



National Barley Yield Contest

2026 Rules



314 S 9th Street, Suite 300

Boise, Idaho 83702

(208)334-2090

CONTEST DEADLINES

The Harvest Entry Form, FSA 578 Form, aerial map, and weight tickets must be mailed (postmarked), emailed, or submitted online to the Idaho Barley Commission office by

Wednesday, October 14, 2026.

*There will be no extension of deadlines. Results and awards will be announced no later than January 1st, 2027.

CONTESTANT QUALIFICATIONS

Contestant must be certified FSA owner/operator (or child of owner/operator) of the entry plot. **FSA Form 578 Producer Print (showing all farms in the operation) required with entry**, showing a minimum of 20 acres of barley in an operation. Multiple 5-acre entries may be entered on a farm, but each entry must be on a separate entry form. Partnerships can be entered under the partnership name. Contestants must be at least 14 years of age at the time of entry and can use this program towards their 4-H or Supervised Agricultural Experience FFA project. Only one winner per FSA tract number is eligible to be a county, state and national winner. Idaho Barley Commission commissioners, employees and spouses are prohibited from entering the contest.

CONTEST DIVISIONS AND CATEGORIES

Irrigated Spring Barley Division	
Overall Yield Category	Percent Over County Average Category
Irrigated Winter Barley Division	
Overall Yield Category	Percent Over County Average Category
Dryland Spring Barley Division	
Overall Yield Category	Percent Over County Average Category

Percent Over County Average Category: recognizes entries that most significantly exceed their respective county's historical average yield.

New for 2026: Growers producing 100% Plump Barley will receive special recognition as a 100% Plump Club member. While no separate awards will be presented this year, qualifying growers will be recognized for achieving this exceptional quality standard.

FIELD QUALIFICATIONS

A complete field of **5** or more continuous acres, planted in the barley seed variety named on the entry form, will be designated as the contest field. The contest field must be designated on an aerial map. **The aerial map must be included with the Harvest Entry Form.** Each plot's harvest entry form will be limited to a single harvest per year. A grower must have a minimum of 20 acres of barley production.

HARVESTING RULES

A harvest supervisor is encouraged but not required. We understand the challenges many growers face in coordinating with a supervisor during the time-sensitive harvest season and do not want this requirement to discourage participation in the contest.



Participants who choose to have harvest supervision may use a qualified third party such as a field representative, farm banker, university extension educator, crop consultant, or other agricultural professional to assist with harvest verification.

We trust in the integrity of our participants to uphold the spirit of the contest. However, the National Barley Yield Contest (NBYC) reserves the right to request additional verification documentation, including photos, GPS harvest maps, combine monitor reports, or witness confirmation for any entry submitted.

Harvested Acres

To qualify for competition, a contestant must enter at least 5 continuous acres and harvest a minimum of 1.5 acres from the same field designated as the contest field on the entry form (Please check acreage calculations closely. 1.4999 acres **WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED**). Each plot's harvest report will be limited to a single harvest per year.

Field Measurements

All measurements should be made with steel or fiberglass tape or measuring wheel. Show all the calculations on the Harvest Report Form. Calculate the harvested area in acres carried to four decimal places using one of the following options:

Option A: If the harvested area is square or rectangular, the harvested area may be calculated: Length times width divided by 43,560 (sq. ft. in one acre) equals acres harvested.

Example: An area 275 ft. by 275 ft. would be calculated: 275 ft. X 275 ft. = 75,625 sq. ft. divided by 43,560 = 1.7361 acres harvested.

Option B: Measurements from Global Positioning Systems (GPS) will be accepted if accompanied by a printed map of field with acreage noted. Mobile apps may also be used.

Weighing

After harvesting, a load's gross weight must be determined first, followed by empty or tare weight on the same date. Determination of a load's gross weight must occur before determination of tare weight. If the time and date of weighing are not automatically stamped on weight ticket(s), please sign and note both time and date of both weights on the weight ticket(s).

All weighing must be done on a state certified scale. **A weight ticket must be obtained and attached to the Harvest Entry Form.** The weight ticket should show the name of the company (scale), the time, the date, the load's gross weight (determined first) empty or tare weight on the same date (determined after the gross weight). **Weigh wagon weights are not allowed.**

Moisture Testing

An experienced person must make a moisture determination of a representative sample of barley on a state approved moisture tester. It is best to have the sample run through the meter 3 times and to average the 3 tests. **The moisture test must be shown on the weight ticket.**



Judging

Decisions of the National Barley Yield Contest (NBYC) in all matters pertaining to the contest are final. The NBYC reserves the right to disqualify any entry without a refund for violation of these stated rules. All division places will be determined by yield and percent over county average only. In the event of a tie, the contestant harvesting and reporting the largest acreage will be declared the winner. Any entry is subject to further review. NBYC reserves the right to request additional verification documentation including photos, GPS harvest maps, combine monitor report or witness confirmation. Unintentional errors will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis. Deliberate misreporting may result in disqualification.

Calculating Yields

Determine the number of bushels harvested, then divide by the acres harvested to get bushels per acre. Yields should be reported in bushels carried to two decimal places. Final yield calculations will be adjusted by the NBYC, to 12% moisture.

Quality Analysis Testing Instructions

Initial quality sample results should be checked as a local grain elevator/malt house within 24 hours of harvesting. The initial sample test should show test weight, moisture, and protein if possible (not required). Sample should be a minimum of 1-gallon plastic bag. Official samples need to be graded at a certified grain inspection service within your state. If you have trouble locating one, please contact Sydney Anderson (*see contact information below*) OR IGIS in Pocatello, Idaho will accept in-state and out-of-state samples. Use the Malt Barley test.

Please Mail Samples to:
Idaho Grain Inspection
P.O. Box 4209
Pocatello, ID 83205
Phone: (208)233-8303

Reporting

Harvest Entry Form must be completed. The Harvest Entry Form, FSA 578 Form, aerial map, and weight tickets **must be mailed, emailed, or submitted online by Wednesday, October 14, 2026.** Mailed entries must be postmarked no later than October 14, 2026. Entries submitted by email or online must be received by the close of business (5:00 P.M. MDT) on October 14, 2026, to be eligible for competition. The NBYC is not responsible for contest reports lost in the mail.

Please mail all documents to:

Idaho Barley Commission
Attn: National Barley Yield Contest, Sydney Anderson
314 S 9th Street, Suite 300
Boise, Idaho 83702



OR email all documents to:

Sydney Anderson, National Barley Contest Program Manager
Idaho Barley Commission
Communications and Program Manager
Sydney.anderson@barley.idaho.gov
(208)697-7236

OR submit online entry via the link:

<https://barley-yield.com/>

CONTEST WINNERS, CATEGORIES AND AWARDS

All results will be posted to the Idaho Barley Commission website under the “National Barley Yield Contest”.

County Winners: In each county, the contestant(s) with the highest Percent Over County Average in each division will be named the county winner. All county winners will receive acknowledgment and publicized.

State Winners: First, second, and third place state winners in both Overall Yield and Percent Over County Average will be recognized and awarded plaques, as outlined below.

National Winners: First, second and third place national winners in both Overall Yield and Percent Over County Average within each division will be recognized and given plaques, as outlined below. 1st place national winners in each category are eligible for sponsor-funded grand prizes, as available. Confirmed grand prizes are listed below (*see below*).

As of July 7, 2026, the first-place winners in the Irrigated Winter Overall Yield and Irrigated Spring Overall Yield categories will receive a paid trip to Germany with LEMKEN in November 2027 to attend AGRITECHNICA—The World’s Leading Trade Fair for Agricultural Machinery—along with additional itinerary experiences.

As funding contributions are made available, prizes for other categories and placings (1st-3rd) will be determined. We are working diligently to secure funding to send all other category winners to Germany or similar high-value prizes pending sponsor support. Check the Idaho Barley Commission Website, under National Barley Yield Contest, for updates regarding the contest and its prizes.

Irrigated Spring Barley

- Overall Yield: 1st – 3rd
- % over county average: 1st - 3rd

Irrigated Winter Barley

- Overall Yield: 1st – 3rd
- % over county average: 1st - 3rd

Dryland Spring Barley

- Overall Yield: 1st – 3rd
- % over county average: 1st – 3rd



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*If you have any questions about the contest rules or other documents, please reach out to:

Sydney Anderson, National Barley Yield Contest Program Manager
Idaho Barley Commission
Communications and Program Manager
Sydney.anderson@barley.idaho.gov
(208)697-7236

OR

Brett Wilken
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(208)749-8881