

IDAHO BARLEY COMMISSION

The Idaho Barley Commission is a grower driven, grower funded, and grower governed agency of the State of Idaho that invests in the future of the Idaho barley industry on behalf of Idaho barley growers through research, market development, promotion, information and education programs.

Idaho's altitude, high desert climate and agronomic conditions, including abundant irrigation water, make it an ideal location to grow a consistent, reliable supply of premium-quality barley, highly sought after by the malting industry, as well as for livestock feed and food barley products.



National Barley Yield Contest Debuts with Record Results and Expanded Opportunities

Idaho Falls — The results of the 2025 National Barley Yield Contest (NBYC) were announced on February 4 at the University of Idaho Eastern Idaho Cereal School Conference, held at the Mountain America Center. This marked the first year the contest was conducted on a national scale, with all entries submitted by Idaho growers.



Highlighting the results, Joey Wallace, farming with Driscoll Brothers Partnership, produced a U.S.-record irrigated winter barley yield of 256 bushels per acre in Jerome County. The variety Memento yielded 175 percent above the county average, establishing a new global benchmark for barley production. The Irrigated Spring Barley Division was won by Dustin Miller of Mix Miller Farms, who harvested 239 bushels per acre of Molson Coors variety, M-179, achieving 182 percent above the county average, also in Jerome County.

Since Idaho growers were the only entrants in the inaugural national contest, Wallace and Miller earned both state and national titles. Both winners received a paid trip for two to attend the Commodity Classic in San Antonio, Texas, in late February 2026.

Wallace credited his success to focusing on details within a grower's control and learning from high-performing areas of the field.

"Sometimes we spend a lot of time trying to fix the poorest parts of our fields," Wallace said. "I think we should pay more attention to improving the best parts. I never dreamed a yield like that would come out of some areas of that field."

Miller emphasized both community pride and innovation.

"We were excited and proud to bring a yield like that back to our community," Miller said. "Having access to our state-of-the-art LEMKEN planter, played an important role in our success."



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

To encourage broader participation, the Idaho Barley Commission (IBC) urges growers interested in future contests to contact their local field representatives, who can assist with the simple entry process.

"LEMKEN is committed to the growers in the USA and we are grateful to be a founding sponsor and we will continue to sponsor the National Barley Yield Contest. LEMKEN will provide a trip to Germany in November of 2027 to Agritechnica - the world's largest ag show for the 2026 national winners in the irrigated winter barley and irrigated spring barley yield winners. This is an all-expense paid trip for each winner in the two categories. We hope to see records broke in 2026 and continue to raise the bar in achieving these record-breaking yields!" said Richard Johnson, LEMKEN area sales manager for Montana, Idaho and Wyoming.

IBC encourages growers nationwide to participate as opportunities within the National Barley Yield Contest continues to grow.

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

The full 2025 NBYC results are now available on the IBC website. 2026 entry forms will soon be available on the IBC website at idahobarleycommission.org/barley-yield-contest/.

If you have any questions regarding entries or sponsorships, please contact Sydney Anderson; Sydney.anderson@barley.idaho.gov or Brett Wilken; bwilken@scoular.com.

2025 BARLEY YIELD | CONTEST SPONSORS

