



First Barley Yield Contest Concludes with Exceptional Results

Boise, Idaho – The inaugural year of the Barley Yield Contest held in Idaho has concluded with impressive results, showcasing the productivity and innovation of Idaho’s barley growers. 2024 was a pilot year for the contest in Idaho with most entries from the highly productive barley-growing region of Southern Idaho.

Winning the title for the highest yield was achieved by Joey Wallace with Driscoll Bros. Farm in Jerome, Idaho, producing an impressive 241 bu/ac from a winter variety Utah10201, however, when measured by percentage over the county average, Trevor Mulberry from Idaho Agri-Investments secured the win. Mulberry outperformed the Twin Falls County average by an impressive 72.4%, while Wallace’s yield exceeded the Jerome County average by 65.3%. Since Twin Falls County has a lower average yield than Jerome County, Trevor’s percentage increase was higher, earning him the top spot in the “Percent Over County Average” category.

Both Wallace and Mulberry are Scouler Barley MVP growers, showcasing their dedication to producing high-quality barley. As a proud sponsor of this contest, Scouler not only supports growers in their pursuit of top-tier yields but also covered the entry fees for Wallace and Mulberry—an initiative that will continue for future Scouler Barley MVP participants.

This standout contest feature, the “Percent Over County Average” category, ensures all growers—regardless of



(L to R) Trevor Mulberry, Dustin Miller, Ken Miller and Joey Wallace at the University of Idaho Eastern Idaho Cereal School in Fort Hall, Idaho. Pictured with their award plaques, they were recognized for their outstanding barley yield achievement.

2024 Barley Yield Contest Results:

Spring Irrigated

1st Mix Miller Farms - Dustin Miller; 201 bu/ac
Jerome County, Idaho

2nd Mix Miller Farms – Dustin Miller; 182 bu/ac
Jerome County, Idaho

Winter Irrigated

1st Driscoll Bros – Joey Wallace; 241 bu/ac
Jerome County, Idaho

2nd Driscoll Bros – Joey Wallace; 329 bu/ac
Jerome County, Idaho

3rd Idaho Agri-Investments - Trevor Mulberry;
238 bu/ac Twin Falls County, Idaho

Winter Irrigated Percent Over County Average

1st Idaho Agri-Investments - Trevor Mulberry;
238 bu/ac 72.5% Twin Falls County, Idaho



region—have a fair shot at winning. Modeled after the National Wheat Yield Contest, this approach compares each grower’s yield to their county’s historical average, leveling the playing field much like a golf handicap system. Idaho’s diverse climate and soil conditions are examples that make this category essential, recognizing agronomic skill and adaptability, not just the highest absolute yield.

“High yielding winter barley seed selection (UT10201), favorable weather conditions, and strategic crop rotation – this field followed corn – were key factors in achieving a winning yield,” said Mulberry. “Our agronomic practices with precision in fertilization, growth regulators, herbicides, and timely irrigation all played a significant role.”

“Winning barley yields come from a solid overall program—good seed, fertility, and the right inputs—but it’s the details that make the biggest difference,” said Wallace. “Paying attention to timing, plant health, and field conditions throughout the season is what really pushes yields to the top.”



Dustin Miller (201 bu/ac) also demonstrated outstanding agronomic practices, utilizing precision seed placement and a balance fertility plan to achieve top-tier results for irrigated spring barley. “Our success starts with a solid barley program built on good crop rotation, top-notch genetics like Molson Coors M-179, and a balanced fertility plan—50-60% pre-plant with the rest applied foliar alongside herbicide, fungicide and growth regulator,” said Miller. “One of the biggest differences has been our Lemken drill. The precision seed placement and excellent seed-to-soil contact really set our crop up for strong, even emergence and top yields.” Molson-Coors sponsored Miller’s entry fee, further reinforcing its commitment to advancing high-quality barley production.

As part of their recognition, contest winners won trips to attend the 2025 Commodity Classic in Denver, Colorado, in early March.

Sydney Anderson, Communications and Program Manager for the Idaho Barley Commission said, “We encourage growers from all areas of the state and beyond, whether dryland or irrigated, to participate in this contest. This program will allow us to collect valuable data to enhance best practices, improve efficiency, and drive innovation – while rewarding growers for their efforts to push the boundaries on yield. If you don’t have time to submit an entry, please reach out to myself, Brett Wilken or a county extension agent for assistance.”

While overall beer consumption in the United States has seen a slight decline since the COVID-19 pandemic, demand in other countries in Asia, Europe and Central/South America is on the rise. With the potential for an influx in barley exports, the Barley Yield Contest aims to support U.S. barley’s marketability, competitiveness and sustainability by providing research, data and promotion.

This pioneering initiative not only adds an exciting new dimension to the agriculture landscape but also reinforces Idaho’s leadership in the barley industry. The contest’s three divisions reflect the diverse agricultural practices across the state and nation, ensuring that farmers from different regions and climates have an equal opportunity to participate and excel.

As the contest expands to a national scope, Idaho growers are encouraged to continue pushing the envelope on yield while maintaining high quality of barley. This endeavor marks a moment in the industry, setting the stage for a new chapter in Idaho’s barley

2024 Barley Yield Contest Sponsors

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legacy. With the successful conclusion of the pilot year, anticipation for the 2025 national roll-out is being built.

Whether a farm is in a high-yielding area or a challenging environment, the Barley Yield Contest offers growers a chance to showcase their success. Be on the lookout for entry details and join us in celebrating Idaho’s and U.S. barley growers in 2025!

The Barley Yield Contest thanks all sponsors for investing in growers and the future of the U.S. barley industry.

2025 entry forms will soon be available on the Idaho Barley Commission website at idahobarleycommission.org/barley-yield-contest/.

If you have any questions regarding entries or sponsorships, please contact Sydney Anderson or Brett Wilken.

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2024 Idaho Barley Crop Stats

IDAHO BARLEY LEADS U.S. PRODUCTION

38.7%

Idaho's share
of the 2024
U.S. Barley
Crop



55,590,000 bushels

harvested in 2024 on **510,000 acres**
at **average yields of 109 bushels
per acre**, compared to yields of 112
bushels per acre and 60,480,000
bushels harvested in 2023.

The 2024 Idaho barley crop value is
estimated at **\$343.5 million** with
an average price per bushel at \$6.18
according to USDA NASS data. October 2024

2024 Idaho & U.S. Barley Crop

	2023	2024	% Change
Idaho Barley Acres Planted	570,000	530,000	-7%
Idaho Acres Harvested	540,000	510,000	-5.6%
Idaho Average Bushels/Acre	112	109	-2.7%
Idaho Total Bushels	60,480,000	55,590,000	-8%
U.S. Acres Harvested	2,574,000	1,875,000	-27.2%
U.S. Total Bushels	186,127,000	143,836,000	-22.7%
Idaho % of U.S. Total	32.7%	38.7%	+18.4%
Idaho Rank in Total U.S. Barley Production	1	1	No Change

5-Year Average Total Idaho Production:
5-Year Average Idaho Yield/Acre:

54,854,800 Bu
106.2 Bu/Acre

