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IDAHO DAIRYMEN'S ASSOCIATION



Q1

2025



Protecting Idaho's dairy industry
through environmental, legal, and
legislative efforts since 1924



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Federal Policy Update

Charlie Garrison | Idaho Dairywomen's Association

Fast Start for the New Administration

The new Administration of President Donald Trump has hit the ground running in the first two months being in office with several initiatives promised in the campaign on critical topics of importance to Idaho dairy producers. Those include immigration enforcement, tariffs and environmental policy. While all of these moves have been expected, they have come faster than almost anyone would have predicted.

The Congress has passed, and the President has signed, a "continuing resolution" funding the federal government agencies until the end of the federal government's fiscal year on September 30th. That bill largely continued the funding levels from FY 2024 with some increases in the defense budget.

Next Up in Congress: Budget Reconciliation

The next big item on the agenda for the Congress will be a budget reconciliation bill. This bill is a significant piece of legislation because it invokes a special procedure for government spending that is not subject to a filibuster in the Senate. Each party has the opportunity to do this when they have the White House and majorities in both the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives. Even with their slim majorities, Republicans will try to thread the needle and come up with a bill that enacts their priorities and passes mostly, if not entirely, along partisan lines.

The Congress is expected to pass a package of measures to strengthen border security as part of the budget reconciliation bill in the coming weeks. That will include money for building more border wall, additional border patrol agents and more judges to hear immigration-related cases. The good news for agriculture, and many employers in other sectors of the U.S. economy, is that the thinking is E-Verify fits more in the category of interior immigration enforcement so that isn't likely to be a high priority for in a border security package.

The campaign promises of deportations have begun. Initially there were reports of many foreign-born workers, both documented and undocumented, who were afraid to go to their jobs for fear of workplace raids. That seems to have calmed down across

the country as early, limited attempts to target farmworkers have not spread.

The working assumption is that a window of opportunity for significant immigration reform, including provisions for the farm labor workforce, could open once the border security package passes. IDA is working with the members of the Idaho congressional delegation who have been helpful in the past in trying to advance farm labor visa reform on behalf of Idaho dairy producers to be ready for this next potential opportunity.

International Trade

Tariffs have also been a hot topic in the early weeks of the new Administration. The President has invoked new 25% tariffs on steel and aluminum imports from all countries. Buyers of U.S. products, including the European Union, Canada, Mexico and China have threatened retaliatory tariffs. President Trump said he also plans broad new reciprocal tariffs to go into effect on April 2nd although negotiations continue. China has invoked 15% retaliatory tariffs on some U.S. farm goods and 10% tariffs on others, including dairy.

While the situation with tariffs is very fluid, there are reports that the President is going to relax at least some new duties on automobile imports. He is stepping up pressure on countries that buy oil from Iran and Venezuela with new tariffs and sanctions. It is too soon to tell what, if any, actions the oil-buying countries, including China, might take in retaliation for the additional U.S. pressure. IDA will continue trying to work with the state's congressional delegation to keep international markets for Idaho dairy products healthy and growing.

Regulatory Changes at the EPA

EPA Administrator Lee Zeldin has announced reviews of several agency policies. Those affecting agriculture include the Waters of the U.S. (WOTUS) rule, the Power Plant Emissions Rule, the Greenhouse Gas Reporting Rule, Electric Vehicle Mandates, the PM 2.5 Rule and the Endangerment Finding.

A narrower definition of what constitutes a WOTUS has been a priority of agriculture for nearly two decades now. The definition has flipped back and forth from narrow to broad, then narrow and back



to broad again. The Trump Administration will try to roll that back to a narrow definition more closely limited to federal regulation of navigable waters only. It would be left to the states to regulate other bodies of water.

The Endangerment Finding is significant for the entire U.S. economy, including agriculture. That is the underlying definition that greenhouse gas emissions pose an imminent danger to public health and so federal regulation is justified.

Farm Bill

All of these initiatives happening in the first quarter of the new year have left little room for debating a new Farm Bill. The current Farm Bill has been extended through September 30th of this year. By all accounts, the partisan differences on spending in programs like SNAP still exist so hopes of a new Farm Bill in calendar year 2025 are not high. That situation will likely require another extension of the current bill before the end of the year as most of the economic safety net programs run through December 31st.

Bills on Tax Treatment of Income from Cooperatives, Feed Additive Approvals

IDA is also joining several organizations across production agriculture in support of legislation to

make the current Section 199A tax treatment of income from cooperatives permanent. That will likely be included in a package of tax provisions from the 2017 Tax Cuts and Jobs Act that will be voted on as part of a budget reconciliation bill this spring or in the fall. We are also encouraging our delegation members to cosponsor the “Innovate FEED Act” that would help speed the FDA approval of feed additives that would improve the productivity of cattle and reduce enteric methane emissions. ■

Charlie Garrison

cgarrison@thegarrisongroupllc.com

State Policy Update

Bob Naerebout & David Claiborne | Idaho Dairymen's Association

As the legislative session nears its end, we believe it is important to provide an update on the bills that we have been watching this session. Below is a synopsis of each bill, including IDA's position. If you would like to sign up for more real time notification on our lobbying efforts, please contact Riley Barney at riley@idahodairymens.org to be added to our bi-weekly government affairs update. This update is only released during the legislative session or when there is significant movement by congress on federal issues.

> H11- Immigration

Sponsors: Representative Crane; Representative Skaug

IDA Position: Oppose

Status: No action taken after print hearing; reintroduced as H83.

Summary:

- Authorizes state identification, detainment, and deportation of any illegal aliens in Idaho.

> H83A - Immigration, illegal entry/Immigration Cooperation & Enforcement Act

Sponsors: Representative Crane; Representative Skaug; Senator Anthon; Senator Lakey

IDA Position: Support

Status: Passed Senate (29-6) & House (61-9) as amended. Signed by Governor

Summary:

- Authorizes state identification and detainment of illegal aliens in Idaho if suspected of an independent offense under Title 18 (Crimes) or Title 37, Chapter 27 (Controlled Substances). Authorizes state coordination with ICE for deportation.

Legal Update:

- With respect to H83a, on the same day that Governor Little signed it into law, a lawsuit was filed to prevent the enforcement of the law by Idaho and its county prosecutors. The lawsuit is brought on behalf of a class of anonymous persons that claim to be unlawfully present in Idaho, or who travel in Idaho without lawful presence in the United States. They allege H83a (1) violates the supremacy clause because immigration is an area of exclusive federal authority; (2) is unconstitutionally vague and does not define the phrase "manner of lawful entry" or provide law enforcement with specific standards to ensure the law is uniformly enforced; and (3) violates the commerce clause as it interferes with the plaintiffs' abilities to travel to and within Idaho. The U.S. District Court for Idaho immediately entered a Temporary Restraining Order blocking enforcement of H83a pending further legal arguments and further ruling. The TRO expires on April 10, 2025 and the Court will hear arguments and issue a further ruling that day.

> H104 - Ag Building Code Exemption

Sponsors: Senator Shippy; Representative Shirts

IDA Position: Support

Status: Passed House (70-0) & Senate (35-0). Signed by Governor

Summary:

- Creates a unified and singular definition for "Agricultural Buildings" across all local jurisdictions.

› H135 – Public benefits

Sponsors: Representative Redman; Senator Hart

IDA Position: Oppose

Status: Passed House (46-22-2) & Senate (26-9-0). Signed by Governor

Summary:

- Prohibits receipt of the following public benefits to those without lawful status: Immunizations; testing & treatment of communicable diseases; access to food kitchens; crisis counseling; prenatal & postnatal care; and food assistance for children.

› H155 - Strategic facilities

Sponsor: Representative Raybould

IDA Position: Support

Status: Scheduled for committee hearing but later pulled; no action since

Summary:

- Creates a penalty for impeding and trespassing related to strategic facilities. The bill includes provisions for misdemeanor and felony charges based on the circumstances of the action.

› H252 – Unauthorized workers, verification

Sponsors: Representative Redman

IDA Position: Oppose

Status: No action taken after print hearing.

Summary:

- Mandates the use of e-verify for hiring by public and private organizations.

› H253A - Public records requests

Sponsors: Representative Furniss; Senator Bernt

IDA Position: Support

Status: Passed House (41-29-0) & Senate (25-9-1). Signed by Governor

Summary:

- Allows state and local governments additional time to respond to requests for public records from nonresidents, and to allow a different fee schedule to fulfill nonresident fee requests.

› H297 – Idaho guestworker program act

Sponsors: Representative Raybould; Representative Crane

IDA Position: Monitor

Status: No action taken after print hearing.

Summary:

- Creates a year-round agricultural guestworker permit at the state level allowing unauthorized workers to work in Idaho's agricultural industry. Does not protect against enforcement of federal immigration laws.

› H335 – Aliens, concealing, harboring

Sponsors: Representative Hawkins

IDA Position: Oppose

Status: Died in committee (10-5).

Summary:

- Makes it a crime for organizations to knowingly: conceal or harbor an illegal alien; encourage, promote or induce an illegal alien to live in Idaho; transport an illegal alien; or provide shelter, financial support, or legal assistance to an illegal alien.



› H356* – State assets, property, foreign
(amended version of H221 which we supported and includes amendment we suggested)

Sponsors: Representative Hill; Senator Adams

IDA Position: Support

Status: Passed House (64-0-6) & Senate (30-2-3). Delivered to Governor 4/4/25

Summary:

- Expands on current code where foreign governments are prohibited from purchasing any Idaho forest land, in addition to the already prohibition in purchasing agricultural land, water rights, mining claims or mineral rights.

› H374 – Approp, edu bd, ag research, add'l

Sponsors: Representative Price

IDA Position: Support

Status: Passed House (42-27-1) & Senate (26-9-0). Signed by Governor

Summary:

- Appropriates funding for the University of Idaho Agriculture Research and Extension Service and provides enhancements to the FY 2026 maintenance budget, including CAFE building maintenance costs.

› H382 – Student immigration status

Sponsors: Representative Hawkins

Position: Oppose

Status: Scheduled for committee hearing but later pulled; no action since

Summary:

- Idaho schools, colleges and universities must collect data on the nationality and immigration status of every enrolled student.

› H459 – Approp, Dept. of Labor, add'l

Sponsors: Representative Galaviz

Position: Support

Status: Passed House (68-O-2) & Senate (34-O-1). Signed by Governor

Summary:

- Appropriates funding for the Idaho Department of Labor, including funding to conduct a cost benefit analysis on using E-Verify and a study on the impact of illegal immigration.

› H473 – ICE agreement, law enforcement

Sponsors: Representative Hawkins; Senator Lenney

Position: Oppose

Status: Personal bill; no action taken

Summary:

- Mandates all Idaho law enforcement agencies to establish a Section 287(g) agreement with ICE to carry out certain immigration enforcement duties.

› H474 – Immigration status, arrest

Sponsors: Representative Hawkins; Representative Harris; Senator Lenney

Position: Oppose

Status: Personal bill; no action taken

Summary:

- Requires law enforcement agents to verify and record immigration status and nationality of every person they arrest.

› S1016 – Brand Board statutory fee cap adjustments

Sponsor: Senator Burtenshaw

Position: Support

Status: Passed the Senate (26-7-2) & House (44-22-4). Signed by Governor

Summary:

- Adjusts statutory fee caps and to add language clarifying the Brand Board's ability and process of regulating fees under the statutory caps.

› S1033 – Agriculture nuisance complaints

Sponsors: Senator Lakey; Representative Boyle

Position: Support

Status: Passed Senate (33-O-2) & House (64-2-4). Signed by Governor

Summary:

- Provides that if a lawsuit alleging nuisance is filed against a lawfully conducted agricultural operation and the agriculture operator prevails, then they are entitled to recover their attorney's fees.

➤ S1039 - Immigration Cooperation & Enforcement Act

Sponsors: Senator Anthon

IDA Position: Support

Status: Suspended by H83a, which passed and was signed in to law

➤ S1086 - Landowner rules, trespass

Sponsors: Senator Harris

Position: Support

Status: Passed Senate (18-16-1); Referred to House Resources & Conservation Committee

Summary:

- Clarify in Idaho Code that when the government or a landowner allows recreational use of land subject to terms or limitations, and gives notice of those terms, and a recreationist acts contrary to the terms of that permission, then the recreationist shall be considered in criminal trespass.

➤ S1128 - Water management account

Sponsors: Senator Burtenshaw

Position: Support

Status: Passed Senate (24-10-1); Referred to House Resources & Conservation Committee

Summary:

- Calls for an additional \$30 million in ongoing investments for water infrastructure.

➤ S1150 - Approp, agriculture and SWCC, add'l

Sponsors: Senator Hart; Representative Miller

Position: Support

Status: Passed Senate (22-13-0) and House (38-28-4) Signed by Governor

Summary:

- Provides appropriation enhancements to the FY 2026 maintenance budgets for the Department of Agriculture and the Soil and Water Conservation Commission.

➤ 2026 Department of Environmental Quality (IDEQ) Budget

Position: Support

Overall, IDA has been largely successful at advancing bills that promote the dairy industry and blocking those that would harm it. If you have any additional questions on our positions or efforts, please don't hesitate to contact us. ■

Bob Naerebout

bnaerebout@gmail.com

David Claiborne

david@sawtoothlaw.com



Feeling a Bit Salty?

Megan Satterwhite | Idaho Dairymen's Association

The weather is warming up, fields are drying out, and it's time to start thinking about the upcoming growing season and managing soil fertility for optimal crop yields and soil health.

Salt accumulation is one of the most common challenges in cropping rotations that frequently receive manure application. This has become increasingly challenging for facilities that have converted from an open lot housing style to a cross-vent housing where all the manure, including urine, is managed and stored as a liquid rather than a solid. Manure and lagoon water may contain high amounts of soluble salts and, if not managed appropriately, can lead to accumulations that negatively impact crop growth, quality, and yield. Commercial fertilizers and irrigation water are also sources of soluble salt and should be considered when managing salinity issues.

Excess salt in the soil interferes with the plant's ability to extract water from the soil solution. Plants under salt stress have a drought-like appearance despite adequate soil moisture. Water moves from areas of low salt concentration to those of high salt concentration through soil osmotic potential. Therefore, water moves from the plant root zone to the salt-concentrated soil solution, resulting in water stress and ultimately leading to plant death.

Most soil tests report soil salt concentration or Electrical Conductivity (EC) values. They are reported on a mhos/cm or ds/m basis. The most common salt ions that accumulate in the soil are Potassium (K), Calcium (Ca), Magnesium (Mg), Sodium (Na), Sulfate (S), Chloride (Cl), Carbonate, and Bicarbonate. Some ions can interfere with the uptake of other ions, leading to nutrient deficiencies. For example, high potassium concentrations in the soil can inhibit crops, particularly grasses, from taking up magnesium. This is an important consideration for rations, as forages with potassium/magnesium/calcium imbalances can potentially lead to milk fever. Excess Na and Bicarbonate in Idaho's calcareous soils can lead to iron deficiencies in plants. Iron-deficient plants exhibit interveinal chlorosis, giving them a fluorescent green appearance. Lagoon water with high Cl and Na can cause leaf burn if applied directly to the crop via sprinkler irrigation. Consider diluting

lagoon water with clean irrigation water to prevent crop damage.

Some crops are more sensitive to these ions than others. High salt concentrations in the soil can negatively impact crop yields, especially corn and alfalfa crops. You can expect yield reductions in corn and alfalfa when Electrical Conductivity (EC) levels are above 2.5 dS/m (Horneck et al., 2007). Consider incorporating barley into the crop rotation when managing fields with high salt concentrations. Barley is more tolerant of saline soil and can tolerate EC levels up to 8 dS/m before yield is compromised (Horneck et al., 2007). It's important to remember that all crops are sensitive to salts at the germination stage.

It may take some time, but soils with salt accumulations can be reclaimed. The first step in remediating salt accumulations in the soil is to establish good drainage. This can be achieved by drainage ditches and/or deep tillage to rip up the restrictive layer in the soil profile. Second, reduce the amount and frequency of manure applied. The Long-Term Manure Study conducted at the USDA, ARS in Kimberly, Idaho, demonstrated that taking a year off from manure application can reduce soil EC values to agronomic levels. Lastly, deep irrigation with good, clean water will flush out salts. However, it will also flush other water-soluble nutrients, such as nitrogen.

Whether you are struggling with salinity issues or other nutrient management challenges, IDA staff can assist with soil fertility recommendations and potential solutions. Please don't hesitate to reach out if we can assist you. ■

Megan Satterwhite

megan@idahodairymens.org

References

Horneck, et al. "Managing Salt-Affected Soils for Crop Production." ScholarsArchive@OSU, [Covallis, Or.]: Oregon State University Extension Service, 1 Nov. 2007.

New U of I Air Quality Specialist

John O'Connell & Gilbert Miito | University of Idaho

University of Idaho's new Extension air quality specialist, Gilbert Miito, grew up on a mid-sized dairy — at least by the standards of the village of Masaka in central Uganda.

Each morning, Miito and his three brothers awoke at 6 a.m. to milk and tend to their family's six dairy cows. The boys would bike throughout the countryside in search of tall grass, which they swathed with sickles and pedaled to their corral to feed the herd.

The rustic dairy of Miito's childhood contrasts starkly with the state-of-the-art University of Idaho facility where he'll soon be conducting research to help the state's dairy industry characterize and reduce its greenhouse gas emissions. The Idaho Center for Agriculture, Food and the Environment (Idaho CAFE) will be the largest research dairy in the U.S. when it starts milking operations in Rupert in early 2026. CAFE will initially house 400 cows and will gradually grow its capacity to accommodate a herd of up to 2,500 animals.

In Uganda, a typical "big" dairy has about 10 cows, while a small dairy might simply comprise a couple of cows tethered to trees, with most of the milk used for home consumption.

"Having animals is a source of prestige in Uganda," Miito said. "The milk is amazing. It's very organic — natural, grassfed."

Miito began working at U of I's Twin Falls Research and Extension Center on Jan. 6, having completed his undergraduate education in his home country before moving to the Pacific Northwest to earn a doctorate in biological systems engineering from Washington State University, where he researched manure management and emissions. He accepted a postdoctoral research position at the University of Missouri, also working with manure management systems. He then returned to the West to accept a position with a private company in California, BioFiltro, where he designed, built and supervised the assembly of biological treatment systems using worms and microorganisms to filter liquid dairy waste.

When he saw a posting for the UI Extension position, Miito was enticed both by the perfect fit to put his experience and skills to use and the opportunity to work at a world-class research dairy.

"There is a lot of buzz around dairy farms and emissions, so there is a lot of opportunity around that," Miito said. "The fact that we have CAFE as a research center, I think that improves our chances of getting a lot of these research grants."

The second phase of construction of CAFE — including the maternity barn, research barn, commodity storage, lagoons and an office building with classrooms — is now underway and Miito has begun gathering baseline emissions data from the CAFE site. His work will focus on identifying best practices for managing, transporting, storing and using manure to minimize emissions of greenhouse gases such as methane. He's also teamed up with U.S. Department of Agriculture researchers in Kimberly to aid in federal dairy emission studies.

Some of the collaborative projects with USDA have involved working with private, commercial dairymen. He's also helped the federal agency research emissions from manure spread over research plots and lagoon water applied via pivots.

"Right now, we are doing a whole-farm study, getting to understand all of the processes on a dairy farm and how they contribute to emissions to understand the hot spots on a dairy farm and then do some mitigations to test," Miito said.

Most dairy emissions come from the combination of enteric emissions — essentially methane and ammonia in cow belches resulting from fermentation of feed in the rumen — and emissions from dairy manure. Regarding enteric emissions, Miito plans to evaluate various feed additives to change cows' biochemistry to minimize emissions. He also intends to study a few options to minimize emissions from lagoons, such as trapping emissions and flaring them off and adding sulfuric acid to chemically change lagoon water and reduce ammonia emissions.

Separating solid and liquid waste is another proven strategy to reduce emissions. Miito intends to study the environmental benefits of more frequent cleaning of solids from dairy lagoons, as well as the use of improved technology for separating dairy liquids and solids.

Animal housing practices also affect dairy emissions. Miito will research how the designs of barns and ventilation systems affect emissions, as well as benefits to be gained through regular cleaning of pens.

In addition to conducting important research to help the dairy industry address forthcoming challenges, Miito views himself as an advocate for the industry and a voice of reason in communicating the realities of the industry to the public.

“I am a link between the science and all of the noise out there, so I can easily tell whoever is making that noise, ‘Hey, this is how the numbers look. We need the dairy production. This is a byproduct and this is how we can deal with it.’” ■

About the University of Idaho

The University of Idaho, home of the Vandals, is Idaho’s land-grant, national research university. From its residential campus in Moscow, U of I serves the state of Idaho through educational centers in Boise, Coeur d’Alene and Idaho Falls, nine research and Extension centers, plus Extension offices in 42 counties. Home to more than 11,000 students statewide, U of I is a leader in student-centered learning and excels at interdisciplinary research, service to businesses and communities, and in advancing diversity, citizenship and global outreach. U of I competes in the Big Sky Conference. Learn more at www.uidaho.edu.

John O’Connell

joconnell@uidaho.edu

Gilbert Miito

gmiito@uidaho.edu



The Benefits and Risks of Agritourism

Kelsea Donahue | Sawtooth Law Offices, PLLC

Idaho's significant agriculture production and contribution to the world's food supply not only makes it one of the top agriculture producers,¹ but also provides ample opportunity to educate individuals in the state of Idaho and beyond where their food comes from, what it takes to produce food, and what it takes to care for animals, plants, and the environment. One opportunity to do so is through "agritourism," which strives to link "agricultural production and/or processing with tourism to attract visitors onto a farm, ranch, or other agricultural business for the purposes of entertaining or educating the visitors while generating income for the farm, ranch, or business owner."² Agritourism gives Idaho's agriculture sector a platform to not only support and grow their business but also educate society about what it takes to produce the food they see in their grocery stores. Agritourism activities can involve tours, on-farm education, pick your own crop opportunities, on-farm entertainment, farm stores, on-farm events, and overnight stays.³ More and more we are seeing our clients delve into agritourism activities as their main business venture and/or a way to generate additional profit. Participating in agritourism creates an open dialogue between the producer and the consumer on where food comes from and what it takes to create it. While social media has helped the agriculture community share its stories and processes with a larger audience, we are seeing an increase in bringing community members, customers, and tourists onto agriculture ground and into agriculture operations to help people better connect to and understand what it takes to generate the food that helps feed the world.

Bringing people onto property for either social reasons, or business reasons like for agritourism, requires that landowners take certain precautionary steps to ensure whoever is on their property, from a cousin visiting for the holidays, to a customer visiting your roadside farm store, is protected from inherent, known, and/or unknown dangers that exist on property like livestock, equipment, and/or large areas of landscape that are subject to the elements and that cannot always be controlled and/or maintained. This is because under Idaho law "landowners are

charged with a superior knowledge of their premises and the possible danger located there."⁴

Every day we advise clients on what protective measures they can take not only to protect the people they invite onto their property, but also to protect themselves from liability in the event someone gets injured on their property. Under the law, the extent of your responsibility to people on your property is largely dependent on the person's visiting "status."⁵ Specifically, do they hold the status of being a licensee, an invitee, or a trespasser? A licensee is a social guest and would be like a family member who is visiting your property to get together and not for an business reason. An "invitee" on the other hand is a person on your property for business purposes such as a customer, client, landscaper, vendor, etc. Finally, a "trespasser" is a person on your property without your permission.

When bringing people onto property for agritourism purposes, Idaho law will consider that person an invitee, i.e., a business guest. When an invitee is on a landowner's property, the landowner is obligated to (1) "keep the premises reasonably safe," and (2) "to warn of any concealed dangers which the landowner knows of or should have known of upon reasonable investigation."⁶ Should the landowner fail to keep its property reasonably safe and an invitee gets injured on their property, the landowner could be subject to liability for breaching their duty to the invitee. This means owners of property for agriculture purposes, whether only for production and/or agritourism purposes, must keep their property reasonably safe, be aware of any concealed dangers on their property, and warn their business guests prior to entering their property of said concealed dangers.

However, property used for agriculture inherently has various dangerous conditions throughout it. This can come from the equipment used, the livestock, and/or a condition that is part of the landscape like an irrigation ditch. Therefore, landowners who bring people onto their property for agritourism purposes must mitigate and be aware of more dangerous conditions than a landowner who is leasing property



to a tenant in a shopping mall. Importantly, whether the property is considered reasonably safe or if the landowner has sufficiently warned an invitee about a dangerous condition will largely depend on the activities conducted on the land (e.g., farming vs. shopping) and what is considered reasonably safe and/or dangerous on that property for that particular use. There is no “one size fits all” standard regarding what is reasonably safe and/or what is a dangerous condition on property.

Because Idaho is a natural candidate for agritourism activities, and the fact that agriculture involves more dangerous conditions and components than property not involved in agriculture, the Idaho legislature enacted the Idaho Agritourism Promotion Act⁷ (the “Act”). Under the Act, “an agritourism professional is not liable for injury or death of a participant resulting from the inherent risks of agritourism activities, so long as the warning contained in section 6-3005, Idaho Code, is posted as required...”⁸ If the required warning is posted by the agritourism professional, “no participant or participant’s representative can maintain an action against or recover from an agritourism professional for injury, loss, damage or death of the participant resulting from any of the inherent risks of agritourism activities.”⁹ Under the Act, an agritourism professional is “any person who is engaged in the business of providing one (1) or more agritourism activities, whether or not for

compensation”¹⁰ Agritourism activity is defined as the following:

any activity carried out on a farm or ranch that allows members of the general public, for recreational, entertainment or educational purposes, to view or enjoy rural activities including, but not limited to, farming, ranching, historic, cultural, on-site educational programs, recreational farming programs that may include on-site hospitality services, guided and self-guided tours, bed and breakfast accommodations, petting zoos, farm festivals, corn mazes, harvest-your-own operations, hayrides, barn parties, horseback riding, fee fishing and camping. An activity is an agritourism activity whether or not the participant paid to participate in the activity.¹¹

To qualify for the protection from liability under the Act, agritourism professionals must post the following warning:¹²

WARNING

Under Idaho law, there are risks associated with agritourism, which could lead to injury or death. You are assuming these risks. Section 6-3004, Idaho Code.

Said warning must be:

1. a sign in black letters that each a minimum of one (1) inch in height; and
2. placed in a clearly visible location at the entrance to the agritourism location and at the site of the agritourism activity; and
3. included in “every written contract entered into by an agritourism professional for the providing of professional services, instruction or the rental of equipment to a participant, whether or not the contract involves agritourism activities on or off the location or at the site of the agritourism activity.”¹³

Critically, “failure to comply with the requirements concerning warning signs and notices provided in this section shall prevent an agritourism professional from invoking the privileges of immunity provided by the provisions of this chapter.”¹⁴ While Idaho provides additional protections for agritourism professionals to protect themselves from liability due to the inherent risk associated with the agritourism activity, it is imperative that agritourism professionals follow the Act’s sign and contract requirements to receive the benefit of that protection. Agriculture in Idaho has a long and rich history and hopefully through agritourism its story, benefit, and impact can be shared and better understood by the larger population. While agritourism highlights a promising future for helping society better understand and appreciate agriculture, it is important those involved in agritourism protect themselves and stay in the best position possible to continue offering that service. ■

Kelsea Donahue

kelsea@sawtoothlaw.com

References

¹ See <https://www.idahofb.org/news-room/posts/idaho-ranks-no-1-in-five-ag-commodities/>.

² See National Agricultural Law Center. Agritourism - An Overview (nationalaglawcenter.org).

³ See <https://www.agmrc.org/foodsystems/agritourism>.

⁴ *Brooks v. Wal-Mart Stores, Inc.*, 164 Idaho 22, 28 (2018) (citing *Antim v. Fred Meyer Stores, Inc.*, 150 Idaho 774, 778 (Ct. App. 2011)).

⁵ *Holzheimer v. Johannesen*, 125 Idaho 397, 399 (1994).

⁶ *Brooks v. Wal-Mart Stores, Inc.*, 164 Idaho 22, 28 (2018) (quoting *Stem v. Prouty*, 152 Idaho 590, 594, 272 P.3d 562, 566 (2012) (emphasis added)).

⁷ I.C. § 6-3001, et seq.

⁸ I.C. § 6-3004(1).

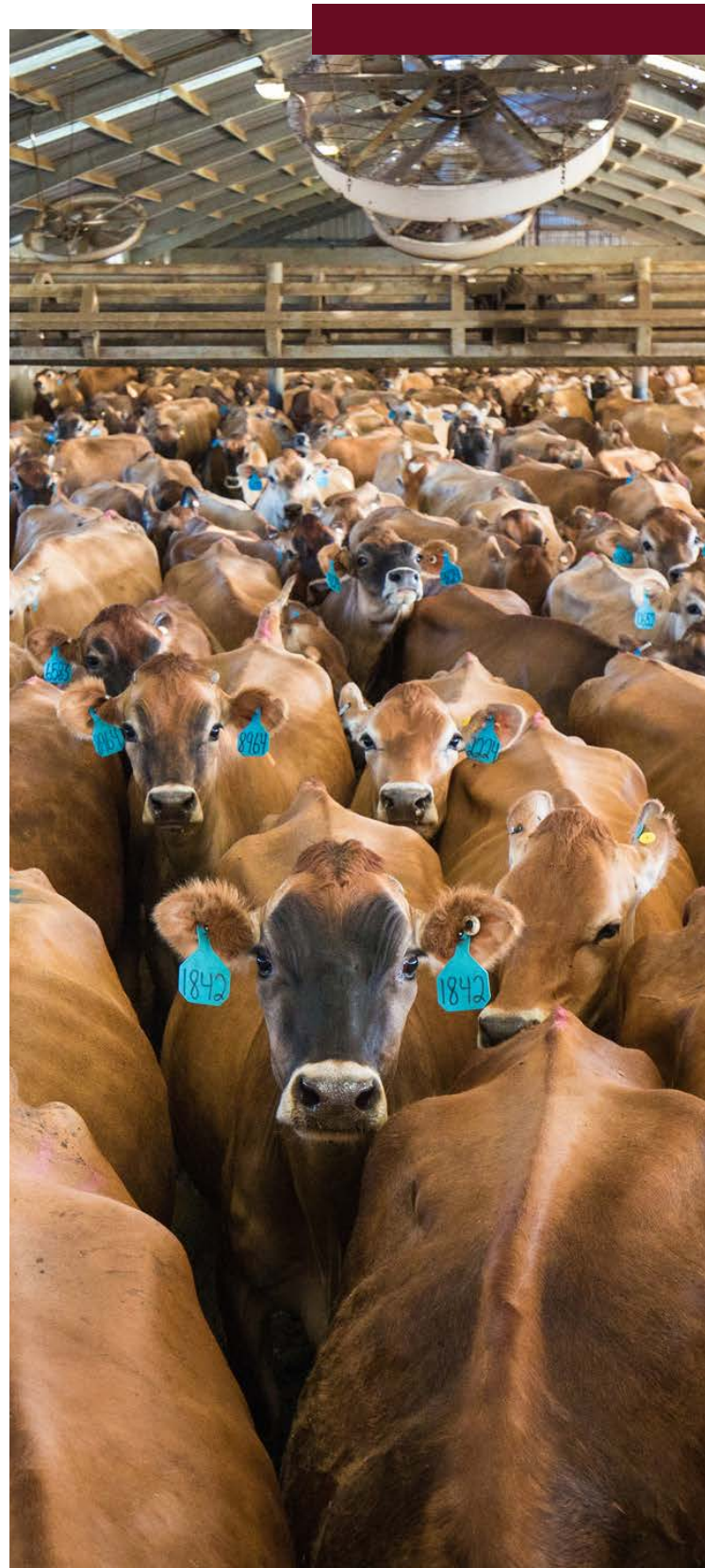
⁹ I.C. § 6-3004(1).

¹⁰ I.C. § 6-3003(2).

¹¹ I.C. § 6-3003(1).

¹² I.C. § 6-3005.

¹³ I.C. § 6-3005(1)-(2). 14 I.C. § 6-3005(3).



Board Member Spotlight:

Willie Bokma

Riley Barney | Idaho Dairymen's Association

When Willie Bokma looks across his farm, he doesn't just see cows—he sees his children, grandchildren, and the future of Idaho dairy. For him, preparing the next generation for what's ahead is just as important as milking cows today.

Dairying has been a Bokma family tradition for generations. Their journey has spanned continents and states—beginning in Holland, then moving to Southern California, and finally settling in Idaho's Magic Valley. Through every transition, one thing has remained constant: their deep-rooted passion for the dairy industry.

"We are blessed to take care of the land, the animals, and the people who rely on this farm that God has put in our lives," Willie says. "Dairy farming isn't just about producing milk—it's about responsibility, and we take that seriously."

When Willie and his wife, Valerie, began their Idaho operation, they started with just 60 cows. As their family and farm grew, so did their desire to pass down the values of hard work, resilience, and stewardship.

"Some of our fondest memories include watching our children grow up on the farm," Valerie recalls. "Whether it was washing out the barn before school or playing in the cottonseed, we wanted them to be involved—to learn the importance of hard work."

Today, more than 40 years later, the Bokma dairy has expanded to over 2,000 cows, and the next generation has taken the reins. Willie and Valerie's daughter and son-in-law, Johanna and Tyler Hyink, alongside their four boys, now manage the day-to-day operations, ensuring that the legacy continues.

"Transition and change can be difficult," Willie acknowledges. "But we are fortunate to work with

and pass the farm on to the next generation. We have full confidence in their ability to carry it forward."

Beyond the farm, Willie has spent the past 15 years serving as a board member for the Idaho Dairymen's Association. Through this role, he has also served on IDA's resolution committee and as a dairy representative on the Idaho Beef Council. He has witnessed firsthand how the industry has evolved and has worked tirelessly to ensure dairy families have a voice at the table.

Willie's years of leadership, both on his own farm and through his service on industry boards, reflect a dedication to progress, advocacy, and ensuring that the next generation can thrive in the industry. ■

Riley Barney
riley@idahodairymens.org



Tariff Trouble and the Dairy Industry

Dustin Winston | StoneX Group

Tariffs, we have heard this word a lot since the Trump 47 administration took over. Lately the impact has become even more substantial: uncertainty about tariffs, retaliatory tariffs, reciprocal tariffs and other government policy changes are creating a lot of angst in the dairy markets. Many people have asked us recently what the impact will be but to know that we would have to know what policies will actually be implemented and that seems to change daily. So instead I will share some of my thoughts more generally.

In the tariff conversation I think the most impactful to the dairy industry is the threat of retaliatory tariffs. More specifically - the macroeconomic impact of tariffs on our trading partners, consumers boycotting

U.S. products in importing countries and the potential impact of the tariffs on the U.S. economy. The U.S. has already put some additional tariffs in place on our trading partners and the administration is threatening more tariffs. Our trading partners are responding with retaliatory tariffs on U.S. dairy products, or they are threats of retaliatory tariffs on U.S. dairy products. I think this item breaks down into 3 categories, the tariffs that are in place, the tariffs that have been announced but aren't in place yet and the potential for new tariffs.

As of March 18, our math works out to China hitting about 6% of U.S. dairy imports with an additional 15% tariff. Canada is hitting about 10% of their imports of U.S. products with an additional 25% tariff. That's



it for actual retaliatory tariffs that are in place now. The math works out to roughly 1.5% of U.S. dairy exports are currently being hit with additional tariffs.

That percentage doesn't seem like a but we still have announced tariffs and potential new tariffs on U.S. dairy to consider. Canada has stated that they will widen the tariffs to include all U.S. dairy products in early April while the EU has announced they would start hitting most U.S. dairy products with additional tariffs in mid-April. 5.4% of U.S. exports went to Canada last year and 0.8% went to the EU27. So, if everyone follows through on the current threats, 6.2% of U.S. exports will be facing additional tariffs in mid-April.

So, we may see 6.2% of dairy exports be impacted by tariffs by April, and what about potential new tariffs? On April 2nd the U.S. is planning to announce reciprocal tariffs. My understanding is that they are researching reciprocal tariffs on G20 countries which the U.S. typically has trade deficits with. In 2024, 77% of U.S. dairy exports went to G20 countries. But Mexico, Canada and China are all part of the G20, and I think we will reach separate agreements with those countries, which leaves 26.2% of exports going to the other G20 countries. So if the U.S. administration raises tariffs on the G20 countries and those countries retaliate against U.S. dairy products, somewhere between 26.2% and 77% of U.S. exports could be facing additional tariffs.

This is a lot of numbers and if you are anything like me you might be confused at this point, so let's simplify. If we assume the average retaliatory tariff is 20% and that somewhere between 26% and 77% of U.S. exports get hit with the additional tariff, it would likely reduce U.S. exports by somewhere between 1.4% and 4.2% which would lead to a decline in dairy prices of 2.3-6.9%. I have a feeling that this is probably a conservative announcement. One last thing to consider is the impact to GDP both on buyers and here in the U.S. This impact is a bit more broad but should be considered, particularly for demand moving forward. Overall the tariff situation could unfold to be minimal or extremely impactful to the dairy industry and we should be prepared for prices to move lower, particularly short term.

If you are interested in further information about this topic or any other factors impacting the dairy industry here in the U.S. – we can help, please reach out. ■

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Dustin Winston
dustin.winston@stonex.com

Dairymen at the Capitol

Riley Barney | Idaho Dairymen's Association

On March 11 and 12, Idaho dairymen gathered in Boise for board meetings, the annual Legislative Banquet, and a special Capitol tour with state leadership for the Dairy Farmers of America Young Cooperatives and the Dairy West Ambassadors.

As part of this year's Capitol tour, dairymen had the opportunity to meet with Governor Brad Little, Senate Pro Tem Kelly Anthon, and Speaker of the House Mike Moyle. These discussions provided valuable insight into key policy issues affecting the dairy industry and allowed producers to share their perspectives directly with decision-makers. In addition to these meetings, participants attended legislative committee hearings and learned more about the policymaking process, reinforcing the importance of industry engagement in state government.

The Legislative Banquet on March 12 provided a valuable opportunity for education and camaraderie

within the industry. During the event, IDA recognized Michael Parrella, Dean of the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences at the University of Idaho, who will be retiring in June after nine years of dedicated service to the university. His contributions to agricultural education and research have been instrumental in supporting Idaho's dairy industry.

IDA extends its gratitude to Governor Little, Senate Pro Tem Anthon, Speaker Moyle, and all legislators who took time to meet with dairy producers. Their willingness to engage helps ensure that Idaho's dairy industry remains strong and well-represented in legislative discussions. ■

Riley Barney
riley@idahodairymens.org



Where to Find FARM in 2025

FARM Program Staff | National Milk Producers Federation

The National Dairy Farmers Assuring Responsible Management (FARM) Program is gearing up for the 2025 industry event season, connecting with producers, co-op and processor staff and other industry stakeholders across the U.S. on all things FARM.

FARM Program staff is available to answer questions, provide resources and connect with farmers and other stakeholders on topics related to any of its five program areas: Animal Care, Antibiotic Stewardship, Biosecurity, Environmental Stewardship and Workforce Development.

The Program released several new materials to support the recent launch of FARM Environmental Stewardship Version 3. FARM Environmental Stewardship released the Version 3 User Guide in February, aiding evaluators when completing Version 3 evaluations. The guide details the data inputs of the new FARM ES evaluation to foster consistency and confidence in data collection. It explains the output of the Version 3 assessment to support results interpretation. The program area also released data collection prep sheets to support evaluators and farmers in gathering the information needed for an evaluation.

The FARM Program continues its mission of fostering a culture of continuous improvement by providing farmers with tools and resources for on-farm best management practices.

Find the FARM Team at these 2025 events:

- March 25-27: Central Plains Dairy Expo, Sioux Falls, SD
- May 21 – 22: Dairy Sustainability Alliance Spring Meeting, Chicago, IL
- July 14-16: 2025 FARM Evaluator Conference, Green Bay, WI
- Sept. 11-13: American Association of Bovine Practitioners Annual Meeting, Omaha, NE
- Sept. 29 – Oct. 3: World Dairy Expo, Madison, WI
- Nov. 9-12: Joint Annual Meeting, Arlington, TX
- Nov. 17-18: Dairy Sustainability Alliance Fall Meeting, Anaheim, CA
- Nov. 19-20: Sustainable Ag Summit, Anaheim, CA

For more information on FARM Program events and resources, please visit our website: nationaldairyfarm.com. ■

FARM Program Staff
nationaldairyfarm.com



What Goes Down Must Come Up

Colin Kadis | Ever.Ag

For Idaho dairymen, the first signs of spring have arrived: singing songbirds in the morning, muddy corrals, and falling milk futures. It's that time of year! In dairy markets, we often call this the "spring doldrums." It's a time when demand for dairy products is often weak while milk production is strong.

At this point, you may be tired of hearing about incoming cheese processing plants, the impact of tariffs on exports, and rebounding milk production as reasons for falling milk prices – and that's fair. I'm sick of hearing about it, too. Instead, let's turn our focus to risk management strategies dairy producers should use when prices are low and their hedges are working.

Looking at USDA data, Idaho dairy producers hedged 1.245 billion pounds of milk for the second quarter of 2025 through Dairy Revenue Protection (DRP). This is in line with the average pounds of milk hedged per quarter since the DRP program began (1.235 billion pounds). Given that Idaho dairies generally produce a little less than 4.4 billion pounds of milk per quarter, about 28% of the milk produced this spring is covered. Based on current milk prices, that milk is likely to receive an indemnity.

Well done, Idaho dairymen – you've successfully managed price risk! But just because milk prices are falling doesn't mean it's time to take your eyes off the market quite yet. While your DRP provider's website or app probably shows you how much your current indemnity might be, there is still a lot of time between now and the end of June when Q2 2025 coverage ends for the actual payment to be calculated. You still have risk because the spring doldrums don't last forever.

One quirk of DRP is that even though dairy producers are paid monthly, the program settles to the average of three months in a calendar quarter. As has happened in the past, April and May, prices can be low, and that is reflected in the milk check. Then, low prices cure low prices and send them skyrocketing in June. That's good news for the June milk check, but

not for any potential DRP indemnities, which might be minimized or even erased. Fortunately, there are other tools dairy producers can use to remedy this situation.

At Ever.Ag, we often recommend that producers use options and sometimes futures through a brokerage account as an additional tool. This enables dairy producers to buy call options. Call options cost money up front – just like DRP – but instead of gaining value when milk prices fall, they gain value when milk prices rise. If milk prices continue to fall, the producer only loses the amount of money spent buying calls, usually 10 to 30 cents per hundredweight.

One producer using this strategy referred to protecting DRP indemnities by purchasing calls as "hedging the hedge." Buying calls offers producers a way to keep their hedges should prices continue to fall. If prices turn around, depending on market conditions and where the calls sit, they can still receive some of the indemnity as their calls begin to gain value.

Whenever we discuss brokerage accounts, producers often ask about margin calls. One aspect that makes DRP insurance popular is that no cash changes hands until the quarter settles. While buying a call option requires the dairy producer to pay money to cover the premium outlay up front, there are no additional cash margin calls. That's it.

Opening a brokerage account generally takes several weeks. Now is a great time to add another play to your dairy's risk management playbook. Watch out – those who wait may not be ready when markets begin to move. As the months pass and warmer temperatures are here to stay, it may be time to look at "hedging the hedge" by buying call options. ■

Colin Kadis
clk@ever.ag

Students Gain Policy Insights with **BYU-Idaho**

Riley Barney | Idaho Dairymen's Association

For more than a decade, the Idaho Dairymen's Association has had the privilege of hosting students from BYU-Idaho's Agribusiness Program during their annual visit to the Idaho Legislature. This tradition, now in its 12th year, continues to provide students with invaluable exposure to agricultural policy and the legislative process.

The students, enrolled in an advanced agricultural policy course, travel to Boise each February to gain firsthand experience in policymaking. The class is designed to help students understand the role of politics in the policymaking process and recognize how policies, despite having simple goals, often lead to complex results.

During their two-day trip, they observe committee hearings, meet with policymakers, advocacy groups, and state officials, and analyze the real-world impacts of policy decisions on agriculture. This year, 21 students participated in the trip, engaging in discussions about the complexities of agricultural legislation and its influence on domestic and global markets.

A highlight of their visit is the annual dinner hosted by IDA, where students have the unique opportunity to connect with key legislators and industry stakeholders. Key legislators and leadership in attendance this year included President Pro Tem Kelly Anthon, Assistant Majority Leader Mark Harris, and Representative Rod Furniss. Time and again, students have shared that this dinner is one of the most impactful experiences of their trip, offering an open forum for meaningful discussions about the future of agriculture.

IDA is proud to support the next generation of agricultural leaders by fostering opportunities for learning and engagement. We greatly appreciate the dedication of BYU-Idaho's Agribusiness Program and the enthusiasm of its students, and we look forward to continuing this tradition in the years to come. ■

Riley Barney
riley@idahodairymens.org



Dairy Producers Are Beef Producers

Idaho Beef Council

All dairy producers contribute to the beef industry, and the Idaho Beef Council (IBC) is here to represent you. The beef-on-dairy market—crossbreeding dairy cows with beef bulls—has experienced significant growth in recent years. In 2024 alone, approximately 3.2 million beef-on-dairy calves were produced, marking a substantial increase from previous years. With dairy supplying 20% of the nation’s beef, your role is essential. That’s why the IBC is committed to ensuring you understand how your beef Checkoff funds are invested and the impact of those investments.

Who We Are: The Idaho Beef Council

The IBC is a producer-led, self-governed state agency, overseen by eight board members nominated by their respective sectors and appointed by the Governor. Each board member serves up to two three-year terms. The Idaho Dairymen’s Association plays a key role in the nomination process, and we appreciate their contributions!



Current Idaho Beef Council Board Members. Left to right: Lynn Bachman (cow/calf), Steven Taylor – Chairman (auction), J.W. Wood – Vice-Chairman (feeder), Jodie Mink – Secretary/Treasurer (cow/calf, CattleWomen), Willie Bokma (dairy), Jared Brackett (cow/calf), Hank Hafliger (dairy), and Bruce Kerner (feeder).

Guiding Beef Checkoff Investments

A strong marketing plan starts with a solid strategic foundation. In 2021, the IBC collaborated with Idaho beef industry stakeholders to develop a five-year strategic plan. This plan ensures Checkoff funds are invested effectively to maximize impact and generate the highest return on investment (ROI).

Our key strategic objectives include:

- Growing consumer trust in beef and Idaho beef production
- Expanding knowledge of Idaho’s multi-generational farms and ranches and their commitment to sustainability
- Increasing demand for Idaho and Pacific Northwest beef in domestic and key export markets

How IBC is Driving Beef Demand

The IBC invests in a variety of programs to implement beef promotion, education and research. Our Consumer, Retail, Foodservice, Industry, Research, National, and International programs work together to increase beef demand.

Building Consumer Trust Through Education

Consumer data shows that Idaho residents have a more positive perception of beef than the national average. However, fewer consumers feel knowledgeable about how cattle are raised for food. According to the NCBA National Consumer Dashboard survey:

- In FY22, 39% of Idaho consumers had a positive perception of beef production
- In FY23, that number grew to 43%
- In FY24, it rose again to 52%

Keeping Perception on the rise with Rancher Stories

The Idaho Beef Council is building consumer confidence by sharing producer stories that highlight how ranchers care for their animals and the land.

By bringing these values to life through real stories—like those of Carl Lufkin and Hank Hafliger—the IBC reinforces the Idaho beef industry’s commitment to land stewardship, animal well-being, and the long-term sustainability of farms and ranches for generations to come. The year-over-year increase in Idaho residents’ perception confirms that these efforts are making a positive impact. We also guide consumers to **IDBeef.org** and **BeefItsWhatsForDinner.com**, where they can explore beef recipes, cuts, cooking methods, nutrition, and sustainability information.

Increasing Demand for Idaho and Pacific Northwest Beef

Consumer research shows that 43% of Idaho residents would eat more beef if they had access to quick and easy recipes. To meet this demand, IBC partnered with the Oklahoma Beef Council to produce 17 “Hands and Pans” videos—showcasing simple, healthy beef recipes in an engaging, visual format.

Through efforts in both Rancher Stories and “Hands and Pans” recipe video development, the IBC team has strengthened its social media presence—reaching 200,000 viewers since January 1, 2025. Engagement has also grown significantly, with over 10,000 interactions during this period. Compared to the same timeframe last year, this represents a 167% increase in engagement.

Check out the latest rancher stories and recipe videos on the Idaho Beef Council YouTube channel:



www.youtube.com/idahobeefcouncil

Thank You to Our Dairy Representatives

Did you know that current dairy representatives on the IBC board include:

- Willie Bokma, completing his sixth and final year on June 30, 2025
- Hank Hafliger, currently serving his first term as a dairy representative



The Idaho Beef Council sincerely thanks Willie Bokma for his dedication and contributions to the strategic direction of the Idaho beef industry. We look forward to welcoming a new dairy appointee to serve alongside Hank starting July 1, 2025.

Thank you, Willie Bokma, for your service from 2019–2025!

Stay Connected

Learn more about the Idaho Beef Council and its programs:

- Visit: www.IDBeef.org
- Follow us on social media: @IdahoBeefCouncil on Facebook & Instagram

By working together, we can continue strengthening Idaho’s beef industry, ensuring a bright future for both dairy and beef producers alike! ■

Idaho Beef Council Staff
www.IDBeef.org

Avoid the Stink of Unsafe Practices

Katlyn Scarrow | Idaho Dairymen's Association

Spring is finally starting in Idaho! After a long, wet, and windy winter, the weather is finally warming up (kind of), birds are out, everyone's preparing for and doing their spring cleaning with the windows open, and farmers are beginning to apply manure to their spring crops. With manure application comes a lot of equipment moving around, people working on and around separators and lagoons, and other hazards that one should be aware of.

Working around manure storage systems can be hazardous for several reasons, including exposure to toxic gases, especially when in confined spaces. These gases include hydrogen sulfide, carbon dioxide, methane, and ammonia. Hydrogen Sulfide is the most dangerous of these and is a colorless gas with an odor like rotten eggs. This gas can cause irritation, headaches, and nausea in mild cases, but can cause loss of consciousness, eye damage, neurological problems, and death in severe ones. Weather conditions can accelerate dangers associated with these as well, high temperatures increase the production of these toxic gases.

Here are some safety tips for those spending time around lagoons and equipment.

Storage Structures/ Separators:

- Work in pairs
- Inform supervisors when working near storage structures or separator equipment
- Never climb into lagoon or manure separation system while operational
- Avoid driving near storage structures when possible
- Watch for heavy equipment operators driving around the area
- Wear easily visible attire
- Utilize O2 monitors
- Take breaks
- Get fresh air

Equipment such as loaders and tractors:

- Only allow trained employees to operate
- Be highly vigilant
- Look in blind spots
- Do not use phones or other devices
- Keep all Power Take-off (PTO) guards and shields in place.
- Do not wear loose clothing or accessories

It's important to follow safety protocols and always be attentive to your surroundings on the dairy, but especially when around moving equipment and manure storage structures.

Our website <https://idahodairymens.org/worker-training-safety> is full of training resources that are available to use for free, including video trainings and our Tailgate Talks which are kits focused on comprehensive safety training for dairy workers addressing OSHA's Dairy Dozen.

If interested in employee safety training, resources, nutrient management, or soil and manure sampling, please feel free to reach out to us! ■

Katlyn Scarrow

katlyn@idahodairymens.org

Recognizing Idaho Agriculture

Riley Barney | Idaho Dairymen's Association

On March 18, the Idaho Dairymen's Association proudly participated in National Ag Day at the Idaho State Capitol. This event saw an impressive turnout from agricultural organizations across the state and served as a valuable opportunity to highlight the essential role our industry plays in Idaho's economy and rural communities.

Attendees—including members of the public, industry representatives, and state legislators—had the chance to explore the rotunda, engage with various commodity groups, and gain a deeper understanding of Idaho's diverse agricultural landscape. Conversations throughout the day emphasized the industry's contributions to food production, job creation, and economic stability.

A key moment of the event was Governor Little's attendance and the signing of a proclamation

officially designating March 18, 2025, as Idaho Agriculture Day. We are grateful for the recognition from our elected officials and proud to stand alongside fellow agricultural groups in celebrating the hardworking farmers and ranchers who sustain our state.

Agriculture is more than an industry in Idaho—it is a way of life. From dairies to crop farms, ranches to potato fields, our agricultural communities provide the food, jobs, and traditions that shape our state. As we celebrate this important day, we remain committed to advocating for policies that support Idaho's farmers and ensure a strong future for agriculture. ■

Riley Barney
riley@idahodairymens.org





195 River Vista Place
Suite #308
Twin Falls, Idaho 83301

UPCOMING EVENTS

APRIL 15 IDAHO SOLUTIONS: IMMIGRATION POLICY LECTURE - *Twin Falls, ID*

APRIL 30 - MAY 1 PACIFIC NORTHWEST PARTNERSHIP - *Twin Falls, ID*

MAY 7 IDA/ DAIRY WEST BOARD MEETINGS - *Twin Falls, ID*

JULY 16-17 IDA/ DAIRY WEST BOARD MEETINGS - *Salt Lake City, UT*

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