**USDA Agricultural Research Service**

**ARS In Idaho**
The University of Idaho (UI) and U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Agricultural Research Service (USDA ARS) cooperate to advance the sustainability and competitiveness of agriculture in Idaho and nationally.

Key USDA ARS-university collaborations focus on potato variety development and agronomy and small grains at the Aberdeen Research and Extension Center, viticulture at the Parma Research and Extension Center, and irrigation management and water use efficiency at the Kimberly Research and Extension Center. Additionally, USDA ARS partnered with UI’s Aquaculture Research Institute (ARI), based in Hagerman, Idaho, and internationally known as a leader in sustainable aquaculture production, on ARI’s ongoing, long-term program to increase aquaculture production by genetic improvement of rainbow trout through selective breeding.

UI researchers also collaborate with Washington State University through the USDA ARS Animal Disease Research Unit and the Wheat Health, Genetics and Quality Research Unit in Pullman, Washington, and with the USDA ARS-operated U.S. Sheep Experiment Station in Dubois, Idaho.

**Background**
The partnership between the USDA ARS and UI’s College of Agricultural and Life Sciences has for decades produced substantial benefits for growers and consumers through economically and environmentally sustainable production methods and nutritious, safe food for consumers.

**Recent Accomplishments**
- The Tri-State Potato Development program makes the Pacific Northwest states of Idaho, Washington and Oregon the most productive and efficient potato producers in the nation by breeding and testing new potato varieties well suited to the region’s climates and environments. USDA ARS researchers are critical to those efforts.
- The USDA ARS Small Grains Germplasm Repository at the Aberdeen Research and Extension Center provides a valuable resource for wheat and barley breeders seeking new traits that can reduce each crop’s water and fertilizer requirements and increase resistance to pests and diseases.
- Researchers from UI are addressing the "falling number" problem in wheat with scientists from the ARS Wheat Health, Genetics and Quality Research Unit, Washington State University and Oregon State University.
- Collaboration with the USDA ARS-operated U.S. Sheep Experiment Station at Dubois is enhanced with the addition of UI faculty tasked with drawing on a century of station research data to help find new solutions to today’s environmental challenges related to rangeland and wildlife management.
- USDA ARS partnered with UI’s ARI to release an improved strain of rainbow trout to industry.

**Upcoming Goals**
- Expand collaboration on water and rangeland conservation research to benefit Idaho’s farmers and ranchers.
- Enhance USDA ARS-UI genomics and agronomy research collaborations to benefit agricultural producers and the environment.

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Projected Impact of Continued and Increased Funding
Strong collaborations among USDA Agricultural Research Service and UI researchers support Idaho producers and protect the environment. Potato growers in Idaho, Washington and Oregon benefit from collaborative variety development and testing, as do growers nationwide and internationally.

Accounts: Agriculture Appropriations, Agricultural Research Service

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