



# One for the Books! Record Barley Crop Verified for Mix Miller Farms

## New Barley Yield Contest to Begin in 2024

BY LAURA WILDER, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, IDAHO BARLEY COMMISSION

2023 planting started late for most Idaho barley growers due to an usually cold, wet spring and most didn't have high hopes for 2023 crop yields; then, with improved growing conditions by late June things started to shift.

Scoular Barley MVP grower Dustin Miller of Mix Miller Farms near Jerome said, "this year's barley yields were a surprise." After not being able to get in the fields until April, planting three weeks behind schedule, he anticipated a mediocre harvest this season. "The barley started really filling out in early summer though and the high yields definitely exceeded expectations."

"The combine was reading yields of 200 to 240 bushels per acre so we thought the sensor was off," he said. "We have a scale on our grain cart so we recalibrated, finding the combine was only .3 percent off. We then knew we had a great crop and contacted Brett Wilken with Scoular to see the field." This field for Mix Miller Farms was verified at a yield of 200.97 bushels per acre for irrigated spring barley, establishing an official record barley yield for Idaho growing Coors M-179. The Millers grow for Scoular Barley MVP and Coors.

Since there is currently no state or national barley yield competition, Wilken decided to verify the yield using the same protocol as is used for the National Wheat Yield Contest managed by the National Wheat Foundation and use this barley yield as a baseline for starting a National Barley Yield Contest in 2024. In 2022, Scoular's Barley MVP Program had 13 growers exceed 200 bushels per acre but it was an informal verification process.

The verification process patterned from the National Wheat Yield Contest used on the Miller's field included:

- Squaring off a rectangle block 1000' x 233' in the field that was exceeding 200 bushel on the yield monitor.
- The block was over 5 acres.
- Harvested 3 passes 2.92 aces, yield was 206.3 on initial check.



Scoular Barley MVP growers (L to R), Preston Miller, Dustin Miller and Ken Miller of Mix Miller Farms have established a record spring barley yield and look forward to a National Barley Yield Contest in 2024. Darren Miller is not pictured.

- Harvested the balance of the field, overall average was 200.97.
- 1075 bushel off 5.348 acres.
- Witnessed by Kathy Williams with Idaho Crop Improvement plus Brett Wilken and Doug Keeling of Scoular. Williams enjoyed being a part of the process and rode the combine during a portion of the harvesting.
- Variety: Coors M-179
- Test Weight 55.05 lbs

"By promoting barley production through a yield contest, we can create excitement around the crop and encourage growers to adopt new production practices that can lead to better yields and increased profitability," Wilken said. "This can lead to increased demand for barley as a crop, which can benefit not only farmers but also the entire barley industry, including feed, food and malt."

"In addition to promoting the crop, a barley yield contest could also provide an opportunity for networking



and knowledge sharing among growers, researchers, and industry professionals, Wilken added. “This could help foster a sense of community around the crop, which can further enhance its profile and encourage greater adoption. Overall, starting a barley yield contest could be a valuable way to promote the crop and encourage greater adoption, while also fostering innovation and knowledge sharing within the industry.”

Miller agrees. He said, “a National Barley Yield Contest would be fun for growers and give incentive to improve production practices and increase yields. We will definitely be trying to out do ourselves and keep the record!”

According to Miller, “higher yields have become necessary to remain profitable due to continually higher input costs.” He credits switching to a new planter with narrow seed spacing five years ago to improved yields on their farm. “We are using 20 percent less seed while increasing yields and improving plant health,” he said.

“We’ve been working to improve our barley production for 30 years. It’s nice to see our efforts pay off.”

Idaho is the top barley producing state in the U.S., growing 34 percent of the nations crop in 2022. Barley is a major crop in the world and the U.S., yet there has never been a process to collect, verify data and recognize farmers who produce excellent, high yielding barley in the U.S. or Idaho. Both wheat and corn have processes to establish record yields, but barley currently does not.

“This year will establish a baseline and give farmers a target to exceed moving forward,” said Wilken “Scoular would like to promote a National Barley Yield Contest moving forward and will work in cooperation with the Idaho Barley Commission to establish the contest to begin in 2024.”

For more information about Scoular Barley MVP, contact Brett Wilken at [bwilken@scoular.com](mailto:bwilken@scoular.com). To give input on a National Barley Yield Contest, contact Laura Wilder at [lwilder@barley.idaho.gov](mailto:lwilder@barley.idaho.gov). ■

## JC Olson Appointed as New Idaho Barley Commission Industry Representative

The Idaho Barley Commission (IBC) has appointed JC Olson, Barley Products Group Manager for Scoular, to a three-year term as Industry Representative for the Commission effective July 1.

IBC is governed by a board of four Commissions – three growers from throughout the state appointed by the Governor, and the Industry Representative selected by the three grower commissioners. Olson will be eligible to be reappointed for one additional term in three years. The three grower commissioners are Josh Jones of Troy, District 1; Mike Wilkins of Rupert, District 2; and Allen Young of Blackfoot, District 3.

Olson, based in the Twin Falls Scoular office, brings a wealth of knowledge and deep passion for the barley



JC Olson of Scoular has been appointed to a 3-year term as the Industry Representative for the Idaho Barley Commission.



JC Olson helping host a Japanese food barley team in Jerome in 2018. He brings a wealth of barley industry knowledge and experience to his new role as Industry Representative for the Idaho Barley Commission.

industry to the board. In his current position where his sole focus is barley and barley products, he is focused on delivering solutions and opportunities to the marketplace by commercializing sustainable trends in the food and ag industry.

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He is also the Emerge Program Manager for the company where he oversees project development for their first of its kind barley processing facility in Jerome making a unique barley protein concentrate and barley syrup.

“I am excited for the opportunity to support the nation’s top barley growers while protecting our robust malt industry and promoting access to markets for this versatile crop,” said Olson.

Olson earned a B.S degree in Animal Science from Utah State University, an M.B.A in Food and Agribusiness from the Royal Agricultural College in Cirencester, England, and an M.S. degree in Applied Economics from Utah State University. He has also been active in his community and the barley industry serving on the Jerome Board of Directors and Executive Committee, the Jerome County Fair Board, the National Barley Improvement Committee, and with 4-H and other community organizations. ■

## Jason Boose and Kathy Satterfield Presented Idaho Barley Service Awards

During their June meeting in Aberdeen, the Idaho Barley Commission (IBC) recognized two individuals with the Idaho Barley Service Award for outstanding service to the Idaho barley industry. Outgoing Idaho Barley Commission Industry Representative Jason Boose was honored, along with Kathy Satterfield of USDA-ARS in Aberdeen.

Boose, Regional Manager for the MolsonCoors Barley Program, was selected as the IBC Industry Representative in July 2019 and served in the post until June 30.

Boose has worked in the industry since 2009 when he started his career as an Elevator Specialist for Miller-Coors. He worked his way up in the company through Elevator Supervisor and Regional Supervisor positions to his current role where he is responsible for managing teams and operations, as well as barley procurement for the company in Idaho and Wyoming.

Besides his responsibilities as an Idaho Barley Commissioner, Boose served as an IBC delegate to the U.S.

Grains Council where he was a member of the Western Hemisphere A-Team, as well as a National Barley Improvement Committee member where he was involved in federal barley research advocacy.



Jason Boose, left, was presented the Idaho Barley Service Award by IBC Chairman at the June IBC meeting in Aberdeen.

Satterfield started working at the National Small Grains



Kathy Satterfield, center, was presented the Idaho Barley Service Award by Idaho Barley Commissioners (L to R) Josh Jones, Mike Wilkins, Allen Young and Jason Boose at the June IBC meeting in Aberdeen.

Research Facility in Aberdeen in September 1989 with Dr. Phil Bregitzer. In 1990, she was hired full-time with Dr. An Hang, the cytogeneticist and curator of the Barley Genetic Stock Collection under the University of Idaho Research Support Agreement. In 2001, her position was converted to the USDA and she became a permanent USDA employee. When Dr. Hang retired in 2007, the barley breeder at the time, Dr. Don Obert asked her to work on the Barley and Oat Breeding Project where she remains today working with Dr. Gongshe Hu.

Satterfield has been instrumental to the overall success of the USDA Barley Breeding Program and has led efforts on a number of food barley lines. IBC recognized Satterfield for 34 years of service in Aberdeen and especially applauds her work with the USDA-ARS Barley Breeding Program.

The Idaho Barley Commission expresses great appreciation to Boose and Satterfield for their thoughtful, dedicated service to the Idaho Barley Industry. ■