STRATEGIC PLAN

FY2027-2030



Brad Little,
Governor

Chanel Tewalt,
Director

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GROWING BETTER

A Strategic Plan to Meet the Needs of Idaho Agriculture

MISSION STATEMENT

Serving consumers and agriculture by safeguarding the public, plants, animals, and environment through promotion, education, and regulation.

STRONG ROOTS

The Idaho Legislature created the Idaho State Department of Agriculture (ISDA) in 1919 to assist and regulate the state's 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 the 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 directional 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 addition to the five divisions which primarily make up the ISDA, four commodity commissions -- the Idaho Honey Commission, Idaho Hop Commission, Idaho Mint Commission, and Idaho Sheep and Goat Health Board - 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 was assigned by the Idaho Legislature to the Department of Agriculture on July 1, 2005. In addition, the Bureau of Laboratories was established within the agency to manage all six ISDA laboratories.

The Idaho State Department of Agriculture is over 100 years old, but it continues to be a responsive and dynamic agency.

GUIDED BY A VISION



The Idaho State Department of Agriculture serves an important role for Idahoans. Idaho's economic well-being is forever tied to the health of its farming and ranching. We also recognize new opportunities exist that will redefine the future of agriculture in Idaho. Agriculture changes, ensuring efficient and superior service delivery will be the department's foremost priority. Over the past century our farmers and ranchers have laid the framework for the values that have shaped Idaho Agriculture as we know it today. Our pledge is to optimize those values in the years to come.



The Director and her administrative staff believe that fostering a cooperative atmosphere within the agency and with other state agencies creates the opportunity for increased internal efficiency, as well as prompt and complete customer driven service delivery. She will continue to encourage personal and professional development and motivate employees by providing meaningful work-related challenges. In addition, her availability to the public and agency employees reinforces her commitment to the success of the industry.

ANIMAL INDUSTRIES

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 intrastate, interstate, and into international commerce.





AG. INSPECTIONS

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 fruit and vegetables. Also inspect and certify organic operations, all weighing devices and licenses warehouses.

PLANT INDUSTRIES

Responsible for the registration and inspection of commercial feed, fertilizer, and soil and plant amendments; export certifications; pest exclusion; control of grasshoppers and Mormon crickets; and prevention and control of noxious weeds and invasive species.





AG. RESOURCES

Regulate the use and distribution of pesticides through inspections and investigations; registration of pesticides; monitoring of ground and surface water for pesticides; disposal of unusable pesticides; inspection of chemigation systems; training of pesticide trainers, handlers and workers; and licensing and training of certified pesticide applicators and chemigators.

MARKET DEVELOPMENT

Market and promote Idaho food, beverage, and agriculture companies and products to increase sales and economic sustainability. The division conducts both domestic and international programs providing direct assistance to farmers, ranchers, shippers, and processors in establishing new customers for their products, increasing sales and stimulating growth of Idaho's economy.



GOAL

PROVIDE SUPERIOR SERVICE TO IDAHO BY FULFILLING OUR CORE STATUTORY RESPONSIBILITIES

Objective:
Protect the public, plants, animals, and environment using regulation and education.

Tasks:
- Offer protection to the public and 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 quality.
- Conduct routine inspections and respond to complaints; use regulatory actions when necessary.
- Work with the agriculture industry to identity Best Management Practices and provide technical support.
- Continue to educate the agriculture industry about environmental stewardship and statutory obligations.
- Provide the public with timely and accurate information about regulatory and monitoring activities.
- Continue to monitor the implementation of the records management program.
- Build customer confidence in the food supply chain.

Desired Outcomes:
Idaho's agriculture industry will continue to be robust without adverse impacts on the public or environment. Consumers will benefit from safe and superior agricultural products.

Performance Measures:
- Conduct inspections, investigations, surveillance, and testing to prevent the introduction/spread of animal disease.
  - Benchmark: 400,000 annual inspections, investigations, and tests
    - Explanation: Benchmark is based on the need to conduct adequate surveillance to prevent a catastrophic animal disease outbreak.
- Respond to all allegations of improper animal care within 24 hours of receiving complaint.
  - Benchmark: 40 Complaints; 24-hour response – 100%
    - Explanation: Benchmark is based on the sensitive nature of the complaint and required timely response for the animal's well-being.
- Complete phytosanitary certificates within a prescribed time frame from date received.
  - Benchmark: 78% within 24 hours; 15% after 2 days; 7% after 3 or more days
    - Explanation: Benchmark is set based on the need to provide timely response to customer requests for phytosanitary certificates required for export of commodities.
- Provide and approve sufficient ongoing recertification training opportunities processing 95% of request within five days of receipt.
  - Benchmark: Requests 800; 95% approved and posted in 5 working days
    - Explanation: Benchmark is based on analysis of trends for approving recertification training in order to meet the needs of customers.

GOAL

FOSTER CONFIDENCE IN IDAHO'S AGRICULTURE INDUSTRY AND MARKET TRANSACTIONS

Objective:
Serve the public and agriculture industry by maintaining a strong commitment to those programs intended to safeguard consumer confidence.

Tasks:
- Continue to ensure the accuracy and reliability of scales and devices that are used by consumers and producers.
- Remain committed to programs that engender consumer and industry confidence, such as the Fresh Fruit and Vegetable program, Warehouse, Weights and Measures and Organic Programs and the Idaho Food Quality Assurance Lab.
- Respond quickly to concerns and issues raised by industry groups and by the public.

Desired Outcomes:
Market transactions will occur seamlessly, and consumers will have a high level of confidence in the quality and accuracy of dealings.

Performance Measures:
- Provide fresh fruit and vegetable inspection services for all applicant requests assuring product meets marketing order and grade on label while maintaining less than 1% reversal rate.
  - Benchmark: Applicants 515; Certificates 28,000; 1% reversal rate.
    - Explanation: Benchmark is set based on previous applicant requests for inspection services combined with the desired level of accuracy in service.
- Inspect, test, and follow-up compliance on weighing and measuring devices and rechecking at least 60% of rejected devices. Maintaining national recognition from the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) for our metrology laboratory.
  - Benchmark: Inspections 27,000; 60% Recheck of all rejected devices; NIST accreditation/recognition
    - Explanation: Benchmark is set based on past device inspection figures combined with desired level of achievement.
    - NIST accreditation/recognition provides traceability for the legal metrology needs of the bureau as well as for traceable measurements up to Echelon II for any entity needing traceability.
- For maintaining enforcement primacy in Idaho from USEPA, the ISDA must meet >90% of the grant commitment goals on inspections and investigations conducted by the ISDA.
  - Benchmark: Inspections as outlined in FY grant commitment; >90% of inspections/investigations submitted
    - Explanation: Benchmark is based on the EPA Cooperative Agreement under FIFRA. The agreement allows for granting states primary enforcement responsibility for pesticide use and misuse violations. In order to maintain the agreement, ISDA must meet >90% inspections/investigations requirements as outlined in the fiscal year grant commitment.
- Approve or deny within 91 Days, 95% of feed labels, and 80% of fertilizer and soil and plant amendment labels that are submitted for review.
  - Benchmark: Feed, 98% within 91 days; Fertilizer, 100% within 9 days; Soil and Plant Amendment, 100% within 91 days
    - Explanation: Benchmark is set based on the need to provide timely review of feed, fertilizer, and soil & plant amendment product labels when they are submitted as required by the relevant statutes.

GOAL

CONTINUE TO SUPPORT THE GROWTH AND SUSTAINABILITY OF IDAHO'S AGRICULTURE INDUSTRY

Objective:
Increase domestic and international sales opportunities of Idaho foods and agricultural products to foster industry growth and profitability.

Tasks:
- Promote Idaho agriculture products through trade shows, trade missions, in-store promotions, publications, media, and events.
- Increase awareness and consumption of products grown and processed in Idaho through the Idaho Preferred label.
- Promote Farm to School programs to increase the use of locally grown and processed products in Idaho school lunch menus.
- Increase exports through management of the Idaho Trade Office in Mexico and through partnerships with the state's trade offices in Taiwan and China as well as participation in the Western US Agricultural Trade Association WUSATA.
- Manage the USDA Specialty Crop Block Grant Program to increase the competitiveness of specialty crops grown in Idaho.
- Work to identify and remove trade barriers that prohibit or limit the export of Idaho agriculture products.
- Educate Idaho companies and growers on new marketing techniques and opportunities, export fundamentals and market trends.
- Assist in creating niche markets to meet demands for locally grown products.
- Issues Certificates of Free Sale required by many countries in order to facilitate the export of Idaho processed products.

Desired Outcomes:
Idaho's agriculture economy will remain sustainable and viable.

Performance Measures:
- Recruit 12 new companies per year into the Idaho Preferred Program and retain 90% of current members per year.
  - Benchmark: New Members 12; 90% Retention Rate
    - Explanation: Benchmark is based on projected growth combined with a desired level of achievement.
- Obtain a minimum average overall customer satisfaction rating of 4 for promotions, missions, workshops, and events using a scale of 1-5, 5 being the highest.
  - Benchmark: Minimum average customer satisfactions rating of 4
    - Explanation: Benchmark is based on an internal goal and past performance.

EXTERNAL FACTORS

The Idaho State Department of Agriculture will strive to meet the goals contained in this strategic plan. There are, however, factors outside the department's control that may, on occasion, affect the way the department meets the goals described in this document. Factors include:

- Emergency plant or animal health issues,
- Natural disasters, including severe weather events,
- Cyber security attack,
- Pandemic disease,
- Noxious weeds, plant pest or invasive species issues,
- Federal regulatory actions or mandates,
- Availability of staff,
- Availability of funding.

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