights to animals; provides that the owners or keepers of seized animals shall be liable for reasonable costs; provides a forfeiture process; provides for the disposition of seized animals; and provides that certain animals be euthanized. (Idaho Code, Section 25-3501 through 25-3505; 25-3511; and 25-3520A,B)

International Trade and Domestic Market Development

The mission of ISDA's International Trade and Domestic 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 its over 100 Idaho food and agriculture producer participants. Growers, processors, specialty food companies and farmers' markets are taking advantage of growing consumer awareness of the Idaho Preferred® program by incorporating the logo into labels, signage, websites and more. Major retailers continue to support and expand their involvement with the program. Paul's Markets include the Idaho Preferred® logo in weekly ads; Wal-Mart is testing a permanent Idaho Preferred® section in the promotion aisle; and Albertsons continues to promote Idaho products seasonally with point of sale materials and event sponsorship. The success Idaho Preferred® has had in working with retailers is being recognized nationwide. Articles in *Produce Business* and *Progressive Grocer* highlighted the successful partnership between the Idaho Preferred® program and small local retailers as well as major chains.



Idaho Preferred® featured in national media



Idaho Preferred® products featured in school

Collaboration with the Department of Education has led to many exciting programs in Idaho schools to increase awareness and consumption of nutritious, local products. In September, Meridian School District, the largest in the state with over 27,000 students, served fresh Idaho fruits for lunch during two different weeks. Pluots, peaches, pears, watermelon and apples were served in all elementary cafeterias and staff was very pleased with students' acceptance and enjoyment of the fresh fruits. To assist schools in meeting national Wellness Policy guidelines, Idaho Preferred® offered a new fundraising opportunity to schools and youth organizations featuring Idaho apples, onions, potatoes, herbs, water, honey and huckleberry products. Thirteen organizations sold over 1,600 items providing an entirely new market for several Idaho Preferred® companies.

A new event to showcase Idaho Preferred® members' products was launched in 2005. Over 3,500 consumers attended the "Taste of Idaho" where they tasted and purchased Idaho foods and wines and also enjoyed watching professional chefs vie for medals using a variety of local products. Albertsons, Sysco, Buy Idaho and Clear Channel communications teamed up to make this first annual event a great success.

One of the international highlights of the last year was a Governor's Trade Mission to Mexico led by Governor Dirk Kempthorne. The delegation of more than 65 representatives from 24 companies, trade organizations and universities visited Monterrey, Mexico City and Guadalajara in December 2005. Valued Partner Awards to key customers were presented in each city. A number of events showcased Idaho agriculture. The Governor promoted Idaho foods on a televised cooking show in Monterrey. He was filmed with chef Lulu Pedraza, a well-known celebrity chef from Mexico, and Idaho chef Christian Lamotte preparing one of his favorite breakfasts – a Governor's Potato and Onion Frittata. He also visited Soriana, the 2nd largest supermarket chain, along with an appearance from Spuddy Buddy.

Overall, the division has seen tremendous results in the Mexican market. Mexico has grown to Idaho's third largest export market for Idaho food and agriculture. Significant progress has been made with bean seed, onions, and fresh potatoes. The department has worked closely with the Idaho bean industry to expand government contacts as well as seed trials of certified bean seed. Successful trials in Sinaloa led to trials in Chihuahua



Fresh produce receives center stage in Albertson's in-store display

and Zacatecas. 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 in-store promotions in Gigante and Soriana in the fall of 2005 along with appearances on several televised cooking shows. Fresh potato exports were on the fast track, topping \$5 million last year and capturing 34 percent of the export market prior to the unfortunate discovery of potato cyst nematode. Once the market is re-opened, potato exports are expected to see further growth.



The Idaho pavilion at FMI included television celebrity Dawn Wells.

One of the emerging markets identified by the department is Central America. A buying delegation visited Idaho and an in-store promotion featuring Idaho apples, onions and fresh potatoes was held in seven grocery store chains in Guatemala, El Salvador and Costa Rica.

In Asia, one of the highlights 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 \$50,000 in sales were generated from the two-week promotion along with extensive media coverage.

The department also coordinated an Idaho Pavilion at the Food Marketing Institute's (FMI) Supermarket Industry Expo in Chicago. Within the pavilion were the Idaho Potato Commission, Idaho-Eastern Oregon Onion Committee and Great American Appetizers as well as the Potato Commission's celebrity representative, Dawn Wells, who starred as Mary-Ann on Gilligan's Island. She promoted Spudfest, her international Idaho film festival, and signed autographs. Her presence was a great asset generating additional interest for Idaho exhibitors.

In addition to FMI, the department participated in Food and Hotel Korea in Seoul, ANTAD Supermarket show in Guadalajara, Mexico, the National Restaurant Association Show in Chicago, Exphotel in Mexico, BIO Conference and Trade Show in Chicago, and the Sysco Foodservice Show in Boise. Further, the marketing division hosted numerous trade teams, sponsored educational workshops, published several brochures and directories, and managed a record amount of federal Market Access Program funding totaling \$401,000.

ISDA 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, which identifies 94 trade issues in 18 world markets. This report is disseminated to state and federal officials including the U.S. Department of Agriculture and U.S. Trade Representatives.

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 Bureaus of Dairy and Eggs, Animal Health and Livestock, Disease Surveillance and Diagnostics, and the Rangeland Management Program. The division has 47 full-time employees and an annual budget of approximately \$6.2 million. Major functions are described in the following bureau and program summaries.



Bureau of Dairy and Eggs

The **Bureau of Dairy and Eggs** provides oversight on dairy and egg industries in Idaho. This oversight helps to ensure safe, wholesome milk, milk products, shell egg and poultry 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. Other duties include inspection and grading of establishments where shell eggs are packaged, stored or offered for sale. 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. 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.



Additional responsibilities include 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.

Bureau staff answers 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.

Bureau of Disease Surveillance and Diagnostics

The **Bureau of Disease Surveillance and Diagnostics** is 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. This bureau's **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.

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 "Agroterrorism 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 agroterrorism 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 43 full-time and 25-40 seasonal temporary employees.



Consumer Protection

In 2005, the division issued over 1,900 nursery licenses; 582 seed dealer's licenses; 630 registration certificates for 7,203 feed products; 368 registration certificates for 3,681 fertilizer products; 148 registration certificates for 451 soil and plant amendment products; and 74 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 3,257 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: 90 on feed products; 5 on fertilizer products, and 37 on nursery products. Inspectors also conducted 905 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.

Export Certification

Idaho is a major producer of agricultural seeds. In 2005, Idaho exported over 188 million pounds of alfalfa, field and garden beans, sweet corn, Kentucky bluegrass, peas, onion seeds, and miscellaneous agricultural products to 90 countries. The division's staff inspected 74,905 acres of crops; the plant pathology laboratory conducted 2,527 tests on 628 plant samples for diseases; and the division issued 566 state and 3,766 federal phytosanitary certificates. The division continues to work to overcome phytosanitary trade barriers, which restrict the export of Idaho agricultural products.

Pest Exclusion and Mitigation



Adult potato tuberworm

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, cereal leaf beetle, European pine shoot moth, Japanese beetle, karnal bunt, Mexican bean beetle, sudden oak death, potato tuberworm and exotic nematodes. This program also provides data to meet the phytosanitary requirements for a number of countries and states, and validates Idaho quarantines. In 2005 no adult Japanese beetles were caught in detection traps. A single male Asian gypsy moth was captured by Idaho Department of Lands surveyors near Kingston, Idaho. Delimiting surveys and eradication efforts for gypsy moth are planned for the spring and summer of 2007. A cereal leaf beetle larval parasite insectary has been established at the University of Idaho, Agricultural Experiment Station in Parma. In 2005, 19 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.

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) had a serious outbreak of migratory and red legged grasshoppers. Most complaints came from areas where the insects were actually in the crops or on other private property. U of I Extension and private businesses cooperated with ISDA to distribute bait to farmers and ranchers in areas with heavy grasshopper infestation. Approximately 192,438 pounds of bait were distributed in 2005, a significant decrease from 2004 levels. ISDA participated with private land owners in cooperative area-wide spray projects protecting 5,681 acres of cricket and grasshopper infested private and state-owned lands. In 2005, Mormon cricket infestations were less severe in Ada, Boise, Elmore, and Owyhee counties compared to the 2004 season.



Mormon cricket after an application of the growth regulator Dimilin™.

Organic and Hop Programs

In April 2002, the Idaho State Department of Agriculture received accreditation as an organic certifying agency by the United States Department of Agriculture National Organic Program. For organic certification, a producer/handler must submit an application; undergo an on-site inspection; and pay a nominal application fee. If all requirements are met, the producer/handler is then certified as organic for the crops grown, livestock raised or commodity handled and/or processed. With the publication of new National Organic Program rules, the state's certification program has experienced an even greater interest. Since the program's inception in 1990 it has grown from 11 participants to 211. From the end of August through September, this division also conducted 138 hop inspections.

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 2005 Cost Share Program provided over \$1,450,440 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 \$4,738,341, treating over 187,335 acres and mapping over 549,663 acres. Over 2,547,140 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, to be distributed over a two-year period of time to successful grant applicants. Focus of the projects will be eradication, control, and surveying to determine exact locations of infestations, and providing education and awareness to members of the public. Award recipients will file end-of-year reports, due November 30, 2006, showing accomplishments.



Eurasian Watermilfoil

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.
- The Noxious Weed law was amended and approved by the Legislature to clarify definitions, add aquatic language, and include penalties for violations.
- 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 exotic nematodes in northern ID nurseries.
- Continue to improve our turn-around time in the issuance of phytosanitary certificates.
- Develop a paperless inspection, sampling and registration system for the pest detection, nursery-florists licenses, as well as the feed, fertilizer, and soil and plant amendment programs.
- Continue to provide education and support to fight noxious weeds in Idaho.

Warehouse Control Program



ISDA's Warehouse Control Program, organizationally under the Division of Plant Industries, 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.
- Successfully hosted the national Association of American Warehouse Control Officials annual conference in Boise, Idaho, from July 30 – August 1, 2006.

Future Goals

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

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 FY2006 the division conducted 177 investigations, inspections, and compliance audits. Forty allegations of pesticide misuse were filed with ISDA, which is the lowest number of complaints received for a fiscal year. Two hundred fifteen enforcement actions were taken consisting of 27 hearings and 36 civil complaints against applicators and/or dealers resulting in 30 civil penalties and 13 license suspensions. Other enforcement actions consist of 32 warning letters, 55 regulatory letters, and 9 stop sale, use, or removal orders. Nine cases were forwarded to EPA for review and potential enforcement action. ISDA investigated a significant exposure case in Canyon County resulting in 29 farm workers being exposed to pesticides. ISDA took enforcement action against the professional applicator, applicator company, labor contractor and grower for violations of the Worker Protection Standard (WPS). Monies collected from civil penalties assessed are being utilized for education of growers, workers, applicators and labor contractors, purchasing training materials, radio announcements and advertisements to create better awareness for compliance with the WPS and protection of workers from pesticide exposure.

The **Pesticide Licensing and Certification/Pesticide Applicator Training Program** verified recertification credits for 933 seminars throughout Idaho in FY2006, with ISDA actively conducting training in more than 100 of them. Four major applicator training events occurred during FY2006: 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. Three categories were revised/upgraded in FY2006. Over 8,000 pesticide applicators and dealers are licensed and supported.

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 61,000 contacts with the agriculture community including training 706 certified trainers, 9,146 handlers and 15,087 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 FY2006, the field operations staff conducted 45 Tier I inspections, 10 Tier II inspections, and 33 WPS pesticide label inspections. Also during this year, 4 stop sale, use, or removal orders were issued on products that were not in compliance with the WPS labeling requirements.



Luis Urias discussing the WPS with handlers and farm workers

The **Private Applicator Recordkeeping Program** continues to work with the United States Department of Agriculture's 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 FY2006, ISDA conducted 150 initial recordkeeping inspections, issued 10 warning letters for record violations and conducted three follow-up inspections from a warning letter issued in FY2005. 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 1,000 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 program to users that is a cooperative venture with private industry to recycle empty pesticide containers that have been properly rinsed. Over 116,000 containers were processed in calendar year 2005. Over 718,000 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 program 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. The PDP will also hold a collection in the fall of 2006 in Canyon County. Since the start of the program in 1993, almost 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—251 were conducted in FY2006. Also, as part of the EPA Cooperative Agreement, ISDA conducts a minimum of five chemigation use inspections each year. Seven were completed in FY2006. ISDA has added many chemigation devices to its list of approved equipment and has developed application forms for equipment approval and independent laboratory testing. Updated lists of approved chemigation equipment and the equipment approval and testing forms can now be found on ISDA's chemigation web page.

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 FY2006, the IPM-specific training was largely dedicated to mosquito control techniques with approximately 800 individuals attending mosquito control presentations. ISDA collaborated with the newly formed Idaho Mosquito and Vector Control Association to host a mosquito control technician training during April in Jerome, Idaho. Forty individuals participated in this specialized training. The emphasis on mosquito control is in response to the emerging and increasing West Nile Virus cases within Idaho over the last two years. Additionally, an IPM Workshop was held in Coeur d'Alene during the spring of 2006. The workshop addressed several of the pest species issues that school and public facility personnel face every year.

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 management of the Nutrient Management Program.

The **Crop Residue Disposal (CRD) Program** manages the practice of burning crop residue to control disease, weeds, and pests, while maintaining federal and state mandated air quality standards. Approximately 137,493 acres of cropland were registered in this program for FY2004. The program has effectively demonstrated that agricultural burning practices can be managed to reduce the impact of smoke on Idaho's population while maintaining the tool of field burning for growers.

Recent Achievements

- Conducted water quality monitoring, and coordinated with statewide and local water quality improvement plans/projects.
- Successfully integrated CRD program.
- Processed over 116,000 recyclable containers in 2005.
- Collected over 68,500 pounds of unusable pesticides in 2005.
- Combined the fall pesticide collection with Canyon County's Hazardous Waste Collection.
- 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.
- CROP became a full time permanent program and new equipment was purchased to better serve our customers.

Future Goals

- Food Quality Protection Act implementation.
- Complete the Idaho State Pesticide Management Plan for Ground Water Protection and implement 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.

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 for the bureau's legal metrology needs as well as for any entity requiring traceable calibrations.

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.



Bureau of Shipping Point Inspection

The Federal Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Inspection Service was started 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: Caldwell, 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). The bureau conducts ranch (field), harvest crew, packinghouse, and educational (walk-through) food safety audits on fruits and vegetables for both the fresh pack and processing industry.

The Dealers in Farm Produce Act spent its last year as part of this bureau’s responsibilities. Those subject to licensing and bonding under this law are buyers, brokers and commission merchants who deal in potatoes, hay, onions, and other commodities not covered under the bonded warehouse or commodity dealer laws.

Recent Achievements

- Continued adding customers to our Customer Assisted Inspection Program, which allows shippers and packers to be involved in the certification process resulting in a 50 percent cost reduction in inspection fees.
- 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.
- Reduced contract inspection costs to processors and producers by 15 percent.
- 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.
- Conducted over 100 third party, food safety audits this fiscal year.

Future Goals

- Continue to improve communication between office, field staff, and industry through computer technology.
- Relocate our Caldwell district office to Parma, making it more centrally located for industry.
- Expand technology and use with respect to electronic grading equipment and internal disorders in potatoes.
- 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 quicker results.
- Work with USDA to secure auditor licenses allowing our USDA GAP/GHP audit trained staff to conduct USDA audits.

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 ISCC administrator manages the 24-member staff 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.



One of CREP's goals is to conserve water in the Eastern Snake Plain Aquifer

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. What makes SRF different is that no pre-set limit has been placed on amounts borrowed. Another important difference is the ranking system employed 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. Monetary grants are available through the WQPA. 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 and may be awarded as part of a RCRDP low-interest loan. 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.

Carbon Sequestration. The ISCC has been actively working on putting together the framework for a carbon market for the State of Idaho. The carbon sequestration forestry sub-committee met early this summer to start planning a strategy for coming up with the necessary framework for adopting a carbon market for Idaho. The intent was to utilize the existing National Voluntary Reporting of Greenhouse Gases Program, established by Section 1605 (b) of the Energy Policy Act of 1992 and build on that. Our committee feels strongly about making sure Idaho recognizes agriculture and forestry as resources for carbon sequestration. We still have to meet with the agricultural and bio-mass sub-committees to gather their perspective on what needs to be included in this framework. This framework, when completed, will be presented to the Idaho legislature at their next legislative session in 2007 with a recommendation for an Idaho Carbon Market adoption. The ISCC is working closely with the National Carbon Offset Coalition (NCOC) and the Big Sky Carbon Sequestration Regional Partnership (BSCSRP) to help develop national technical standards for agricultural and forestry trades. We are also seeking to develop two regional pilot trades for agriculture and forestry in Idaho in the near future.



Cottonwood Flats project

The Idaho Agricultural Pollution Abatement Plan (Ag Plan) is a dynamic guidance document that outlines the strategy for the abatement of agricultural nonpoint source pollution as it relates to water quality in Idaho. The Ag Plan was created to address water quality issues of water bodies impacted by agricultural nonpoint source pollutants.

Upper Salmon Basin Watershed Project (USBWP) In 1992, the USBWP was established to restore and protect the habitats of anadromous and resident fish and to achieve a balance between resource protection efforts and beneficial use activities. The USBWP encompasses the Salmon River and all of its tributaries, from the mouth of the Middle Fork of the Salmon River to the headwaters near Stanley, Idaho. The project has a combined drainage area of over 4 million acres. The USBWP works to implement a variety of habitat restoration projects, including installation of riparian fencing, pasture management programs, irrigation efficiency improvements, diversion structure modifications, and ditch consolidation or elimination. Fencing projects have helped to stabilize stream banks and promote the growth of riparian vegetation, allowing reduced sediments in spawning gravels and shade for the stream. Improvements to irrigation systems yield more efficient water use throughout the basin, which leaves more water in streams, provides more spawning and rearing habitat, and reduces passage barriers.

Recent Achievements:

- Expended \$676,000 in cost-share incentives to local landowners for the installation of BMPs. The Commission also obligated more than \$2.1 million in BMP and administration funds.
- The agricultural water quality BMPs initiated through WQPA in Fiscal Year 2006 alone treated 22,167 acres and 54,160 feet of riparian area, while addressing animal feeding areas totaling 4288 head of livestock.
- Provided 69 loans totaling \$2,794,385 through RCRDP, and Conservation Improvement grants totaling over \$131,175.
- Provided support to 25 WQPA watershed project on 19 Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) watersheds to address animal feeding operation concerns and riparian habitat improvements.
- 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.
- Funded \$1.3 million in WQPA projects leveraging an additional \$2.3 million in private and federal funds to treat 10 TMDL watersheds and two groundwater nitrate priority areas.

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.
- Submit projects through the State Revolving Fund, which could provide an additional \$5 million to be used toward TMDLs and water quality programs.
- 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.