

# IDAHO POTATO PULSE



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## Government Affairs Report

By Pat Kole

The House and Senate are now moving legislation forward at a dizzying rate. From Climate Change to Food Safety, the landscape is about to shift dramatically. With our colleagues in other commodity groups, we're emphasizing that a one size fits all approach is not going to work. We're fortunate to have good support from our entire Congressional delegation in supporting this view.

On the State level, the turmoil and fallout from State budget cut backs continues. There will be an impact on the Extension Service and the Research Stations, but the extent is not yet clear. We will continue to work with UI and the Executive branch of state government to explore every avenue to reduce the impact on the potato research program.

## Industry Relations Report

By Todd Cornelison

### USPB Delegates Nomination Meeting to Be Held:

A USPB delegate nomination meeting will be held at the AmeriTel Inn in Pocatello on July 23rd. The meeting is scheduled for 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. This year, Idaho has six open delegate positions. Of those six, five are eligible for a second term. Of the five eligible for a second term, four are seeking re-election and one is not. The six open positions are as follows:

Stan Searle (Shelley)	Completed 2 terms, not eligible for re-election
John Harper (Mtn. Home)	Completed 1 term, seeking re-election for second term
Brent Stoker (Burley)	Completed 1 term, seeking re-election for second term
James Hoff (Idaho Falls)	Completed 1 term, seeking re-election for second term
Carl Ball (Hamer)	Completed 1 term, seeking re-election for second term
Curtis Stoddard (Grace)	Completed 1 term, not seeking re-election for a second term

The USPB is a national promotion board, and as such, it was set up by potato growers to increase demand for potatoes and to improve the business environment for potato growers throughout the nation. The number of delegates a state has depends on the state's potato production. At present, Idaho has 25 delegates – more than any other state in the nation. Becoming a USPB delegate allows you the opportunity of providing input on where your assessment dollars are spent, as well as providing national leadership opportunities for the potato industry. A delegate is nominated for a three-year term and is eligible to be re-elected to a second three-year term.

### United Potato Growers of Idaho Releases its Acreage Projection \*Information provided by United Potato Growers of Idaho

Idaho Falls, July 8, 2009 — For the growing year 2009–2010, United Potato Growers of Idaho (United) projects that statewide potato acreage equals 315,000 acres, an increase of 4.6% over the acres counted by United in 2008–2009. United announced this year's acreage results at the All Grower Summer Meetings July 8, 2009. Prior to United's actual acreage count, Idaho potato growers relied solely on the acreage survey conducted by the National Agricultural Statistical Service (NASS). With the annual count, Idaho's potato growers have a real versus statistical count of all potato acres planted in Idaho. "While acreage went up this year, our data collection confirms that at least 10,000 acres of the increase are contracted acres," said Jerry Wright, CEO and President of United. "We commend growers for doing such a good job keeping their fresh acres in check."

### Social Security No-Match Rule Rescinded \*information provided by United Fresh Produce Association

Yesterday, the Department of Homeland Security announced that the Social Security No-Match Rule would be rescinded. This marks the end of a long legal and regulatory battle over one of the most controversial immigration enforcement efforts of the Bush Administration. Under the original rule, employers would have been required to act as an enforcement arm of the federal government. The burden of fines and possible criminal prosecution would have been placed upon growers, labor contractors, and other organizations. "The No-Match Rule would have cost produce industry employers millions of dollars in administrative costs, so we are pleased that DHS has chosen to rescind this rule and look to develop a more effective program," said Robert Guenther, senior vice president of public policy for United Fresh. "United will continue to work with DHS on this important issue."

### **Potato Night at the Ball Field**

Come join us for potato night at the ball field - July 20<sup>th</sup> at Melaleuca Field - home of the Idaho Falls Chukars. Potato night will include:

- Ms. Junior Blackfoot will be on hand to sing the National Anthem, while wearing a custom made potato sack dress.
- The world's largest potato, down from the Spud Drive-in in Driggs.
- A 37 foot inflatable Mr. Potato Head obstacle course
- A potato sack race
- A mashed potato eating contest
- A Hot potato contest and of course...
- The ceremonial first potato pitch.

We have a limited amount of FREE tickets available, contact Todd Cornelison @ (208) 559-4792.

### **Calendar**

#### **July**

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| 10    | NASS Acreage Announcement  |
| 20    | Potato Night at the ball field, Melaleuca Field, Idaho Falls, ID                       |
| 21-22 | IPC Commission Meeting, Boise, ID  |
| 21    | U of I Organic Cropping Systems Field day, Starts at 9:30am, Kimberly, ID              |
| 23    | USPB Delegates Nomination Meeting, 1:00pm to 3:00pm, AmeriTel Inn, Pocatello, ID       |
| 24-26 | PMA Foodservice Show, Monterey, CA   |
| 31    | Registration opens for 2010 Potato Expo to be held in Orlando, FL, January 4 -6, 2010. |

#### **August**

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| 3-7   | USPB Summer Meeting, Bangor, ME  |
| 4     | United of Idaho Board Meeting, Idaho Falls, ID                               |
| 13    | U of I Organic Cropping Systems Field Day, Starts at 9:30am, Glens Ferry, ID |
| 17-19 | FMI Sustainability Summit, San Francisco, CA                                 |

#### **September**

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| 1     | United of Idaho Board Meeting, Idaho Falls, ID           |
| 2-4   | IGSA Annual Convention, Sun Valley, ID                   |
| 3     | IPC Commission Meeting Breakfast, 7:30am, Sun Valley, ID |
| 14-17 | USPB 2009 State/National Workshops, Phoenix, AZ          |

#### **October**

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| 2-5   | PMA, Anaheim, CA                  |
| 20-21 | IPC Commission Meeting, Boise, ID |