

People & Places

Idaho barley growers get a boost

Doug Peck oversees effort to help farmers increase their production

By JOHN O'CONNELL
Capital Press

IDAHO FALLS, Idaho — Doug Peck oversees a program that researches applications for new technology in malt barley production and gives regional growers better data on which to base agronomic decisions.

In 2013, Anheuser-Busch InBev launched SmartBarley, a platform enabling growers to compare their farming practices to those of their peers, both locally and around the world. Data is kept anonymous but helps growers identify opportunities to improve their production.

Peck, the company's agronomy manager for the Idaho region, explained SmartBarley has evolved into an umbrella for several other corporate projects focused on sustainable farming.

"If we can increase the growers' production, that makes it more profitable for them and makes them want to grow barley, and that's what we need to make beer," Peck explained during a July 17 Anheuser-Busch grower appreciation day in Idaho Falls.

Under the SmartBarley mantle, Peck's company has



John O'Connell/Capital Press

Doug Peck, regional agronomy manager for Busch Agricultural Resources Inc., discusses the SmartBarley program during a recent grower day at the company's Idaho Falls malting plant.

partnered with the University of Idaho in trials involving an efficient irrigation method known as low elevation sprinkler application. The company has helped six of its Eastern Idaho growers install LESA pivots, which dangle hoses beneath the crop canopy to minimize drift and evaporation while improving soil-moisture penetration.

Howard Neibling, a UI irrigation specialist who helped develop LESA, said the technology should also reduce disease and tipping of stalks in grain by keeping plant heads dry.

"(SmartBarley) is going to be a great tool for us to be able to fine-tune LESA, or whatever else we're doing," Neibling said.

SmartBarley participant Justin Place, of Hamer, estimates his power savings alone this season will cover the cost of installing LESA on six pivots. Place has also benefited from having one of six new weather stations SmartBarley funded to provide more applicable weather data in the Eastern Idaho barley production area, as part of the Bureau of Reclamation's AgriMet program. Place said SmartBarley data on crop evapo-transpiration has guided some of his irrigation decisions.

Mud Lake farmer Mark Murdock decided to apply a growth inhibitor to his barley this season based on SmartBarley comparisons.

"The problem we have in Mud Lake is wind," Murdock

said, explaining that grain tends to blow over.

Peck said his program is developing models to help growers use aerial images to predict yields and protein content long before harvest. The company started researching the models last season with satellite data, and will use drones with near-infrared cameras this season to gather data from its research fields in Idaho, Montana and North Dakota. Peck said models will be based on images taken during the season of crop mass and appearance.

"We're just in the initial startup, and we've really got to see where it can take us," Peck said.

The Champaign, Ill.-based company Agrible is assisting



Western Innovator

Doug Peck

Title: Agronomy manager for the Idaho region with Anheuser-Busch InBev

Innovation: Heads the company's SmartBarley program for the Idaho region

Hometown: Idaho Falls, Idaho

Age: 59

Family: He and his wife, Darla, have been married for 37 years and have three grown children, Blake, Jennifer and Kayla

the program with data analytics.

Todd Weitekamp, Agrible product line manager, said the company compiles data about chemical applications, soil type, seed variety, weather and other factors for analysis by its advanced software.

Agrible can estimate soil moisture without the use of sensors to guide irrigation decisions, and can offer good estimates on crop progress and health, Weitekamp said. He said some Idaho SmartBarley growers are in their second year of an Agrible trial.

Retired ag teacher receives national service citation

By CRAIG REED
For the Capital Press

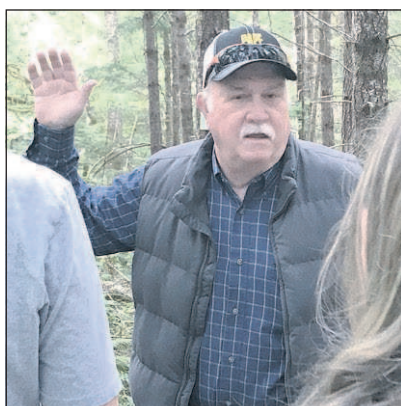
ELKTON, Ore. — Retired agricultural teacher Denny Quinby was recently honored as one of only six individuals nationwide who received the National Association of Agricultural Educators Outstanding Service Citation.

Quinby retired in 2010 after a 31-year educational career as the ag teacher and FFA advisor at Elkton High School. He chartered the ag program at the school in 1980.

"I feel very honored," he said. "But I don't do things in life for recognition. I don't want to be on the stage. I want the kids to be up there on the stage. Keeping kids in school in order for them to graduate, that was always my ultimate goal, not the recognition."

So when looking for Quinby, look behind the scenes of the Douglas County Lamb Show or the Douglas County Fair. He is all about the kids and their animal projects at those events getting the spotlight while he helps with advice and guidance from the sidelines.

But thanks to a couple of his younger colleagues who initiated his



Courtesy of Braden Groth

Denny Quinby, a retired Elkton High School agricultural teacher, has continued on a part-time basis to instruct students at Douglas County, Ore., schools on such topics as forestry and livestock. He is shown talking to Elkton High students last May about timber stand improvement.

nomination, Quinby was selected for the national service citation. He was recognized for his many contributions to his profession, both while teaching and continuing into retirement. He has been the chairman of the lamb show committee for the past five years and has helped with ag courses and projects

at some county schools since retiring.

Quinby and his wife established the Elkton Wranglers 4-H Club and were its leaders for 30 years until retiring from it in 2010.

During his career at Elkton High, Quinby had two students become state FFA officers. He supervised many students through traditional and non-traditional agricultural experiences — projects related to agriculture that helped the students connect classroom learning to real-world activities.

Rachel Kostman, the ag science teacher at Oakland High School and a former student of Quinby's at Elkton, said the Umpqua District ag teachers nominated Quinby for the award.

"He has devoted his life to ag education," Kostman said. "Even in retirement he has stayed involved, mentoring young teachers in the district and inspiring students to learn hands-on applicable skills. He has a passion for agriculture and for agricultural education."

Quinby has remained active in the FFA Forestry Career Development Event, a competition that develops student skills related to diagnosing forest disorders and managing forests.

He has helped at the district and state level competitions and has coached forestry teams from Elkton and Oakland that have competed at the national level.

In the nomination letter that was submitted on behalf of Quinby by the Umpqua District, his continuing efforts to mentor both teachers and students were emphasized.

"Mr. Quinby has taken the role as a mentor to the current advisor (Braden Groth) of the Elkton agriculture program and other advisors in the district, a leadership role that is unmeasurable. Though he is retired, he still has a positive impact on students through his active role in the agricultural educational community. He still has, and always will have, a heart for kids."

Even while helping others, Quinby does have his own agricultural projects at his home in the Elkton area — a mother cow and sheep operation.

"I guess I've just done some things right," he said of the recognition. "I wouldn't have done any of this if I hadn't enjoyed it. I've done this for the betterment of the kids and the school system. If you want to help kids improve themselves, you have to give them your time."

Calendar

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To submit an event go to the Community Events calendar on the home page of our website at www.capitalpress.com and click on "Submit an Event." Calendar items can also be mailed to Capital Press, 1400 Broadway St. NE, Salem, OR 97301 or emailed to newsroom@capitalpress.com.

Through Sunday July 30

California State Fair. 10 a.m.-10 p.m. Cal Expo Center, 1600 Exposition Blvd., Sacramento, Calif. Website: www.castatefair.org/

Tuesday, July 25

Dairy Sheep and Goat Workshop. 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Gooding County Fairgrounds, 203 Lucy Lane, Gooding, Idaho. University of Idaho Extension workshop. Lunch included. The workshop is \$30 with pre-registration until July 21 and \$40 after that.

Idaho Grazing Lease Rate Meeting. 6-8 p.m. Idaho Department of Fish and Game Office, 3316 16th St., Lewiston, Idaho. The Idaho Department of Lands will hold an open house public meeting to share information and accept comments on proposed alternatives for the formula used to determine the grazing lease rate on Idaho endowment lands. Website: <http://bit.ly/2tNcm14>

Wednesday, July 26

Idaho Grazing Lease Rate Meeting. 6-8 p.m. Idaho Department of Lands Eastern Supervisory Area Office, 3563 Ririe Highway,

Idaho Falls, Idaho. The Idaho Department of Lands will hold an open house public meeting to share information and accept comments on proposed alternatives for the formula used to determine the grazing lease rate on Idaho endowment lands. Website: <http://bit.ly/2tNcm14>

Thursday, July 27

Idaho Grazing Lease Rate Meeting. 6-8 p.m. Nampa Civic Center Front Lobby, 311 Third St., Nampa, Idaho. The Idaho Department of Lands will hold an open house public meeting to share information and accept comments on proposed alternatives for the formula used to determine the grazing lease rate on Idaho endowment lands. Website: <http://bit.ly/2tNcm14>

Friday, July 28

Forest Insect and Disease Field Day. 8 a.m.-5 p.m. Benewah County Fairgrounds, 2330-2398 St. Maries Ave., St. Maries, Idaho. The event will give participants first-hand exposure to a wide range of organisms that impair the growth of trees and forests in Northern Idaho including: Douglas-fir beetle and other bark beetles; Armillaria and other root diseases; white pine blister rust; Indian paint fungus, pini rot and other stem decays; and dwarf mistletoes. Experts will help participants identify insect and disease symptoms and discuss practical long- and short-term methods of dealing with them. Those wishing to participate should pre-register at the University of Idaho Extension Office in Benewah County by July 21. A \$10 registration fee covers re-

source materials and refreshments.

Saturday-Sunday July 29-30

47th Annual Great Oregon Steam-Up. 7 a.m.-6 p.m. Powerland Heritage Park, 3995 Brooklake Road NE, Brooks, Ore. Packed with vintage power, this annual event celebrates the steam power, machines and people who drove Oregon agriculture, logging, transportation and more from the 1800s through early 1900s. Get up close to the power farm machinery, vintage trucks, antique cars, logging gear and a working steam sawmill. Kids of all ages will enjoy train and trolley rides, a daily parade, a huge flea market, traditional tractor pulling, machinery demos, threshing and quilt show. This year the featured makes are Aultman-Taylor and Rumely. General admission \$12, children under 12 are free. Website: <http://www.antique-powerland.com/html/steam-up.html>

Sunday, July 30

Summer Farm Day. Noon-4 p.m. Ruby & Amber's Farm, Dorena, Ore. Sponsored by the Willamette Farm & Food Coalition. Website: willamettefarmandfood.org

Monday, July 31

Agricultural Technology Day, 1-6 p.m. Washington State University Ag Technology Building, 24106 N. Bunn Road, Prosser, Wash. Highlights of this year include plenary talks on "Drone Data Decisions in Agriculture" and "Precision Irrigation Technologies" followed by a live demonstration of low energy precision irrigation and UAS-based multispectral sensing technologies.

The event will also feature displays and short demonstrations of key technologies such as: robotic weeding, precision pollination, mechanical pruning, direct root-zone deficit irrigation, novel chemical application technologies, robotic apple harvesting, intelligent in-orchard bin-managing systems and high throughput crop phenotyping technologies. A networking social will be from 5 to 6 p.m. Cost: Free, but registration is required. Website: <http://cpaas.wsu.edu/>

Tuesday-Friday, Aug. 1-4

7th World Congress on Conservation Agriculture. Rosario, Argentina. A world meeting presented by the American Confederation of Farmers Organizations for a Sustainable Agriculture, which began with associations of farmers that promoted the no till system and are currently working to promote sustainable production systems. Website: <http://congresoapresid.org.ar/>

Friday, Aug. 4

9th Annual Friends of Agriculture Golf Tournament. Chehalem Glenn Golf Course, 4501 E. Fernwood Road, Newberg, Ore. The tournament benefits Oregon AgLink, which is dedicated to growing agriculture in Oregon through education and promotion and bridging the gap between urban and rural Oregonians. Contact Mallory Phelan at 503-595-9121 or mallory@aglink.org. Website: www.aglink.org

Left Coast's Run for the Oaks, 8 a.m.-1 p.m. Left Coast Cellars, 4225 N. Pacific Highway W, Rickreall, Ore. The course will pre-

dominantly be on gravel roads or off-road with trail and paved road segments. The run will meander throughout the Left Coast Cellars estate and runners will pass oak forests, vineyards and gardens with spectacular views of the Willamette Valley. All proceeds from the race, food and wine sales for the day will be devoted to the Oak Savanna Restoration Project. 10K Trail Run: \$60 Start time 9 a.m. 5K Trail Run/Walk: \$50 Start time 9:15 a.m. Registration Includes complimentary wine tasting; free Patagonia Capilene T-shirts; finishers receive a GoVino wine glass; music, awards and snacks. Left Coast Cellars has over 100 acres of ecological compensation areas and 70 acres of old growth oak forest. Through time the forest has become populated with invasive species and our goal is to restore the forest to a native oak savanna. We have partnered with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Website: <http://leftcoastcellars.com/>

Saturday-Sunday Aug. 5-6

Mother Earth News Fair. 9 a.m.-6 p.m. Linn County Expo, 3700 Knox Butte Road E., Albany, Ore. The Mother Earth News Fairs are fun-filled, family-oriented sustainable lifestyle events that feature dozens of practical, hands-on demonstrations and workshops from the leading authorities on renewable energy, small-scale agriculture, gardening, green building, green transportation and natural health. Cost: \$15-50. Website: <http://www.motherearthnewsfair.com/oregon/>

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Clarification

A story on page 9 of last week's Capital Press did not specify the sentence a rancher received after he pleaded guilty to 12 counts of taking wildlife unlawfully and wasting wildlife meat.

Larry Michael Harshfield, 69, of Wallowa, Ore., was ordered June 28 to pay an \$18,000 fine and his hunting privileges were suspended for three years. He will also receive two years of supervised probation and work with the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife to create programs to inform citizens on avenues to use if they're having wildlife problems.

He shot elk that were raiding his hay supply. He had previously tried hazing the elk and installed plastic netting around the hay but those efforts were unsuccessful.