



CAPITOL REVIEW

A WEEKLY LEGISLATIVE REPORT

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A Weekly Legislative Report

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A WEEK OF RECOGNITION

At the Idaho Ag Summit, Tuesday, five individuals were recognized for Excellence in Agriculture awards by Governor Brad Little. Those honored this year included: **Frank Priestly (Lifetime Achievement)**. Frank is from Franklin, Idaho and is the longest serving President of Idaho Farm Bureau 1997-2015. Frank provided excellent leadership for over 30 years for Idaho Farmers and Ranchers. **Boyer Farms (Technical Innovation)**, present to receive the award was three generations. Grandpa Larry, son Steve and grandsons Buck and Brian. Boyer farms stretch from North of Moscow to 125 miles south. Boyer Farms have a number of enterprises in their operation including a rock crushing facility, legume processing operation and a cow/calf operation. **David Mosman (Environmental Stewardship)**, Dave was recognized as being an innovator who was never content with business as usual. Dave met head on the controversy surrounding field burning in Idaho as President of the Nezperce Prairie Grass Growers in the 1990's. Receiving the award was Dave's wife Cathy and his four children. Dave passed away while battling his third round of cancer at the age of 58 in September 2019. **Wayne Hurst (Education/Advocacy)**, a multi-generational, diversified producer from Declo, Idaho that started his operation in 1980. Wayne has been very engaged in the wheat and grain industry in Idaho and at a regional and national level. Serving in 2011 as President of the National Association of Wheat Growers. **Dwight Little (Marketing/Innovation)** operates Little Farms in Newdale, Idaho. Dwight most recently just completed two years as President of National Barley Growers Association and is recognized as an outstanding spokesman and advocate for agriculture. Applications for Excellence in Agriculture can be found on line at www.Idahoagsummit.org and are due by July 1.

Also recognized at the Summit was **Mike Williamson**, from Williamson Vineyards. Mike received the **Pat Takasugi Leadership Award**, which this year was presented by the Idaho Grape Growers and Wine

Producers Commission. Mike has been an outstanding leader for the wine industry in Idaho for the past several years.

Rich Garber was presented an industry wide award for his contribution to Idaho agriculture in his service to agriculture associations, commodity groups and his work at the U of I CALS in the area of government affairs and industry relations.

FOOD PRODUCERS SAYS THANKS

Food Producers of Idaho joined with the Idaho Grain Producers Association in hosting a luncheon on Wednesday of this week to say **thanks to Congressman Mike Simpson for his sponsorship and support of the Farm Workforce Modernization Act** which passed congress earlier this year. The measure is now headed to the U.S. Senate and Rep. Simpson estimates it will be modified in some areas but full sport is being given by Senator Crapo and Senator Risch for passage of the measure. This is the first time in 30 years that an effort has been made to change immigration legislation at a national level. **Congressman Russ Fulcher** will be recognized at an event later in March for his support of the same legislation.

NEW HEMP PROPOSAL

Another piece of legislation dealing with hemp production in Idaho was heard and passed out of committee this week. **S1345 addresses the regulation of transportation of industrial hemp in Idaho and charging the state to develop a hemp-growing plan.** The legislative intent is to define hemp, and permits any persons or institutions of higher education in Idaho to grow, cultivate, harvest, sample, test, research, process, transport, transfer, take possession of, sell, import and export hemp or hemp products that contain .3% or less THC content be allowed in the state under the 2018 Farm Bill. S1345 is sponsored by Senator Lee, District 9, and would create a distinction between hemp and marijuana

under Idaho state law and **charge the Idaho State Department of Agriculture to coordinate planning efforts with stakeholders** such as growers, processors, the Idaho State Police or others and to contract with experts to develop a U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) compliant Industrial Hemp State Plan with the goal of having the plan approved by USDA for the fall of 2020. While Senator Lee's bill **doesn't remove hemp from Idaho's Schedule 1 list of controlled substances**, it does make the transportation of hemp without the proper permit and licensing a misdemeanor. The penalties would include a \$150 fine upon first offense, a \$300 fine upon second offense within five years and a \$1,000 fine or a possible six months in jail, upon a third offense within five years. The legislation has an emergency clause, allowing it to take effect immediately on passage instead of at the start of the fiscal year on July 1.

What began in the 2019 Legislative Session as high hopes of passing legislation that would legalize hemp in Idaho, did not find 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 Idaho State Department of Agriculture to create a plan for management of the product so that producers could plant by 2020 at the latest. Hemp was removed from the federal list of controlled substances in 2018, but in Idaho, any substance containing THC at all is considered marijuana. H122 was then 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 because of the changes.**

H300a was created shortly thereafter in 2019 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 a few winters ago where 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 and was amended. **H300a was not voted on by the full House of Representatives in 2019.**

Unlike last year's bill, S1345 would not legalize cannabidiol (CBD) oil, a hemp extract associated with various health and wellness benefits. Separate 2020 legislation, **S1253, would allow CBD containing up to 0.3% THC for pain relief.** S1253 was the first piece of legislation in 2020 to deal with hemp production in Idaho and was introduced by **Representative Dorothy Moon, District 8, in the Senate Health and Welfare Committee.** S1253 aims to align state law

with federal law contained in the 2018 Farm Bill as well. It would change Idaho law and allow the growing and selling of hemp products that contain 0.3% or less of THC, the cannibal compound that gives marijuana its high.

RICHARD LARSEN – IHFA HALL OF FAME

The Idaho Hay and Forage Conference was held this week in Twin Falls. **The Don Hale Hall of Fame Award** was **presented to Richard Larsen**, of Larsen Farms Hay Terminal. In 1988 Richard began to explore options in pressing hay to cut shipping costs. He started with an old garbage compactor and began his experiment. In 1993 Richard started marketing Idaho hay to dairies in Florida and became a member of the National Hay Export Development Committee. By the late 1990's Richard had become the largest hay producer in Idaho. Richard is a past president of The National Hay Association, a position he held in 2006. This award is presented annually to an individual who has **demonstrated outstanding leadership and support for Idaho's hay and forage industry.**

LEADERSHIP IDAHO AGRICULTURE, CLASS 40

This is an exciting week for Leadership Idaho Agriculture. Class 40 of the program will be in Boise spending a great amount of time learning about the process of Public Policy. **The four week session will cumulate on Friday at Graduation.** This year, the **1,000th graduate** of the program since it began in the mid 1980's will cross the stage and receive their diploma and graduation pin. Graduates of Leadership Idaho Agriculture are involved in many aspects of local, county, state and national politics and serve in areas of public service.

BYU IDAHO DEPT. OF AGRICULTURE

Food Producers of Idaho invited the **BYU-Idaho Public Policy** students (23 and 2 advisors) to join the luncheon for **Congressman Mike Simpson.** The students were in Boise for two days learning about public policy procedures and meeting with legislators, lobbyist and other government agency officials. The program is annual and sponsored by BYU Idaho Department of Agriculture.

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