

Swift River Farm
193 Hwy 93 N
Salmon, ID 83467



March 30, 2022

Lloyd Knight
Rules Review Officer
Idaho Department of Agriculture
Lloyd.Knight@ISDA.IDAHO.GOV

Hello,

We are submitting a request to make a change to the Idaho Preferred rules for Participation Fees as shown below:

In section 100. 01. Annual Fee:

We would like this change to read as the following:

- A. Annual Fee not to exceed \$1,000;
- B. and Annual Fee will also be offered on a sliding scale (from \$0 - \$1,000) for any participant who determines they need it. This determination will be self-reported.

Reasons for our request:

As a small farm business in the state of Idaho, we are increasingly asked to pay licensing fees, application fees, participation fees, inspection fees, fees associated with those inspections (paying for agency and organizational staff time, travel, and hourly wages) and at the same time, provide healthy, affordable, and accessible Idaho grown food products. We wonder what Idaho Preferred is doing to increase justice, diversity, equity and inclusion in this program for people who may not have the resources to afford and/or navigate yet another additional fee.

As growers in a rural part of eastern Idaho, We are sorry to say that we have not found Idaho Preferred to provide very progressive or contemporary marketing for the annual fee required. It seems most of the limited resources, grower highlights, networking opportunities and social media posts are focused on the western and southwestern regions of our state. This has been pretty status quo for most agricultural programs here in Idaho, as well. We feel strongly that a sliding scale would help support more limited resource participants engage with the program without undue financial burden. This may also help encourage Idaho Preferred to expand its reach to other, underserved regions of the state.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Jessica McAleese

Swift River Farm
www.swiftriverfarm.org
208-221-8390
Salmon, ID