November 2026 | VOL. 27 ISS.9

BINGHAM COUNTY EXTENSION UPDATE

UNIVERSITY OF IDAHO, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, AND IDAHO COUNTIES COOPERATING

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Bingham County

4-H Project Requirements

- Yearly enrollment (zsuites) and fees paid by deadline
- Attend and participate in 6 club meetings. (Must be present for at least 45 minutes of that meeting to count. Specialized projects (rabbit, poultry, horse, dog) may require attendance in more than one club. You must attend 6 club meetings per project in the appropriate club. For specific questions call the office.
- Animal lesson plan checklist (market animal only – complete 5 lesson plans per year, gain at least 5 new skills per year.)
- 1 club community service project (if unable to attend club service project, leader and 4-H office must approve outside service project)
- 1 day camp/feed clinic will count towards club meetings. Jackpot shows and other fair attendance do not count towards meeting requirements.
- Demonstration / Oral Presentation for each species they are doing a project for. (Example: Horse 1, Sheep 1, Beef 1) Demonstrations must be project related. Demonstrations should have some type of visual aid and not be something directly read from phone. Length of demonstration/Oral presentation should be Juniors 5-8 minutes, Intermediates 7-10 minutes, Seniors 9-12 minutes.
- Record Book - AI record books will not be accepted. (blue/red to show at fair) Due to Leader on date recorded on your Project requirement and Expectation form signed at the beginning of year.
- Display/participation at fair
- Projects/State qualifying events must be done within Bingham County if offered.

It's time to re-enroll at 4h.zsuite.org for 2026-2027 year!



It is U of I policy to prohibit and eliminate discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, sex, sexual orientation and gender identity/expression, age, disability, or status as a Vietnam-era veteran. This policy applies to all programs, services, and facilities, and includes, but is not limited to, applications, admissions, access to programs and services, and employment.

University of Idaho Extension

UPCOMING EVENTS – SAVE THE DATE

2026 Calendar

November	13	Day Camps – see last page for information
	17	Pesticide Recertification credit webinars, ZOOM Pre-register required! See pg. 5 for enrollment link.
	17	~~Dining with Diabetes, Noon-2 p.m., $25 contact Abby May 208-785-8060 -~~ CANCELLED
	18	Leader Council meeting, 6 p.m., Bingham Office
	19	Pesticide Recertification credit webinars, ZOOM Pre-register required! See pg. 5 for enrollment link.
	20	Day Camps – see last page for information
	24	Pesticide Recertification credit webinars, ZOOM Pre-register required! See pg. 5 for enrollment link.
	25-27	HOLIDAY – OFFICE CLOSED
December	1	Know Your Government (KYG) enrollment opens on zsuite.org
	1	~~Dining with Diabetes, Noon-2 p.m., $25 contact Abby May 208-785-8060~~ CANCELLED
	1	Pesticide Recertification credit webinars, ZOOM Pre-register required! See pg. 5 for enrollment link.
	2	Pesticide Recertification credit webinars, ZOOM Pre-register required! See pg. 5 for enrollment link.
	3	Pesticide Recertification credit webinars, ZOOM Pre-register required! See pg. 5 for enrollment link.
	4	Day Camps – see last page for information
	8	Pesticide Recertification credit webinars, ZOOM Pre-register required! See pg. 5 for enrollment link.
	10	Pesticide Recertification credit webinars, ZOOM Pre-register required! See pg. 5 for enrollment link.
	11	Day Camps – see last page for information
	23	**DEADLINE – last day to pick up premiums!!**
	24-31	HOLIDAY – OFFICE CLOSED

2027 Calendar

January`	1	HOLIDAY – OFFICE CLOSED
	11	EISF Market Sale Committee, 6 p.m., Bingham Office
	16	State Livestock Skillathon, Jerome
	18	HOLIDAY – OFFICE CLOSED
	20	Bingham County Market Animal Sale Committee, 6:30 p.m., Bingham Office
	29	DEADLINE – **4-H LEADER ENROLLMENT DUE**
February	1	DEADLINE – Market Poultry Enrollment due – birds ordered and paid for
	13-15	KYG Teen Conference, Boise Id
	15	HOLIDAY – OFFICE CLOSED
	19	DEADLINE – All Beef project enrollments due
	27	BC Beef Weigh-in, 8-9:30 a.m., Livestock Auction Scale
		*(Bring payment for both market fees and brand inspection)
April	9	DEADLINE – All Swine project enrollment due
	19	BC Swine Weigh-in, 4:30-6:30 p.m., EISF Swine barn (bring payment for market fees and bill of sale)
	30	DEADLINE – All remaining animal projects enrollment due
		Sheep, Meat Goats, Breeding Poultry, Rabbit, Dog, Dairy Goat, Dairy Cattle
May	17	BC Sheep/Goat Weigh-in, 4:30-6:30 p.m., EISF Goddard Pavillion
		*(bring payment for market fees and COOL document)
	31	HOLIDAY – OFFICE CLOSED
June	4	BC Market Rabbit weigh-in, 8-9 a.m., Bingham Office Parking lot
		*(bring payment for market fees and bill of sale)
	14-16	4-H Camp, Alpine WY

Nutrition Message:

November brings cooler weather, football, family gatherings, and of course, Thanksgiving dinner. Whether you have a large family meal or a small gathering with a few friends, it is important to remember food safety principles during Thanksgiving dinner. This is especially important if your guests include young children, older adults, pregnant women or those with weakened immune systems, who are at greater risk for foodborne illness.

Following these four principles will ensure that everyone has a safe and healthy Thanksgiving dinner.

Clean: Wash your hands before and during food preparation. Clean and sanitize countertops, cutting boards, utensils, and sinks after handling raw foods.

Separate: Keep raw meat and poultry separate from ready-to-eat foods. Store raw turkey on a lower refrigerator shelf to prevent juices from dripping onto other foods.

Cook: Use a food thermometer to ensure food reaches a safe internal temperature. Color alone is not a reliable indicator of doneness.

Chill: Refrigerate leftovers within two hours after serving. Bacteria grow quickly at room temperature, so don't leave perishable foods sitting out too long.

If Turkey is on your menu, follow these additional safety steps:

Never thaw a turkey on the kitchen counter. Instead:

- Thaw in the refrigerator, allowing approximately 24 hours for every 4-5 pounds.
- Or thaw in cold water, allowing 30 minutes per pound and changing the water every 30 minutes.

Cook to 165°F. Use a food thermometer to check the turkey's temperature in three locations; the thickest part of the breast, innermost part of the thigh, and innermost part of the wing. Each location should reach 165°F before serving.

Approximate roasting times at 325 * F.

Weight	Cooking time for Unstuffed Turkey	Weight	Cooking time for Unstuffed Turkey
8-12 lbs	2 ¾ to 3 hrs	18-20 lbs	4 ¼ to 4 ½ hrs
12-14 lbs	3 to 3 ¾ hrs	20-24 lbs	4 ½ to 5 hrs
14-18 lbs	3 ¾ to 4 ¼ hrs		

Proper food safety can ensure an enjoyable meal for everyone.

Have a Happy Thanksgiving!

Rethinking Nitrogen Management: A New Tool for Idaho Grain Producers

Nitrogen fertilizer is one of the largest production expenses for Idaho grain growers. New research from the University of Idaho and USDA-ARS suggests that some traditional nitrogen recommendations may be higher than necessary for today's barley varieties and production systems.

Researchers have conducted multi-year field trials evaluating nitrogen requirements for irrigated malt, feed, and hull-less food barley. Results indicate that modern varieties can produce higher yields without proportionally increasing nitrogen inputs. Research also supports a shift toward *static-range nitrogen management*, which focuses on providing an appropriate total nitrogen supply rather than automatically increasing nitrogen rates with higher yield goals. Excess nitrogen can increase costs, reduce nitrogen efficiency, and create grain quality concerns, particularly in malt barley due to elevation of protein.

To help producers put this research into practice, the **Idaho Crop Nitrogen Calculator (IDCN)** is now available online at https://idahocropnitrogen.org. The tool uses research-based crop recommendations and economic information to help identify nitrogen rates that balance crop production and fertilizer costs. Malt barley is currently among the supported crops.

Southeast Idaho growers are encouraged to explore this new resource and use research-based nitrogen management to improve fertilizer efficiency and farm profitability.

A few practical points for growers:

- Use soil-test information when evaluating your field's available nitrogen.
- Consider total nitrogen supply—not just the fertilizer rate.
- Use the calculator as a planning aid when developing your fertility program.
- Avoid assuming that a higher yield goal always requires more nitrogen**.**

Southern Idaho Alfalfa Hay Market Outlook: Fall 2026

The outlook for Southern Idaho alfalfa growers is cautiously optimistic, although domestic dairy demand and weaker export activity remain important market considerations.

USDA's latest available national price data indicate that alfalfa hay averaged approximately **$206 per ton in August 2026**, compared with $171 per ton a year earlier. This is a farm-level average, not a local spot-market quote. Idaho's October 16 USDA Market News report showed reported prices generally ranging from **$220 to $250 per ton for good-to-supreme large-square alfalfa**, depending on quality and market conditions.

USDA estimates indicate 2026 U.S. alfalfa production of approximately **47.7 million tons**, down 5% from 2025. Although May 1 total hay inventories increased 19.5% from the previous year to 23.3 million tons, reduced production is tightening overall supplies. Oklahoma State University Extension estimates total hay availability at approximately 1.59 tons per head of cattle, near the 15-year average. This is a supply-to-cattle-inventory measure.

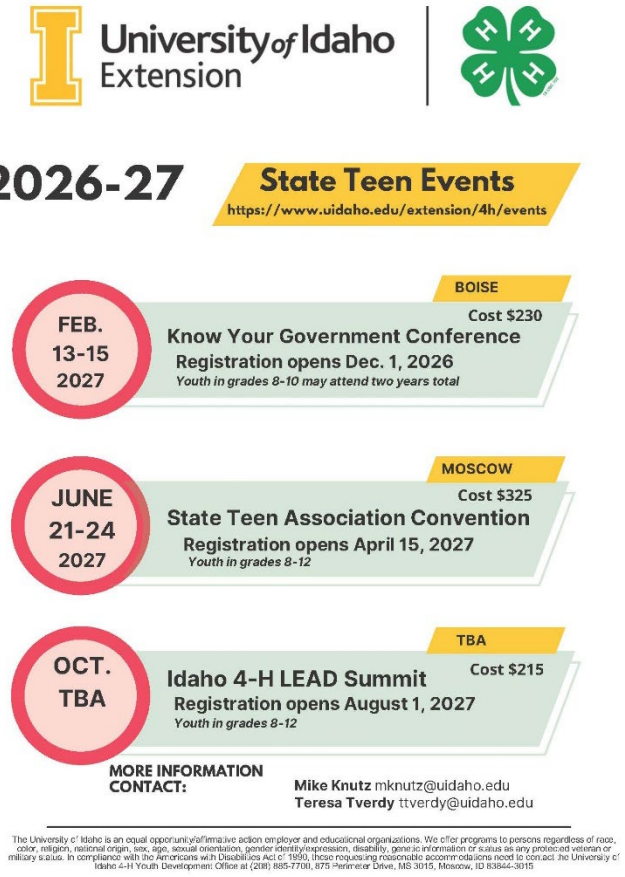
Export demand remains an important market outlet, particularly for Western growers. However, U.S. hay exports declined during the first eight months of 2026 compared with 2025. Japan, South Korea, China, and other Asian markets remain important destinations, but currency strength and competition are limiting demand.

High-quality, dairy-grade alfalfa should retain premiums where supplies are limited. Growers should monitor local dairy demand, export activity, and hay quality when making marketing decisions.

Supporting government and Extension references

1. USDA-NASS. Agricultural Prices, September 29, 2026. August hay prices and state comparisons. NASS
2. USDA Agricultural Marketing Service. Idaho Direct Hay Report, October 16, 2026. Weekly market prices and quality classifications. My Market News
3. Oklahoma State University Extension. Derrell Peel, The Hay Situation, August 17, 2026. National hay stocks, production, and supply-per-head estimates. Oklahoma State University
4. USDA Foreign Agricultural Service. Japan Agricultural Trade Data, 2025. Japan imported approximately 830,041 metric tons of U.S. hay, valued at $304.6 million. USDA Foreign Agricultural Service





The University of Idaho (UI) Extension Pesticide Safety Education Program (PSEP) is again offering our Recertification Winter Series via Zoom Video Conferencing (no camera or account required).

Each webinar is $10 per attendee. Each completed webinar earns the applicator one pesticide credit from the Idaho State Department of Agriculture (ISDA). We will offer a total of 8 credited seminars (see schedule below)
To enroll:

1. Visit the University of Idaho Marketplace and follow instructions to register and pay for one or more webinars.

2. After payment, you will receive the Zoom link and instructions. Automated Zoom reminders will be sent prior to the webinar. Please check your spam folder if you do not receive expected emails.

Scheduled for the 2026 UI PSEP Recertification Webinar Winter Series:

- Nov 17 at 1 p.m. to 2 p.m. (MT) — Diseases of Ornamental Trees (Sierra Laverty)
- Nov 19 at 1 p.m. to 2 p.m. (MT) — Practical Approaches to Weed Management (Jemila Chellappa)
- Nov 24 at 1 p.m. to 2 p.m. (MT) — Conservation Biological Control: Supporting Beneficial Predators to Reduce Pesticide Dependence and Improve IPM (Jason Thomas)
- Dec 1 at 1 p.m. to 2 p.m. (MT) — True Armyworm Outbreak in the Treasure Valley: Management Strategies on Turfgrass (Armando Falcon-Brindis)
- Dec 2 at 1 p.m. to 2 p.m. (MT) — Potato Nematology and Neemix (Paige Hickman)
- Dec 3 at 1 p.m. to 2 p.m. (MT) —Insect Pest Identification and Basic Control Methods (Herman Griese)
- Dec 8 at 12 p.m. to 1 p.m. (MT) — Pesticide History, Chemistry, Lessons Learned & Pesticide Labels (Bradley Stokes)
- Dec 10 at 12 p.m. to 1 p.m. (MT) — New Tools for Weed Management (Doug Finkelnburg)

Enroll in your browser at https://marketplace.uidaho.edu/C20272_ustores/web/store_main.jsp?STOREID=53&SINGLESTORE=true
For more information respond to this email or contact hgriese@uidaho.edu

Best,
UI Pesticide Safety Education Program Team

UPCOMING DAY CAMPS

ALL DAY CAMPS ARE LOCATED AT THE OFFICE UNLESS OTHERWISE SPECIFIED

You MUST be completely enrolled on 4h.zsuite.org and have enrollment fees paid at the office PRIOR to being added to any day camp lists.

Registration for day camps are **NOW** on 4h.zsuite.org in the events sections of your family profile**. Register online. Limited space!** ALL FEES MUST BE PAID AT THE OFFICE 1 WEEK PRIOR TO DAY CAMP IN ORDER TO ATTEND!.

We are able to accept cards over the phone or at office with a $3 service fee.

Nov	6, 13,20	3D Printing, TRADITIONAL (8+), 9-11 a.m., $10 *Must attend all days
	13	9 Patch Quilt, TRADITIONAL (8+), 1-4 p.m., $4
Dec	4	Card making, TRADITIONAL (8+), 9-10:30 a.m., free
	11	Homemade Hot Chocolate, TRADITIONAL (8+), 9-10 a.m., $5
	11	Christmas Pillowcase, TRADITIONAL (8+), 1-4 p.m., $3

The Bingham County News is published by the Bingham County Extension Office. All comments should be directed to Carmen Willmore.
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Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information or reasonable accommodations to any programs listed in this newsletter need to contact the Bingham County Extension Office two days prior to the event at 412 West Pacific St., Blackfoot, ID 83221, phone 208-785-8060, email bingham@uidaho.edu.

COOPERATIVE EXTENSION SYSTEM
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