

Subscribe to our weekly Idaho email newsletter at [CapitalPress.com/newsletters](http://CapitalPress.com/newsletters)

# Idaho

## Farm tour set for Idaho elected officials, media

By SEAN ELLIS  
Capital Press



Sean Ellis/Capital Press

A hay field near Kuna, Idaho, is cut on May 26. Members of the media and state elected officials will take a day-long tour of farm country in southwestern Idaho on Sept. 6.

business Committee, a subcommittee of the Nampa and Caldwell chambers of commerce, is organizing the tour. The committee has held

farm tours in the past but this will be the first event where elected officials and media members are together. Sen. Jim Rice, R-Caldwell,

chairman of the Senate Agricultural Affairs Committee, joined one of the committee's farm tours several years ago.

"I personally found the last tour very valuable," he said. "It gave us a lot better picture of some of the things agriculture does and how it operates."

Rice said the tour is a great way to provide people a ground-level view of agriculture. He said lawmakers get a lot of raw numbers regarding the farming industry's importance to the state during committee meetings.

"Raw numbers don't mean a lot to people," he said. "There's a reality to the amount of work that needs to be done to (produce those crops) that you can't get in a hearing room. You need to see it."

media members didn't grow up around agriculture and simply don't understand it, Rice said.

"They don't know what they don't know," he said. "This kind of tour helps give them some of the knowledge they need to make sound policy or report accurately on agriculture."

The bus tour will take participants to hop production and distribution facilities, a vineyard and winery, fruit ranch and seed company.

A stop will also be made at J.R. Simplot Co.'s potato processing facility in Caldwell, as well as Lake Lowell, a man-made reservoir, where participants will learn about irrigation delivery and some of the major water issues facing the valley.

Between stops, participants will watch short video presentations about the mint, seed and dairy sectors, and farm experts will be on hand to point out some of the more than 100 different crops grown in the region.

It will be a chance to educate them about Idaho's farming industry for some participants, while for others who have a decent understanding of agriculture, "it will be more of a refresher," said Brett Tolmie, the agribusiness committee chairman.

Former legislator Darrell Bolz, a committee member, said the tours are informative even for people who understand and work in agriculture.

"You always learn something," said Bolz, who worked as a University of Idaho county extension agent for 30 years.



Courtesy of Intrinsic Organics

SunSpuds, a sunflower and Jerusalem artichoke hybrid, will be used to make inulin at a new \$60 million facility in Weiser, Idaho. The uses for inulin include texture maintenance, mouth feel, bulking, low-calorie sweetening, fat replacement and dietary fiber enhancement, according to Intrinsic Organics, which is building the plant.

## Weiser facility will bring a new organic crop to Idaho

By SEAN ELLIS  
Capital Press

WEISER, Idaho — A new processing facility near Weiser will introduce a hybrid organic crop to Idaho.

Intrinsic Organics announced its \$60 million facility will use a hybrid tuber called a SunSpud to produce inulin, which is used as a healthy food ingredient, including as a fat or sugar replacement.

"This is a great opportunity for our organic farmers to have another crop they can fit into their rotations," said Kit Kamo, executive director of the Snake River Economic Development Alliance, which recruited the company to Washington County.

Field trials show that SunSpuds, a Jerusalem artichoke and sun flower hybrid, will fit well into organic rotations common in this region, said Devin Limb, Intrinsic Organics' vice president of marketing.

"The (crop) is very well suited to be grown organically in Idaho," he said. "It fits fantastically with the crops grown organically in the region."

Intrinsic officials expect to have the facility built this fall and it will initially produce 1.2 million pounds of inulin. If that demonstration plant is successful, the facility will expand and ramp up to 5 million pounds in a few years, Limb said.

The number of farmers who grow SunSpuds will increase significantly as the facility increases production, he said.

According to the company's website — [www.intrinsicorganics.com](http://www.intrinsicorganics.com) — total acres grown for the facility are expected to reach 433 by 2020 and 867 by 2021.

The facility is a scaled-down version of a previous project announced last year that would have used barley as well as SunSpuds to produce a variety of food ingredients, organic fertilizer and alcohol.

Limb said the U.S. imports about 50 million pounds of inulin annually, mostly from Europe and China. Intrinsic Organics will be the first company to domestically produce organic inulin from crops grown in the U.S., he said.

According to the company's website, the food industry currently purchases inulin

made from chicory root that is not grown organically.

"Intrinsic Organics now strives to become the best supplier of custom, high-quality organic inulin to satisfy the demands of the U.S. and world market for healthier food ingredients," the website states.

A groundbreaking ceremony for the facility will be held June 6. Intrinsic CEO Sot Chimonas said the company anticipates hiring 20 people during the facility's first year of operation.

The facility was approved to receive an Idaho Tax Reimbursement Incentive Credit on May 25. The tax credit of 18 percent for six years will benefit Intrinsic to the tune of \$1.25 million if the company meets all the incentive measurements it agreed to.

According to an Idaho Department of Commerce summary of the incentive agreement, the company will make a \$60 million capital investment in the facility.

Limb said any farmers interested in growing SunSpuds can contact the company by email at [info@intrinsicorganics.com](mailto:info@intrinsicorganics.com)

## Cattle industry OK with proposed Craters grazing plan

By JOHN O'CONNELL  
Capital Press

Idaho Cattle Association President Jerald Raymond believes the Bureau of Land Management did a reasonable job in drafting its preferred plan to govern grazing of roughly 275,000 acres within Craters of the Moon National Monument and Preserve.

Grazing opponents such as the Hailey, Idaho-based conservation group Western Watersheds Project, however, vow to formally challenge the plan, arguing it doesn't adequately protect the environment and native sage grouse within the federally protected ancient lava flows.

As directed by Chief U.S. District Judge Lynn Winmill in response to a Western Watersheds lawsuit, BLM recently issued proposals to amend its management plan to cover grazing, slightly reducing the overall grazing density and adding new restrictions on allotment permits in its preferred alternative. The BLM hopes to address Western Watersheds' concerns and issue a final decision by the end of July.

"We actually think it's a pretty good plan they put forth as far as the preferred alternative," Raymond said, adding that his organization hasn't formally discussed the plan in a meeting.

Raymond said his association would have preferred an expansion of grazing, believing preventing wildfires by turning cattle loose on overgrowth is the best way to protect sage grouse.

"We feel like there needs to be some flexibility and measuring of the resource to see what it will handle," Raymond said.

The agency's preferred alternative would cut 350 of the 37,000 animal unit months permitted for grazing in the BLM-managed portion of the



Tetona Dunlap/The Times-News via AP, File

In this 2012 photo, people hike the North Crater Flow Trail at Craters of the Moon National Monument near Arco, Idaho. Federal officials have released a cattle grazing plan for central Idaho's Craters of the Moon National Monument and Preserve.

monument. AUMs refer to the amount of forage needed to support a cow-calf pair for a month. The plan would also require "monument values" be met when allotments are renewed — addressing cultural and geological resources, sage grouse habitat and the preservation of islands of vegetation within lava flows called kapukas. For example, salt licks, troughs and other range developments wouldn't be allowed near edges of lava flows, for the protection of cultural resources, explained Holly Crawford,

BLM monument manager.

BLM also analyzed alternatives that would eliminate grazing, reduce grazing density by three-quarters and cut it in half.

Crawford said grazing isn't allowed within the original 53,000 acres of the monument proclaimed in 1924. The monument was expanded under President Bill Clinton in 2000, adding the BLM portion and a 400,000-acre preserve, where grazing is also restricted.

Crawford said BLM initially sought to make no changes

to grazing in the management plan, signed in 2006, governing the new monument additions, but Winmill agreed with Western Watersheds in 2011 that the failure to conduct a grazing analysis violated federal policy. In addition to ordering the grazing amendment, Winmill also required BLM to update its management plans to address threats to sage grouse. A sage grouse plan has already been completed at Craters, imposing limitations on off-road travel, direction on habitat rehabilitation and other requirements.



## TIMOREX GOLD®

THE NEW GENERATION OF BIOFUNGICIDES

Introducing Timorex Gold® fungicide for control of the most common fungal and bacterial diseases in specialty fruit and vegetable crops. Flexible enough to use early in the season to keep disease pressures low and late in the season thanks to its short PHI and REI, Timorex Gold keeps you in charge of your disease control program. And, with Timorex Gold's unique mode of action and FRAC code, it is the ideal tank-mix and rotational partner. Add Timorex Gold fungicide to your spray program this season and reap the harvest of your good choices.

Ask for Timorex Gold at your local Simplot Grower Solutions dealer!



Broad Spectrum Activity Against Plant Pathogens

- No Residue Restrictions
- Non-toxic to Bees and Beneficials
- Excellent Resistance Management Tool
- Unique Mode of Action



[www.timorexgold.com](http://www.timorexgold.com)

©2017 Timorex Gold® is a registered product of Stockton (Israel) Ltd. EPA Registration No. 86182-1. Always read and follow all label directions. Not registered for use in California.

**NEW ITEMS!**  
1 1/2 QT. BASKETS and (3) PINT TRAYS

**ROSE PAPER PRODUCTS, INC.**  
503-588-8313  
2561 Pringle Rd. SE Salem, OR

Call for Pricing. Subject to stock on hand. Delivery Available

**LOW INTEREST LOANS FOR IDAHO SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION**

- Sprinkler Irrigation
- No-Till Drills
- Fences
- Livestock Feeding Operations
- Solar Stock Water Pump Systems

2.5% - 3.25% Terms 7-15 Years Up to \$200,000

IDAHO CONSERVATION LOAN PROGRAM  
[swc.idaho.gov](http://swc.idaho.gov) | 208-332-1790