



CAPITOL REVIEW

A WEEKLY LEGISLATIVE REPORT

ASSOCIATION MANAGEMENT GROUP : RICK WAITLEY / ROGER BATT / BENJAMIN KELLY
55 SW 5TH AVENUE, SUITE 100 MERIDIAN, ID 83642 PH: 208-888-0988 FX: 208-888-4586

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END OF THE LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Sometimes it is difficult to measure the progress of the legislature in the final days of a session. There are many abbreviated agendas, difficult predictions, caucus meetings of both parties and numerous conversations in every medium possible (mail, email, phone and face to face). That has been the scene over the past three weeks in Boise. Midway through the 2019 Legislature, the prediction was for an adjournment by anywhere from **March 22 to March 29**. Those dates came and went and the 105 legislators were still in town. Then replacements and substitutes begin to show up, since legislators had made personal plans and professional commitments. All of this had a large impact on the flow and attitudes in the final days.

The 1st Regular Session of the 65th Idaho Legislature convened on **January 7** and adjourned this week on April 11. The legislature met for a total of 95 days, which ties the 1983 Session for **3rd longest in Idaho's history**. The longest session was in 2003 with 118 days of meetings followed by 2009 with 117 days at the capitol. The shortest legislative session was in **1943, held during WWII, and was a 56-day legislature...** we assume they had more pressing matters to deal with outside of Boise.

U OF I NAMES 19TH PRESIDENT

The University of Idaho announced on Thursday the hiring of a new president, **C. Scott Green**. Green is an alumnus who grew up running the hallways of Memorial Gym when his grandfather was the head of the Department of Physical Education, Recreation and Dance and, later became the athletic director. Scott went on to build a monumental career in global finance, operations and administration.

President Green will assume leadership of the University of Idaho on Monday, **July 1, 2019**. Green was born in Moscow, and his family moved to Boise when he was in elementary school. A graduate of Boise High School, he always knew he would return to the University of Idaho for college.

He graduated with a **bachelor's degree in accounting** in 1984 and immediately began work at the Boise

Cascade Corporation. Scott later moved to Boston to attend Harvard Business School, where he earned his Master of Business Administration in 1989 and then began working for Deloitte and Touche LLP in New York. This was the beginning of an international career that would define the next 30 years.

Scott has served the University of Idaho in several ways over the years, including membership on the U of I National Alumni Board of Directors, College of Business and Economics Advisory Board and on the U of I Foundation Board.

NO HEMP TO BE PLANTED IN 2019

What began during the first half of the Legislative Session as high hopes of passing legislation that would legalize hemp in Idaho, will not be finding its way to the finish line. During the early part of the session, H122 was the original hemp bill that was written to remove hemp off the Schedule I drug list and instruct the Department of Agriculture to create a plan for management of the product so that producers could plant by 2020 at the latest. However, H122 was amended in the Senate to include some provisions for law enforcement and was sent back to the House of Representatives for a concurring vote. **Ultimately, H122a did not get a final vote.**

H300 was created shortly thereafter with the intent to **allow the interstate transport of hemp through the state** of Idaho. As written, this bill would have prevented any incidents from occurring like the one this past winter where the truckers were apprehended for hauling hemp across state lines into Idaho. H300 did not have any agricultural pieces included and would have simply been for the interstate transportation of hemp. While in the Senate, **H300 was amended** and the legislation would have **allowed for the director of the State Department of Agriculture to issue permits for the interstate transportation** of industrial hemp, defined terms used commonly with hemp production and transportation, provided for the industrial hemp development fund, provided intent language for the state of Idaho to have primary regulatory authority over the production of industrial hemp through a negotiated rule-making process and to

declared an emergency so the legislation would take effect immediately. The newly amended bill passed the Senate and, on the last day of the legislature, received a hearing in the House Transportation Committee. The transportation committee only heard testimony from the bill's sponsors, which were on different sides of the issue in regard to the Idaho State Police's involvement. One of the bill's sponsors did not want the committee to concur in the amendments from the Senate because she thought that the plan that would be released by the United States Department of Agriculture would have saved the state money and would have not instigated the rule-making process at the state level. The **Committee voted not to concur with the Senate amendments. H300a was not voted on by the full House of Representatives.**

Where do we stand now? Producers within Idaho borders will not be able to plant hemp seeds until a plan is released by the USDA and approved by the state of Idaho. A plan may be released by the end of fall, but the real challenge will be to see if Idaho can react quickly enough to USDA regulations in time for the 2020 planting season.

2017 CENSUS OF AGRICULTURE

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) announced the results of the 2017 Census of Agriculture this week that that spans approximately **6.4 million new points** of information about America's farms and ranches. Census data provides valuable insights into demographics, economics, land and activities on U.S. farms and ranches.

Some key highlights include:

- There are **2.04 million farms and ranches (down 3.2 percent from 2012)** with an average size of 441 acres (up 1.6 percent) on 900 million acres (down 1.6 percent).
- The **273,000 smallest (1-9 acres)** farms make up 0.1 percent of all farmland while the 85,127 largest (2,000 or more acres) farms make up 58 percent of farmland.
- Of the 2.04 million farms and ranches, the **76,865 making \$1 million or more in 2017** represent just over 2/3 of the \$389 billion in total value of production while the 1.56 million operations making under \$50,000 represent just 2.9 percent.
- Ninety-six percent of farms and ranches are family owned.
- **Farms with Internet access rose** from 69.6 percent in 2012 to **75.4 percent in 2017.**

Other demographic highlights include:

- The **average age of all producers is 57.5**, up 1.2 years from 2012.

- The number of producers who have served in the military is 370,619, or 11 percent of all. They are older than the average at 67.9.
- There are **321,261 young producers age 35 or less** on 240,141 farms. Farms with young producers making decisions tend to be larger than average in both acres and sales.

In Idaho, the ranking of the market products sold is:

Commodity Ranking of Idaho Market Value - Ag Products Sold	Farms	Sales (\$1,000)	Rank by Sales	% of Total Sales
Total sales	24,996	7,567,439	(X)	100.0
Milk from cows	491	2,330,865	1	30.8
Cattle and calves	8,757	1,787,255	2	23.6
Vegetables, melons, potatoes, and sweet potatoes	1,355	1,147,097	3	15.2
rains, oilseeds, dry beans, dry peas	4,338	1,049,101	4	13.9
Other crops and hay	9,671	922,356	5	12.2
Aquaculture	69	97,817	6	1.3
Nursery, greenhouse, floriculture, sod	491	66,449	7	0.9
Sheep, goats, wool, mohair, and milk	1,784	42,708	8	0.6
Other animals and animal products	582	37,530	9	0.5
Poultry and eggs	1,990	29,828	10	0.4
Fruits, tree nuts, and berries	532	25,122	11	0.3
Hogs and pigs	699	18,100	12	0.2
Horses, ponies, mules, burros, donkeys	1,495	12,504	13	0.2
Cultivated Christmas trees and short rotation woody crops	52	707	14	

Results are available at www.nass.usda.gov/AgCensus and you can find Idaho's information by selecting "2017 Census By State and County."

DAYLEY NAMED STATE FSA DIRECTOR

In the closing minutes of the 2019 Idaho Legislature, **Rep. Tom Dayley**, District 21, stood and announced that he would not be returning to the legislature. Rep. Dayley will be named shortly as the **State Farm Service Agency Director for Idaho**. Dayley has a long career in public policy service at both the national and state level having worked at USDA, ISDA, Idaho Farm Bureau and, most recently, as a legislator for four terms. The governor will go through the process to appoint a replacement for Dayley.

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