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AGRICULTURE IN IDAHO

THE MOST RECENT ACCOUNTING OF TOTAL MARKET VALUE OF ALL AGRICULTURAL COMMODITIES BY IDAHO COUNTIES SHOWED CASSIA COUNTY LEADING WITH \$626.7 MILLION. ROUNDING OUT THE TOP 5 COUNTIES IN THE MOST RECENT CENSUS OF AGRICULTURE WERE: GOODING \$624.4 MILLION, TWIN FALLS \$471.8 MILLION, JEROME \$461.5 MILLION, AND CANYON \$420.9 MILLION.

Source: USDA 2007 CENSUS OF AGRICULTURE - COUNTY DATA at <http://1.usa.gov/1hvQXkT>

CALS posts strong year for students, research

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ANOTHER YEAR OF STRONG ECONOMIC PERFORMANCE for Idaho agriculture was mirrored by another strong year for the University of Idaho's College of Agricultural and Life Sciences.

For the college, student enrollment rose 5 percent to 1,234 up 62. Percentage-wise, the areas drawing more students included food science, plant science and agricultural economics. The college's largest departments, family and consumer sciences and animal and veterinary science, continued to account for 60 percent of all students. Graduate student enrollment rose by 10 to 151, a 7 percent increase. Undergrad enrollment rose 52 to 1,083, a 5 percent increase.

College researchers drew important honors during the year.

University of Idaho Extension potato specialist Nora Olsen was elected president of the Potato Association of America. The group mostly represents industry from Central America north to Canada but also draws members from 30 nations.

Animal physiology professor Rod Hill was elected a fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, one of 14 agricultural researchers so honored in 2013. Hill's most recent book is "Feed Efficiency in the Beef Industry."

Kristen Welsh-Unwala, a doctoral student of entomologist Nilsa Bosque-Perez, herself elected an AAAS fellow in 2012, was honored with a prestigious Borlaug Fellowship funded by the U.S. Agency for International Development.

Idaho agriculture sales rise projected 3 percent to \$7.82 billion in 2013

SOURCE <http://bit.ly/KwntVL>

IDAHO'S FARMERS AND RANCHERS made it a third-straight year of record cash receipts with a projected tally of \$7.82 billion, up 3 percent from 2012, according to University of Idaho agricultural economists.

Net farm income was projected at \$2.73 billion, down about half a percent or \$12 million, resulting mostly from a slight increase in expenses. The 2013 net farm income was 56 percent above the 10-year average. "Idaho agriculture continues to show strength," said John Foltz, College of Agricultural and Life Sciences dean at Moscow. "Idaho ranks as the West's third-largest agricultural state, and agribusiness is the state's largest industry."

Livestock generated most of Idaho's cash receipts, nearly \$4.3 billion or nearly 55 percent

of the total. **Milk** sales totaled \$2.573 billion, up 6 percent, and **cattle and calf** sales generated \$1.505 billion, up 8 percent.

Other livestock sales, primarily sheep, generated \$205 million, a 12 percent jump.

Potatoes led crop receipts with \$965 million, up 1 percent. **Crop** sales overall dipped 1 percent or \$50 million to \$3.54 billion.

Sugarbeet receipts fell 23 percent or \$75 million to \$251 million, reflecting production down 2 percent and prices down 21 percent.

Wheat receipts dropped 8 percent or \$66 million to \$732 million. **Hay** ranked third at \$539 million, up 6 percent. **Barley's** \$337 million ranked fourth, up 10 percent.

Dry beans jumped 12 percent on sales of \$104 million.

Idaho agricultural, food processing generate 15 percent of Idaho's sales

SOURCE <http://bit.ly/1c08Fs6>

A NEWLY-RELEASED LOOK at Idaho's food processing and agricultural industries shows they account for 6 percent of the state's jobs, 15 percent of sales and 7 percent of the Gross State Product.

"The economic impact of Idaho's agricultural processing industry is substantial," noted the authors, College of Agricultural and Life Sciences and University of Idaho Extension economists Paul Lewin, Kathleen Painter, Paul Patterson, Neil Rimbey and C. Wilson Gray.

"The Role of Agricultural Processing in Idaho's Economy: Status and Potential," University of Idaho Extension Bulletin 886, was released in December.

Milk and potato processing accounted for half of sales from agricultural processing and about 60 percent of food processing jobs. Potato processing employed nearly half, 46 percent, of the agricultural processing workforce.

The report analyzed current production, processing and value-added opportunities for six of Idaho's major commodities:

barley, beef, dairy, potatoes, sugarbeets, and wheat. Southern Idaho dominates the state's food processing sector with 98 percent located there. Potato and milk producers in particular are linked to large in-state processing industries."

The report analyzed each commodity's strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats.

"We attempted to answer some of the questions and address some of the issues that have been raised recently by the Idaho Legislature and other policy makers," the authors wrote.