

# Idaho Barley Service Award Presented to Mike Wilkins

The Idaho Barley Commission presented the Idaho Barley Industry Service Award to Mike Wilkins of Rupert during the recent Tri-State Grain Convention in Coeur d’Alene. Wilkins is currently serving in his 6th and final year on the Idaho Barley Commission, representing IBC District 2.



He is a third-generation barley producer in Minidoka County, where he primarily grows barley and sugar beets with his son and is known as a long-time leader on Magic Valley water issues, previously serving on the Minidoka Irrigation District Board for 18 years, the Surface Water Coalition for 10 years, and the Committee of Nine for 18 years, including when the historic water agreement was crafted between surface and groundwater users on the Snake River Plain Aquifer. In addition, he is a graduate of Leadership Idaho Agriculture Class 40.

Wilkins, who served two years as IBC Vice Chairman and two years as IBC Chairman, has been dedicated in serving Idaho barley growers and advancing the mission of the Idaho Barley Commission through Research, Market Development, Information and Education programs. Besides regular commissioner duties and leadership, he has been a champion of research to support the barley industry and represents the Commission on the National Barley Improvement Committee where he has



Idaho Barley Commissioner Mike Wilkins has been a champion for research to benefit Idaho barley growers. He is pictured here with University of Idaho IBC Endowed Barley Agronomist, Dr. Jared Spackman.



(L to R) Idaho Barley Commission Chairman Josh Jones presents the Idaho Barley Service Award to Mike Wilkins during the Tri-State Grain Convention in Coeur d’Alene in November.

helped in Washington DC on efforts to increase federal funding for barley-related research efforts. He has also helped host trade teams, and with food barley programs including American Heart Association events, and with the Idaho Nutrition and Dietetics Association where he is now known as a “celebrity farmer”.

While serving on the Commission, Mike has not missed a meeting or a chance to represent the industry. He has been an excellent servant leader, and always looking out for the long-term best interests of Idaho barley growers. The Commission was honored to present the Idaho Barley Industry Service Award to Idaho Barley Commissioner Mike Wilkins. ■



Mike Wilkins has represented the Idaho Barley Commission and Idaho barley growers on the National Barley Improvement Committee where he has helped in Washington D.C. on efforts to increase federal funding for barley-related research. He is pictured here at the U.S. Capitol with IBC Executive Director Laura Wilder.

# 2023 Idaho Barley Crop Stats

## IDAHO BARLEY LEADS U.S. PRODUCTION

**32.7%**

Idaho's share  
of the 2023  
U.S. Barley  
Crop

**60,480,000 bushels**

harvested in 2023 on **540,000 acres**  
at **record average yields of 112  
bushels per acre**, compared  
to yields of 111 bushels per acre and  
59,940,000 bushels harvested in 2022.



The 2023 Idaho barley crop value is  
estimated at **\$467.5 million** with  
the average price per bushel at a record  
\$7.73 according to USDA NASS data.

### 2023 Idaho & U.S. Barley Crop

	2022	2023	% Change
Idaho Barley Acres Planted	560,000	570,000	+1.8%
Idaho Acres Harvested	540,000	540,000	—
Idaho Average Bushels/Acre	111	112	+1%
Idaho Total Bushels	59,940,000	60,480,000	+1%
U.S. Acres Harvested	2,433,000	2,555,000	+4.5%
U.S. Total Bushels	174,333,000	185,036,000	+6%
Idaho % of U.S. Total	34.4%	32.7%	-0.5%
Idaho Rank in Total U.S. Barley Production	1	1	No Change

5-Year Average Total Idaho Production: 54,555.667 Bu  
5-Year Average Idaho Yield/Acre: 105.2 Bu/Acre





# Josh Jones Elected Idaho Barley Commission Chair

Josh Jones of Troy was elected Idaho Barley Commission Chairman at the board's fall meeting November 14 in Coeur d'Alene. Jones, who represents IBC District 1, is in his second year serving on the Commission. He also represents the Commission as a delegate to U.S. Grains Council where he is a Western Hemisphere A-Team member.



Josh Jones, New IBC Chairman

Jones operates a mid-size diversified dryland farm in the Palouse region where he is focused on sustainability, soil health and maximizing crop production through holistic management practices.

"I am excited to lead IBC as we reevaluate how to deliver maximum value," said Jones. "I ask that growers reach out to us to let us know what we are doing right and what we can improve and identify areas where the commission can play a role. The primary objective of the commission is to return value to Idaho's barley growers through market development and research. I look forward to hearing from as many stakeholders as possible. Please get in touch!"

Jones can be reached at [joshjonesfarmsllc@gmail.com](mailto:joshjonesfarmsllc@gmail.com) or 208-874-3023.

Allen Yong of Blackfoot, representing IBC District 3, will serve as Vice Chairman of the Commission for the coming year. ■

# Connecting Mexican Craft Brewers With Producers, Maltsters In U.S.

The U.S. Grains Council (USGC), along with the Idaho Barley Commission, Washington Grain Commission, Montana Wheat and Barley Committee and North Dakota Barley Council, early this fall hosted a team of Mexican craft brewers in the U.S. who learned about U.S. barley and malt production and procurement and gained confidence in U.S. barley and malt as consistent and quality ingredients.

"As craft brewing has grown, it has become more consolidated, and these breweries have increased their demand and now are able to buy by container. The purpose of this program was to connect these breweries with malt producers so they can buy directly from U.S. maltsters and bypass distributors who bring malt from other origins around the world," said Javier Chavez, USGC marketing specialist in Mexico.

More Mexican craft breweries have consolidated recently, and brewers have the potential of importing whole containers of malted barley for their larger operations. The Council hopes that through welcoming teams to the U.S., they will gain a better understanding of the consistency and ease of purchasing logistics when working with U.S. malt producers.

The team had the opportunity to tour malt facilities, learn about U.S. barley varieties, see barley harvest and



A group of craft brewers from Mexico recently visited the U.S. to make connections with the U.S. barley industry and learn more about barley and malt production and procurement.

learn about the barley industry in Idaho, Washington, Montana, and North Dakota.

"I'm optimistic that all craft brewers who are members of Mexico's Brewers Chamber will see the value of forming a buying group, thus increasing their demand and purchasing power, Chavez said. ■