



# Capital Press

The West's **Ag** Weekly

FRIDAY, JANUARY 13, 2017



VOLUME 90, NUMBER 2

WWW.CAPITALPRESS.COM

\$2.00

# Farm Bureau outlook



## Farmers face low prices, new politics

By ERIC MORTENSON  
Capital Press

**P**HOENIX — Zippy Duvall was fighting a cold and sore throat all during the American Farm Bureau Federation's annual convention here, but the Georgian had enough voice left Tuesday to say he was feeling good about things. Duvall, the Farm Bureau president, said the voting delegates gave him a clear vision of what they want in the coming year, including guidance to "hit regulatory reform real hard."

Members zipped through a 350-page policy book that outlines the organization's stance on everything from the 2018 Farm Bill principles to the gritty details of crop production, livestock diseases, science and relations with regulators, consumers and activists.

President-elect Donald Trump still hadn't nominated an ag secretary to head the USDA, but Duvall said he and other ag and commodity group leaders met for 90 minutes with Trump's transition team last week in Washington, D.C., and had a "very good discussion."

"I think we have a great opportunity in this change," Duvall said.

**AFBF wraps up annual convention on optimistic note despite changing political, economic landscape**

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Eric Mortenson/Capital Press

Political consultants Stan Barnes, left, and William "Billy" Moore told farmers and ranchers that Trump's election changes everything.

**TOP PHOTO:** American Farm Bureau President Zippy Duvall addresses members Tuesday at the federation's annual convention in Phoenix, seen below.

Photo courtesy of AFBF



Thinkstock photo

## Idaho irrigators oppose Oregon endangered fish reintroduction effort

By JOHN O'CONNELL  
Capital Press

**BOISE** — Idaho irrigators fear they'll be hurt financially if the State of Oregon prevails in a legal battle to force the reintroduction of endangered fish to the Snake River upstream of the Hells Canyon Complex of dams.

"If you have a listed species above Hells Canyon in the Snake

**"If you have a listed species above Hells Canyon in the Snake River and tributaries, you're going to have an alphabet soup of environmental laws imposed."**

Norm Semanko, executive director Idaho Water Users Association.

River and tributaries, you're going to have an alphabet soup of environmental laws imposed," said Norm Semanko, executive director with Idaho Water Users Association. Construction of the Complex —

which is located at the Idaho and Oregon border and includes the Brownlee, Oxbow and Hells Canyon dams — was started in the mid-1950s. The dams provide about 30 percent of Idaho Power Co.'s total

energy, but they've blocked the migration of native chinook salmon and steelhead trout, which once used the upstream channel and tributaries for spawning. The original federal license to op-

erate the Complex expired in 2005, and the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission issued a final environmental impact statement for the relicensing in 2007. But the new license has been delayed as Idaho Power awaits Clean Water Act certifications from the states of Idaho and Oregon.

Both states have issued draft certifications, which are in the midst of

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## WSDA director: We have a plan for wheat woes

No easy answers, though

By DON JENKINS  
Capital Press

**OLYMPIA** — Washington's agriculture Director Derek Sandison outlined for lawmakers Tuesday his plan to help the state's export-dependent wheat farmers meet a key international benchmark for quality, though none of the measures appear to be quick or easy.

"We have a plan. We're moving forward with it," Sandison told the House Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee. "It's not going to happen overnight," he said in an interview afterward.

Washington's wheat industry last fall encountered unprecedented trouble with a decades-old test for starch quality. Because of low falling numbers, a measurement of how quickly a device falls through a mix

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Washington State Department of Agriculture Director Derek Sandison, right, talks with Rep. Tom Dent, R-Moses Lake, after speaking to the House Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee on Jan. 10 in Olympia.

Don Jenkins/Capital Press

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