

Idaho ag department seeks eight new positions in its budget

By SEAN ELLIS
Capital Press

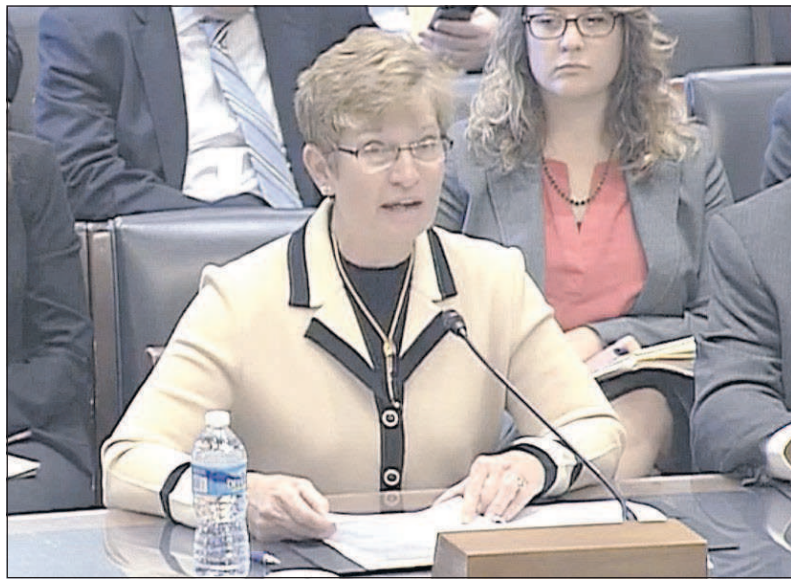
BOISE — The Idaho State Department of Agriculture is asking lawmakers for permission to add eight new positions that will help it keep pace with increasing demand for services from the state's agricultural industry.

"We're just trying to keep pace with demand, going the direction the markets are leading," ISDA Director Celia Gould told Capital Press. "These new positions reflect the growth in our industry."

Gov. Butch Otter's proposed fiscal year 2019 budget requests \$45.4 million for the department, which is \$300,000 less than ISDA's current fiscal 2018 budget.

Gould said ISDA employees are working full bore to keep up with increasing demand for inspections, certifications and other services.

"Over the last several years, it's grown to the point that inspection-wise, we're bursting at the seams," she said. "We try to run a



Capital Press File

Idaho Director of Agriculture Celia Gould is seeking eight new positions to keep up with the demand for services.

lean, mean machine here and try to run with as few positions as we possibly can ... but at some point in time, you would be doing a detriment to your industry and we don't want to

be in that position."

Gould said ISDA is "excited that our industries are continuing to grow. It's a good problem to have."

As an example of the increased

demand for services, the ISDA's animal laboratory over the last year has experienced a six-fold increase in lab work related to the new cattle processing facility in Kuna, said Chanel Tewalt, ISDA's chief of operations.

Despite the request for eight new positions, ISDA's proposed fiscal 2019 budget is actually slightly smaller than its 2018 budget.

That's because the department was able to reduce excess spending authority in some divisions that offset the money needed for the new positions, said Kelly Nielsen, ISDA's chief fiscal officer.

"So we didn't need to ask for additional spending authority, we just needed to ask for positions," he said.

Two of the new requested positions are to keep up with the growth of the department's organics program and two will work in the department's dairy inspection program.

The dairy inspection program "is going gang busters, particularly on

the processing side," Gould said.

The department also seeks three new employees who will be trained to conduct voluntary on-farm readiness reviews and other outreach and education efforts for producers who will be impacted by FDA's Food Safety Modernization Act requirements.

ISDA also seeks to add a lab quality assurance manager who will perform duties that currently occupy the time of employees who work in the department's seven laboratories. That will free up those employees to focus solely on the increased demand for lab services, Nielsen said.

ISDA's 2019 budget requests \$11.9 million from the state's general fund, which is equal to its 2018 budget, and it seeks \$6.3 million in spending authority for federal funds, which is \$1 million less than the current budget.

ISDA also asks for \$26.6 million in dedicated funds, which is \$1 million more than in 2018. Those are fees that industry pays directly for certain services.

Research, trade top list for Idaho Bean Commission

By CAROL RYAN DUMAS
Capital Press

TWIN FALLS, Idaho — 2017 was a busy year for the Idaho Bean Commission, and there's more ahead in 2018, the executive director says.

IBC completed some projects and has more in the works when it comes to bean research and gaining ground in international markets.

Andi Woolf-Weibye filled growers in on those happenings during the University of Idaho bean schools last week.

IBC is hoping to gain momentum in its efforts to create a multi-state bean consortium for research, teaming up with other states to share the cost of research that will benefit each.

Colorado and Wyoming bean commissions and their state's land-grant universities have already signed a memorandum of understanding for the consortium, but the initiative has been stuck at the University of Idaho, she said.

The next step is figuring out how to move forward if the university isn't on board, she said.

IBC has also completed two projects partnering with students in the university's agribusiness department. One was to develop a blueprint for a low-cost storage container that would help growers in other countries protect their purchases of Idaho's bean seed from insects.

The other was to analyze data on Mexico and Latin American countries to overcome some barriers in the former and gain market inroads in the latter.

Current Specialty Crop Block Grants secured by IBC are focusing on increasing market share for Idaho beans in Latin America and increasing the diversity and choice in the yellow dry bean trade. With the new yellow bean Patron variety, resistant to viruses common to Mexico, that effort will be to develop a bean with the deeper yellow color that Mexican consumers desire, she said.

Idaho's bean seed inroads in Costa Rica and Puerto Rico hit some obstacles in 2017. Trials set for both countries were waylaid by hurricanes, she said.

Hurricane Otto delayed planting in Costa Rica. Growers there were able to physically see the difference between crops of Idaho seed and other seed and see how promising Idaho seed looks. But there was no time for the plants to set pods, so the trials were unable to obtain production data, she said.

Costa Rico had a double whammy with Hurricanes Irma and Maria, and the Idaho seed didn't even get in the ground, she said.

Looking ahead, IBC is hoping to gain traction in overcoming political barriers in Mexico and will continue to focus more effort on garden bean research, she said.

Legislature approves Idaho Wheat Commission rule change

By SEAN ELLIS
Capital Press

BOISE — State lawmakers have approved an Idaho Wheat Commission rule change that would require grain elevators to submit the names and addresses of all growers from whom they purchase wheat.

Members of the House and Senate agricultural affairs committees voted by a combined 22-2 Jan. 18 to support the rule after IWC officials assured them the list of grower names and addresses would remain confidential and only be used to communicate with and educate wheat farmers.

Legislators showered Hamilton and IWC Executive Director Blaine Jacobson with questions related to the confidentiality and security of the grower list.

The "list is safe and sacred with the commission," IWC board member and Ririe farmer Clark Hamilton told members of the House ag committee. "It's not to be shared and we're taking that seriously."

IWC has the authority to have such a grower list but currently lacks the mechanism to collect the information. Since not all elevators provide grower names and addresses to the IWC, the current list is incomplete.

IWC officials said a complete list of wheat growers in the state is needed to ensure producers have a say in how the commission operates and spends their wheat checkoff dollars and also to educate and communicate with growers.

"As a commissioner and as a grower who pays the wheat tax, I feel strongly that the wheat commission must be accountable to Idaho's wheat growers as to how we spend their hard-earned dollars," Hamilton said. "Currently, we have no way of reporting how we have invested their dollars or of asking them for their advice on future investments."

When asked how growers

would benefit from the rule change, Hamilton used a 2014 stripe rust outbreak as an example. The University of Idaho issued an early warning of a stripe rust outbreak that year and the wheat commission quickly relayed that information to growers, he said.

Like other farmers who got the early warning, Hamilton sprayed his crop in time to protect it. "Those that didn't, lost (up to) 30 percent of their crop," he said.

"Those growers who were part of the communications tree got an early warning and were able to protect their crop," Jacobson told Capital Press.

Rep. Randy Armstrong, R-Inkom, said he has spoken to numerous wheat growers in his district about the issue and "every single person I've spoken to was strongly in favor of this. It's nothing sinister, which some people may think it may be. It's really a great idea."

Hamilton said the information would only be used to conduct the periodic referendums the commission is required by Idaho statute to do to gauge whether wheat farmers approve of the way the commission is spending their checkoff dollars, and to mail growers the Idaho Grain Magazine.

Transition Planning/Asset Protection Prepare for The Next Generation - Times are Changing

To find out how, please join us at one of our FREE seminars.

• MOSCOW

January 22

Best Western Plus University Inn
1516 Pullman Rd Moscow ID 83843

• DAYTON

January 24th

Best Western Inn
507 East Main Street, Dayton WA 99328

• QUINCY

January 25th

Grant County Fire District # 3
1201 Central Ave. S Quincy WA 98848

• WALLA WALLA

February 13th

Marcus Whitman Hotel & Conference Center
6 West Rose Street Walla Walla WA 99362

• YAKIMA

February 1st

Yakima Convention Center
10 N. 8th Street, Yakima, WA 98901

• PASCO

February 8th

Red Lion Hotel Pasco,
2525 N 20th Ave, Pasco, WA 99301

HOT TOPICS

Lots to think about:

- Children
- Taxes
- Operation
- Retirement

Keeping the Farm in the Family:

- Understanding the estate tax
- Utilizing entities and trusts for transition, estate, tax and bureau planning.
- Utilizing a family LLC in transition of the farm land and other family "jewels"
- Specific techniques for transfer
- How to avoid pitfalls!

OTHER TOPICS

Use a Farm Corporation to:

- Keep more profit
- Utilize tax bracket planning
- Reduce Self-Employment Tax (through use of commodity wages)
- Deduct living expenses!

Structure Your Operation to:

- Protect the farm from creditors, in-laws, etc.
- Protect your land from long-term nursing home care considerations
- Water Law / Bureau Water Issues
- Dealing with Farm Programs
- Discover "what works" for estate/transition planning

For questions, please call Corey at (509) 622-4707 or email Corey@BrockLF.com

SIGN-UP FORM

*Please RSVP to
Sheena VanWagoner
at SHEENA@BROCKLF.com

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

E-mail _____

Number of Attendees: _____

At the Following Seminars:

Moscow Kennewick Quincy

Dayton Yakima

•Additional seminars do not require RSVP.



Corey F. Brock, Attorney
Offices in Kennewick & Spokane
(509) 622-4707 • corey@brocklf.com



Norman D. Brock, Attorney
Office in Davenport
(509) 725-3101 • norm@brocklf.com

MEET THE SPEAKERS

Corey works primarily with farm families and farm related businesses in meeting their transition and business goals. Corey has significant experience particularly with respect to LLCs, buyouts and buy-sell agreements in corporations and LLCs, structuring estate planning for the non-farm child(ren) vs. the children on the farm, mergers and acquisitions, real estate matters leases, and all general and complex estate planning/probate. Corey enjoys working with families in designing a transition plan that meets the families' desire. Corey also assists in structuring entities for Bureau water concerns and general water law matters.

Norm brings over 40 years of experience in representing hundreds of farm families throughout Eastern Washington, Idaho and Eastern Oregon. He is licensed to practice in Washington, Idaho and Oregon and primarily deals with sophisticated estate planning, farm program limitation issues for DCP / CRP and/or CSP limitations.



Spokane • Kennewick • Davenport • Moses Lake

Phone (509) 622-4707 • Fax (509) 622-4705

Email Corey@BrockLF.com