

Scoular plant, grower program target barley food, feed segments

By BRAD CARLSON
Capital Press

Barley production for the food and feed segments could increase in Idaho with help from a soon-to-open production plant and a new program for farmers.

The Scoular Co. by early October plans to open a 15,000-square-foot plant in Jerome to produce a barley protein concentrate for use in aquaculture and pet food.

Separately, the Omaha, Neb.-based company announced a program to encourage farmers to plant more barley as a rotation crop. Barley MVP program offerings include risk-management tools and seed varieties.

Idaho led U.S. barley production in 2020. Planted acres totaled 530,000.

Idaho Barley Commission Executive Director Laura Wilder said 75-80% of the crop is grown for malting.

"There is potential to grow those food barley and feed barley markets, and that is something Scoular is focusing on," she said. Meanwhile, the fairly new protein-concentrate segment is growing.

"The company's expanded focus on barley and initiatives around their new barley protein concentrate facility, as well as feed barley and food barley, will increase total Idaho barley acres," Wilder said. "That's good news for the industry."

Andy Hohwieler, Scoular trade unit manager in Twin Falls, said local farmers this year converted more than



J.C. Olson/Scoular

Construction of Scoular's barley protein concentrate manufacturing plant progressed Aug. 3 in Jerome, Idaho.

12,000 acres to barley for these sectors. Most was south-central Idaho ground where wheat, corn or other crops grew previously. The new barley was grown for feed and food sectors.

"The water situation we're in this year created a lot of interest in barley because it is a lower water-input crop," he said.

Demand could exceed 50,000 acres of production in the next five years, Hohwieler said.

He said Scoular, through Barley MVP, aims to connect growers to new markets and offer a wide range of price- and risk-management tools — such as a forward contract, a basis contract against corn futures, or a minimum-maximum price contract.

"The more tools we can offer growers when it comes to marketing, the more successful the producer could be," Hohwieler said.

Scoular's presence in Idaho includes several grain handling facilities, a livestock ingredient and custom blending plant in Jerome, and a trading office in Twin Falls.

The new Jerome building is on 4 acres south of the existing plant. It's expected to initially create about 13 new jobs and process about 1.9 million bushels of barley annually for the company's Emerge protein concentrate. A liquid feed supplement for cattle feeders will be co-produced.

"We see barley as a crop that has tremendous potential," Hohwieler said.



NAWG

National Association of Wheat Growers CEO Chandler Goule measures wheat in a North Dakota field to estimate yield and assess drought stress.

NAWG CEO: Washington crop hit hardest by drought

By MATTHEW WEAVER
Capital Press

Over the summer, National Association of Wheat Growers CEO Chandler Goule toured six wheat-producing states. He says Washington wheat farmers hold a dubious distinction.

"I hate to tell you this, but Washington still wins," he told the Capital Press by phone Aug. 4. "You all still have the shortest wheat that's got the most heat stress on it of all the states I've been to, but every state is clearly showing signs of major drought and stress issues in the crops."

Goule toured Washington, Oregon and Idaho in June, and visited North Dakota, South Dakota and Minnesota at the end of July.

Goule anticipates help from the federal government, and welcomed congressional funding earmarked for drought relief assistance.

He is "very confident" Senate and House appropriations bills will cross Biden's desk, citing a bipartisan approach in both chambers.

The crop insurance program will also provide relief.

President Joe Biden's administration is the first, Democrat or Republican, in 21 years to not cut crop insurance in its budget, he said.

"That gives us a little bit of comfort that the administration realizes the importance of that program, especially coming out of such a bad year," Goule said.

Goule expects all growers who qualify for crop insurance will be able to remit their full policy. He declined to give an estimate

for total crop insurance payments industry-wide.

The industry will maintain its "strong drum beat" about the importance of crop insurance, Goule said.

"We're going to have six states that are going to have major claims this year," Goule said. Parts of Kansas, Oklahoma and Texas are also affected.

Goule doesn't anticipate the usual fight over crop insurance funding from longtime opponents this year.

"When you're looking at political strategy and you're trying to find money, it's always easy to attack a program when it's not in use because we're having plenty of rainfall," he said. "If I was in opposition to crop insurance, which I am not, this would not be the year I would try to attack it."

Crop insurance funding is a permanent bill not included in the Farm Bill, but discussed at the same time as the Farm Bill. Goule expects Farm Bill discussions to begin in 2022.

"I think we're going to get a pass this year, but we definitely should not let our guard down," he said.

The industry will discuss a permanent disaster program in the Farm Bill.

"We need to be very careful, but very pragmatic, about how we want to structure (a program)," Goule said. "One year you may have a flood, one year you may have drought and one year you may have fire. A lot of times, crop insurance and disaster assistance doesn't cover things like fire. If your crop goes up in smoke, literally, you're not covered. Just a lot of things we need to look at as we develop those programs."

PETA calls for investigation of Idaho rodeo

By CAROL RYAN DUMAS
Capital Press

People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals is calling for an investigation into the use of fireworks during a July 24 event at the Pioneer Days Rodeo in Oakley, Idaho, a rural community southeast of Burley near the Utah border.

A video of the wild cow riding event shows fireworks, including what appear to be Roman candles, being fired within the arena. Some appear to be hitting cows and participants in a chaotic scene of frightened

animals and cowboys trying to control the cows.

PETA said blasting Roman candles inside the arena caused terrified cows to run frantically in circles as flaming projectiles hit them. The organization sent a letter to Cassia County Prosecuting Attorney McCord Larsen and Sheriff George Warrell calling on them to investigate.

"Horrible footage documents that cows frantically flailed and ran in circles as they desperately tried to evade countless flaming projectiles, many of which appeared to be aimed directly at them. Some even

bounced off their heads and bodies," PETA said in the letter.

The letter also said rodeo board member Cache Taylor stated in a media interview that the fireworks have been a regular part of the show for years "with the intent to make the cows more wild."

In the interview with KTVB of Boise, Taylor said fireworks have been used outside the arena in past years to highlight the show and make it more exciting. The fireworks can make the cows harder to catch and harder to saddle, he said.

But it was never to the

extent of this year's event, and those using the fireworks were not a part of the group that puts on the rodeo, he said.

Taylor did not immediately return a request for comment from Capital Press Aug. 3.

PETA said it wants criminal cruelty-to-animals charges filed against those responsible and a ban on the rodeo's use of pyrotechnics around the cows.

"Rodeos are traumatic and dangerous enough for animals even without the use of fireworks to whip the animals into a frenzy for the enjoyment of the crowd," Stephanie Bell, PETA senior director of cruelty casework, said in a press release.

When asked for comment, Cassia County Prosecuting Attorney Larsen said, "I don't comment on any ongoing cases."

County Sheriff Warrell did not immediately return a request for comment on Aug. 3.

Hazelnut Growers Bargaining Association Annual Meeting

August 31st, 2021 @ West Salem Roth's
RSVP by August 20th

- > 8:30 a.m. Coffee & Refreshments
 - > 9:00 a.m. Meeting
- Board member elections to be held

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