



Idaho Barley Commission Recognizes Dr. Jared Spackman; UI CALS Dean Michael Parrella at Tri-State Grain Convention

The Idaho Barley Commission presented the 2024 Idaho Barley Service Award to Dr. Jared Spackman, University of Idaho – Idaho Barley Commission Endowed Barley Agronomist during the recent Tri-State Grain Convention in Coeur d’Alene, and recognized UI College of Agriculture and Life Sciences Dean Michael Parrella for his contributions to the Idaho agriculture industry during his tenure.

Dr. Spackman, who began working in as the UI IBC Endowed Barley Agronomist at the Aberdeen Research and Extension Center in August 2020, is originally from Burley and earned his bachelor’s degree in agribusiness from BYU–Idaho. He then completed graduate studies at the University of Minnesota where he earned Master’s and Ph.D. degrees in Nutrient Management.

“In spite of being hired in the midst of Covid shutdowns and social distancing, Dr. Spackman hit the ground running, connecting with Idaho growers and industry stakeholders to plan a research program around Idaho barley industry needs,” said Laura Wilder, IBC Executive Director. “Since then, he has exemplified what an outstanding early career scientist looks like. He quickly went to work with an ambitious schedule of projects to help improve barley crop management practices and outcomes.”

Since then, the Commission has continued to be impressed with Dr. Spackman’s drive and desire to take on projects of high relevance to the barley industry and growers, as well as collaborate with numerous other scientists and stakeholders to best benefit the industry.

Dr. Spackman says he is, “most proud of his work successfully connecting with growers through farm visits, field days and listening session and then adjusting his program to address grower concerns and questions through on-farm research projects and extension visits.”

Besides, honoring Dr. Spackman, the Commission recognized UI CALS Dean Michael Parrella for his role in the University of hiring Dr. Spackman during a difficult time of uncertainty with the global Covid-19 pandemic, and UI being in an unprecedented financial



(L to R) Idaho Barley Commission Past Chairman Josh Jones, UI IBC Endowed Barley Agronomist Dr. Jared Spackman, UI CALS Dean Michael Parrella, and IBC Executive Director Laura Wilder. Jones presented the Idaho Barley Service Award to Dr. Spackman and recognized UI CALS Dean Michael Parrella during the Tri-State Grain Convention in Coeur d’Alene in November.

crisis with many cutbacks, and a system-wide hiring faculty hiring freeze at that time.

“At the time Dr. Spackman was hired, even with an endowment, getting the position approved and the process moving was a huge challenge. If it weren’t for the tenacity and creativity of Dean Parrella in working with the Commission, we would have lost significant momentum with this position, and the opportunity to have Dr. Spackman come onboard when he did,” said Wilder.

With the Dean set to retire at the end of June, IBC took the opportunity to acknowledge and thank him, not only his dedication to bring CALS through this time of financial crisis, but also for his commitment for advancing and supporting the Idaho agriculture industry. “We appreciate Dean Parrella’s focus on hiring the best and brightest faculty members, as well as his drive on much needed and innovative capital



projects including University of Idaho's Center for Plant and Soil Health in Parma and the CAFÉ project in the Magic Valley," said IBC Past Chairman Josh Jones during the awards presentation. "Dean Parrella, we wish

you well in your retirement. We are so grateful for your hard work and passion in supporting Idaho agriculture while advancing the University of Idaho College of Agriculture." ■

Idaho Barley Commission and Idaho Barley Growers Joins Multi-Commodity Education Program in Lubbock, TX

LUBBOCK, TX – Sydney Anderson, Communications and Program Manager for the Idaho Barley Commission, along with dryland barley growers Jake and Ashley Ozburn from Soda Springs, were invited to participate in the Multi-Commodity Education Program (MCEP), an initiative organized by the National Cotton Council (NCC) and sponsored by John Deere. Held in Lubbock, Texas, the program brought together growers and state staff members from across the nation to explore High Plains cotton production, emerging technologies and crop rotations.

This program allowed participants to join industry representatives for an in-depth tour of cotton farms, peanut production facilities, and a local winery, while

gaining insights into innovative farming practices and building strong and lasting relationships. This program periodically visits Idaho, offering tours for cotton growers to showcase the state's practices and highlight barley production and other key crops.

The Idaho Barley Commission values the opportunity to participate in programs like MCEP, which foster collaboration, innovation and a deeper understanding of production challenges and opportunities facing their peers in different geographic regions. The IBC extends their sincere appreciation to The National Cotton Council, John Deere and all industry representatives that made the agenda possible. ■

Allen Young Elected Idaho Barley Commission Chair

Allen Young of Blackfoot was elected Idaho Barley Commission Chairman at the board's fall meeting November 18 in Coeur d'Alene. Young, who represents IBC District 3, is in his second term 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 and represented IBC on a USGC Trade Mission to Panama and Columbia in 2023.



Allen Young, New IBC Chairman

Young operates a farm partnership with his two sons Adam and Eric, along with his wife Jackie. They grow 3,000 acres of irrigated crops split between barley, wheat and alfalfa. He is also a long-time member of Idaho Grain Producers Association and has served for over 20 years as a board member for the CHS Bingham Cooperative.

Young can be reached at aryoung57@gmail.com or 208-681-3891.

Lucas Spratling of Raft River, representing IBC District 2, will serve as Vice Chairman of the Commission for the coming year. ■



The Barley Yield Contest Results Are Just Around the Corner!

The 2024 Barley Yield Contest marked a successful pilot year in Idaho, providing invaluable data and insights into innovative practices that boost barley production. This inaugural contest sets the stage for a national rollout in 2025, expanding opportunities for growers across the country to showcase their expertise and contribution to cutting-edge research.

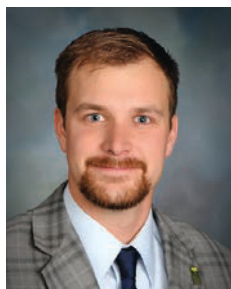
Stay tuned for the results and a closer look at how these findings will contribute to research efforts and benefit the nation's barley industry. Who will be set to take a trip to the 2025 Commodity Classic hosted in Denver? Stay tuned! ■

Another big thank you to this year's sponsors of the Barley Yield Contest:



Idaho Barley Commission Welcomes New Commissioner

The Idaho Barley Commission (IBC) is pleased to announce the appointment of Lucas Spratling as its newest commissioner. Governor Brad Little appointed Spratling to represent District 2, serving southeast Idaho. He officially began his three-year term on August 19, succeeding Rupert-area grower Mike Wilkins, who completed his second and final term on June 30.



Lucas Spratling

Spratling, a fourth-generation barley grower from Raft River, Idaho, runs an 800-acre farm alongside his wife Laurie and son Orlin. The family farm focuses on producing malt barley for Molson-Coors, one of Idaho's largest barley contractors. In addition to his new role with IBC, Spratling represents IBC on the National Barley Improvement Committee, and the American Malting Barley Association (AMBA) Sustainability Committee.

Beyond his farming experience, Spratling has served in various leadership positions, including as Past President of the Idaho Grain Producers Association,

Raft River Fire Commissioner and as a volunteer fire fighter with Raft River Fire Department. He is an graduate of Leadership Idaho Agriculture – a leadership development program working directly to cultivate leaders within the state's agriculture community. Spratling is excited to transfer his previous experience and excitement for innovation to serve the barley growers in the State of Idaho.

Upon being appointed for this important role, Spratling said, "I look forward to representing grower interest and keeping a future-focused mindset. Adapting our research to meet grower needs and improve the industry is crucial".

The Idaho Barley Commission looks forward to working with Lucas Spratling and continuing its mission to support Idaho's barley growers through research, market development, promotion, and education. ■

We have moved! Stop by our new temporary office location!



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