

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

## Idaho

# IPC welcomes first female grower on board

By JOHN O'CONNELL  
Capital Press

EAGLE, Idaho — The first woman to ever represent growers on the Idaho Potato Commission's board of directors has grown accustomed to breaking gender barriers in agriculture.

IPC announced Mary Hasenoehrl, 60, as its newest commissioner during the recent Idaho Grower Shippers Association annual conference in Sun Valley.

She's been appointed by Gov. Butch Otter as just the second woman to serve on the board, joining current board member Peggy Grover, an official with Rexburg-based BenchMark Potatoes who represents fresh shippers.

"It's important to have a diverse group of people because we all come from different backgrounds and



John O'Connell/Capital Press

Mary Hasenoehrl in Sun Valley, Idaho, where she became the first woman grower and second woman overall to join the Idaho Potato Commission's board of directors.

have a different approach to things," Hasenoehrl said.

Hasenoehrl's IPC district stretches from Western Idaho to the Northern Panhandle.

She splits time between living in Lewiston, where her sons lease her dryland native grass seed farm, and Wilder, where she helps her husband,

Doug Gross, raise potatoes and other crops.

Hasenoehrl was raised on a small farm in Midvale. When she first started high school, FFA didn't allow girls to formally participate, so she served as a chapter "sweetheart." The organization opted to include girls before she graduated, and she was elected as a state officer in 1974.

She went on to earn a certificate in respiratory therapy, though she admits her dream was to become an agricultural teacher and an FFA adviser.

"At the time that was just unheard of," she said.

In the mid-1980s, Hasenoehrl participated in an organization that lobbied on agricultural issues such as water availability and the Farm Bill, called Idaho Women for Agriculture. She eventually became its president.

She also raised a family and took University of Idaho classes in marketing and communications before taking a job as regional director for Sen. Mike Crapo, R-Idaho. In 2004, she became director of advancement with the UI College of Agricultural and Life Sciences, where she worked for eight years, before agreeing to run the advancement office at Lewis and Clark State College. She retired from the college in 2013.

Three months after she started that job, her first husband was killed in a farming accident. About a year after her husband's death, Gross lost his wife. Hasenoehrl sent him a note letting him know that she understood what he was enduring and that he was in her prayers. They were married in 2014.

"One of the things that

attracted me to him was his love of agriculture," she said.

Hasenoehrl was also elected in 2010 as the first female commissioner with the Port of Lewiston, where she continues working toward restoring container shipments from the Port of Portland.

IPC President and CEO Frank Muir believes Hasenoehrl brings the commission "a wealth of experience in her background in terms of the boards she's served on." Muir also noted her perspective is important as women represent IPC's target audience.

Commissioners typically serve two, three-year terms. Other current board members are Grover, Lynn Wilcox, Dan Nakamura, Tommy Brown, James Hoff, Ritchey Toevs, Randy Hardy and Nick Blanksma. Wilcox, with Wilcox Fresh in Rexburg, is the new chairman.

## Idaho leads West in per capita farm receipts

By SEAN ELLIS  
Capital Press

BOISE — Idaho remained in the No. 3 spot among the 11 Western states for total farm gate receipts last year, behind California and Washington.

But Idaho was unchallenged when it comes to farm cash receipts on a per capita basis, generating far more farm income per person than any other Western state.

"It shows how much our economy depends on agriculture vs. surrounding states," said University of Idaho agricultural economist Ben Eborn, who compiles the rankings annually.

Eborn said the rankings are a way to show elected officials and other state leaders just how important the farm sector is to Idaho's economy.

"Most people realize there is a lot of farming in Idaho but they probably don't realize just

how huge it is," Eborn said.

Some people think agriculture is a dying industry, he said.

"Well, it's not dying in Idaho," he said. "A big part of our overall economy in Idaho depends on agriculture. It's pretty much the foundation of our economy."

Eborn also ranked all 50 states in terms of farm Gross Domestic Product as a percentage of each state's total GDP and Idaho ranked fourth, behind the big ag states of South Dakota, Nebraska and Iowa.

UI Agricultural Economist Garth Taylor said it's worth noting those GDP rankings only include farm gate receipts and don't include the economic activity generated by food processing and other agribusinesses, which play a major role in Idaho's economy.

Taylor said the GDP and per capita rankings show that

"farming affects peoples lives in the state of Idaho."

The state rankings were based on USDA Economic Research Service numbers that became available for 2016 on Aug. 30.

California remained No. 1 with \$45 billion in farm cash receipts in 2016, followed by Washington with \$9.9 billion and Idaho with \$7.1 billion.

On a per capita basis, Idaho generated \$4,204 per person in farm cash receipts, while California produced \$1,154 per person and Washington \$1,354 per person.

Colorado ranked fourth last year in cash receipts with \$6.3 billion and Oregon was fifth with \$4.6 billion.

Arizona was sixth (\$4.1 billion) and was followed by Montana (\$3.7 billion), New Mexico (\$2.9 billion), Utah (\$1.7 billion), Wyoming (\$1.4 billion) and Nevada (\$596 million).



Courtesy of Travis Blacker

Environmental Protection Agency staffers await an aerial application demonstration at Hoff Farms in Idaho Falls on Aug. 14, during a tour of Idaho potato country.

## EPA staffers tour Eastern Idaho potato production

By JOHN O'CONNELL  
Capital Press

IDAHO FALLS — Some of the potato farmers who make an annual trip to lobby lawmakers and bureaucrats in Washington, D.C., know Environmental Protection Agency staff members by name, and look forward to having coffee with them.

Conversely, officials with EPA are quick to reach out to potato industry leaders when they have questions about "what's really going on" in spud fields, said John Keeling, executive vice president and CEO of the National Potato Council.

Keeling believes the positive relationship between farmers and federal regulators is the result of his organization's longstanding program to host potato-country tours for employees of EPA's Office of Pesticide Programs. Six EPA risk managers and rule writers attended this summer's trip to Eastern Idaho during the week of Aug. 14.

Keeling explained the tour rotates among states, and the regulators are scheduled to

visit Michigan next summer. NPC also organizes a day-long tour in the East Coast for a larger group of EPA officials once every three years.

"We think it's a big part of being partners with EPA and giving some opportunity for these folks who are making decisions on pesticides to see how chemicals are actually applied and handled," Keeling said, adding that potato industry officials also learn what's involved in EPA's process of making "science-based decisions."

Keeling said EPA staff member Kyle Morford had been contacting NPC for information to guide a registration review for sulfuric acid, used to kill potato vines before harvest. During the recent tour, Morford had the chance to ask his questions of farmers who use the product.

"The tour was enlightening, giving us a better understanding of the challenges of growing potatoes in a desert climate, the significant pests and strategies to combat them and when pesticides are needed," Morford

said in a press release.

Keeling said potato industry leaders also suggested that any new restrictions on the use of the vine desiccant Diquat limit only the total amount of product allowed for use, and not the number of applications, to give growers greater flexibility.

Travis Blacker, of the Idaho Potato Commission, planned the tour's stops, including visits to James Hoff's farm, Raybould Brothers Farm, the Wilcox Fresh packing plant, Sunrain Potato Seed Solutions, Idahoan Foods and Spudnik Equipment.

Blacker said the visitors were impressed by the advanced technology and precision upon witnessing an aerial application demonstration at Hoff's farm. Blacker believes another key moment came when an EPA staff member asked farmer Jeff Raybould if he always uses the maximum amount of chemicals allowed under product labels.

"He said, 'We never use the maximum amount. This stuff is expensive,'" Blacker said. "I think it really hit home with them."

## Rewards offered in E. Idaho cattle shootings

By JOHN O'CONNELL  
Capital Press

IDAHO FALLS — The Idaho Cattle Association is offering \$1,000 rewards for information leading to arrests in two recent cattle shootings.

Both incidents occurred about three weeks ago. ICA President Jerald Raymond, of Menan, said his organization is cooperating with the Bonneville County Sheriff's Office on the investigation into the shooting of eight cows and calves in the Upper Fall Creek area below Palisades Reservoir.

Raymond said four of five members of the area's grazing association lost cattle.

"These people just shot

these cows and left them to rot," Raymond said.

Raymond said some of the cows were pregnant. Some nursing calves lost their mothers and some cows lost their calves, he said. Bonneville County sheriff's investigators couldn't be reached for comment.

The other shooting occurred on public land near Blackfoot Reservoir, about 25 miles east of Blackfoot. Bingham County Sheriff Craig Rowland said his office has been cooperating in the Bonneville County case but hasn't formally investigated the shooting in his county because the property owners never filed a police report.

"I got information about

it from my secretary, whose mother runs cattle up that way," Rowland said.

Rowland heard three or four cows and calves were killed. Even though a formal report wasn't filed, Rowland said his deputies have increased patrols of Bureau of Land Management grazing terrain in the Wolverine Canyon area east of Blackfoot. Increased patrolling will continue until snowy weather arrives, he said.

Cattle shootings occur sporadically and are tough cases to close, he said.

"Last year and the year before we didn't have any, and then we get a rash of them," Rowland said.

# SAN 30-6

## DID YOU KNOW?

### FACT:

- There is new stabilized dry granular NITRATE form of fertilizer available.
- NITRATE nitrogen is the fastest acting nitrogen source.
- SAN 30-6 has 30% nitrogen and 6% Phosphate.
- A unique combination of ammonium phosphate and ammonium nitrate in a homogenous granule.
- SAN 30-6 gets nitrogen to the plant when it needs it. Use for early, mid and late season applications.
- SAN 30-6 is less volatile than other dry forms of Nitrogen. No need to add a nitrogen stabilizer.
- Grass crops prefer a mixture of both Nitrate and Ammonium forms of nitrogen.
- Grass seed set is determined in the Fall, so proper nitrogen and phosphorous nutrition are essential for maximum yield.

AVAILABLE THROUGH YOUR LOCAL AG RETAILER.

For Questions and More Information, Contact  
Two Rivers Terminal  
866-947-7776  
[info@tworiversterminal.com](mailto:info@tworiversterminal.com)  
[www.tworiversterminal.com](http://www.tworiversterminal.com)

**TWO RIVERS  
TERMINAL, LLC**