

For more information see the college website at [www.cals.uidaho.edu](http://www.cals.uidaho.edu) or call 208.885.6681. For other AgKnowledges see [www.cals.uidaho.edu/edComm](http://www.cals.uidaho.edu/edComm).

### SOCIAL MEDIA UPDATE

SOCIAL MEDIA CONTINUES TO BE AN EFFECTIVE AND USEFUL COMMUNICATION EFFORT FOR UNIVERSITY OF IDAHO EXTENSION AND THE COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURAL AND LIFE SCIENCES. THE CALS FACEBOOK PAGE DREW OVER 500 MORE LIKES LAST YEAR AND HAS OVER 1,800 FOLLOWERS. UI EXTENSION CONTINUES TO GROW BOTH ITS FACEBOOK AND TWITTER PRESENCE TO SERVE THE PUBLIC. CALS HAS ALSO ESTABLISHED INSTAGRAM AND SNAPCHAT ACCOUNTS TO AID IN RECRUITMENT EFFORTS. FIND CALS' LINKS AT [WWW.UIDAHO.EDU/CALS-SM](http://WWW.UIDAHO.EDU/CALS-SM).

## New Research Projects, New Faces Mark 2015

CONTACT JOHN FOLTZ at [jfoltz@uidaho.edu](mailto:jfoltz@uidaho.edu)

CHANGE AND INNOVATION were the constant for the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences in 2015.

Researchers used innovative approaches to land federal, state and private funding to address critical issues.

Nematologist Louise-Marie Dandurand leads a new \$3.2 million U.S. Department of Agriculture-funded international effort to combat potato cyst nematodes.

Environmental chemist Greg Moller landed a \$427,000 Idaho Global Entrepreneurial Mission grant to create a new technology to clean wastewater and recover nutrients.

Microbiologist Haiquing Sheng earned a \$100,000 Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation grant to stop E. coli bacteria that kill hundreds of thousands of children worldwide each year.

The college hired scientists and upgraded facilities to address vital needs.

A new plant pathologist and University of Idaho Extension seed potato specialist replaced critical vacancies at Parma and Idaho Falls. A new Salmon-based range scientist will expand livestock grazing expertise and U.S. Sheep Experiment Station ties.

A new \$400,000 onion storage facility at Parma expands research capability there.

The year brought key retirements, too. Charlotte Eberlein, UI Extension director, and Donn Thill, Idaho Agricultural Experiment Station director, both bowed out. Rich Garber, government and industry relations director, will follow soon.

CALS Dean John Foltz will shift duties to lead the university's agricultural initiatives, including the Western Initiative on the Dairy Environment.

Seasoned agricultural researcher and administrator Michael Parrella of the University of California, Davis, will become dean Feb. 1.

## Idaho Ag's Projected Cash Receipts Dip in 2015

CONTACT BEN EBORN at [beborn@uidaho.edu](mailto:beborn@uidaho.edu)

IDAHO RANKS THIRD NATIONALLY IN MILK PRODUCTION, and its agricultural fortunes rise and fall on a white tide. In 2015, milk prices ebbed and revenues fell to \$2.4 billion, down a third from 2014.

That decline left Idaho's projected 2015 ag cash receipts just shy of \$7.9 billion, down 9 percent from 2014. The tally is in the annual report, "The Financial Condition of Idaho Agriculture: 2015," by University of Idaho agricultural economists Ben Eborn and Garth Taylor.

Idaho's net farm income ranked second in the West. Unfortunately for producers, 2015's total was \$1.344 billion, nearly a third or \$600 million less than in 2014.

The beef industry, normally Idaho's second-big-

gest ag sector, prospered. Projected cattle and calf cash receipts jumped \$172 million, up over 8 percent, to \$2.2 billion. Livestock continued to dominate agricultural receipts with nearly \$4.8 billion overall, compared to crop receipts of nearly \$3.1 billion.

Among crops, sugar beets were the sweet spot with a 20 percent or \$49 million jump to \$300 million in 2015. Barley gained 8 percent to tally \$286 million.

Potatoes fell slightly to \$871 million, off nearly 3 percent. Wheat dipped to \$506 million, off 17 percent. Hay dropped to \$485 million, off 12 percent.

The report is at [www.idahoagbiz.com](http://www.idahoagbiz.com).

## International Project Targets Tiny Potato Cyst Nematodes

CONTACT LOUISE-MARIE DANDURAND at [Imd@uidaho.edu](mailto:Imd@uidaho.edu)

IN LATE JANUARY, researchers from Idaho, New York, Canada and Scotland will gather at the Idaho Potato Conference in Pocatello to update Idaho's potato growers about efforts to eradicate the pale cyst nematode in the state and beyond.

The sessions were organized by University of Idaho College of Agricultural and Life Sciences researcher Louise-Marie Dandurand. She landed a \$3.2 million, five-year U.S. Department of Agriculture grant to find ways to eradicate the nematode, develop resistant russet potatoes and conduct outreach and education programs.

Nematodes that infest potatoes can reduce yields by 80, even 100 percent, by damaging the plants' roots. The nematodes do not directly infest the potato tubers. Discovering how the nematodes infest the plants, and developing defenses against them, are major goals.

In the 10 years since the pale cyst nematode was first discovered in Idaho potato fields, UI researchers have worked closely with U.S. Department of Agriculture scientists, Idaho State Department of Agriculture regulators and potato growers to successfully combat the pest.

The grant covers both the pale cyst nematode, which is found only in Idaho in the U.S., and golden cyst nematode, which infests New York potato fields.

Eastern researchers have developed potato varieties resistant to the golden nematode. None, however, are russet varieties most popular in Idaho and the West.