

*The Weiser Signal American
presents*

Salute to Agriculture

- Four generations of Nakamuras
- The Market wants to connect local producers with consumers
- Bees are buzzing at Weiser High School
- Idaho farmers surveyed about crop plans for 2020
- University of Idaho teams with agriculture on marketing

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Farming has been in the family for four generations of the Nakamuras. The family started farming in Weiser nearly 70 years ago. Brothers Steve, Larry and Tracy have operated the business for many years. Steve and Larry have retired and Tracy is planning on this year being his last year of farming. Above, Tracy and his son Kenny and their farmhand dog, Slika are farming 360 acres and are enjoying working outside and watching their crops grow. Photo by Nicole Miller

Deep roots: Nakamura family has been farming in Weiser since 1952

Era coming to an end as three brothers near retirement

by Nicole Miller

The Nakamura family has been farming in Weiser for nearly 70 years, and with the recent retirement of brothers Steve and Larry and the upcoming retirement of Tracy, that era is coming to an end.

Kakuji and his wife Chiyo Nakamura originally farmed south of Seattle prior to WWII. They were interned along with their children Mits, Mary, Sut, Jim and Sachi at the Tule Lake camp during the war.

Mits Nakamura enlisted in the Army while they were at the camp and served in military intelligence as a translator at the end of the war.

After the war ended, the Nakamuras moved to Vale, then New Plymouth before moving to Weiser where Mits and Sut purchased land to start a farm.

Mits and Karie Nakamura and brother Sut and Shiz Nakamura started farming in the Weiser area around 1952 with Kakuji helping on the farm as well.

The family farmed together for many years, teaching Mits' sons Steve, Larry, and Tracy along the way. When Mits retired in 1987, Larry and Tracy took over the family tradition.

Steve, who attended the University of Idaho and worked in Los Angeles as a chemical engineer, did not join the family farm until moving back to Weiser in 1991. Steve shared that he has not regretted coming home to farm with the family one bit.

"I have lived in Las Vegas and Southern California, but there's no place like home," Steve said.

The farming tradition continued for a fourth generation with Tracy's son, Kenny Nakamura, who has helped on the farm since about the fifth grade.

Over the last three years, Kenny has worked the farm alongside his dad, returning home during the summers while attending college at the University of Idaho.

While COVID-19 has brought Kenny home early for this year, he was able to finish school online while getting an early start on helping with the farm. He earned his bachelor's degree in rangeland conservation this May.

Having Kenny on hand this spring has helped the Nakamuras not have to hire anyone else to work the farm.

Kenny shared that he has loved working the farm with his dad and uncles learning the value of hard work and joy of working outside with your hands. Farming is what originally sparked Kenny's interest in resource management.

The Nakamuras have grown a variety of crops over the years: Onions, sugar beets, potatoes, wheat, corn, seed beans, sweet corn seed, sweet corn, alfalfa seed, alfalfa hay and peas.

At one point, the Nakamuras farmed a combined 1,000 acres. Last year, the three brothers farmed around 850 acres, and with Tracy and Kenny the last ones farming, they have 360 acres.

Tracy shared that there are several things that he loves about farming. Having the independence to be your own boss is a huge plus. Winters are slow, and while there is always work to be done, you can control much of your own schedule.

Tracy enjoyed being in control of his own routine and that every day was different.

The thing that Tracy enjoyed the most, however, has been the satisfaction of watching his own crops grow. Seeing the seed you planted become a mature healthy crop brings a great amount of satisfaction from a year's work.

Although farming has been good to the Nakamuras over the years, Tracy also shared that most people do not realize what a challenge farming can be. Weather, pests, drought and irrigation worries, equipment breakdowns and expenses, urban sprawl, and rising input costs are the constant worries that farmers deal with on a daily basis, yet all of these issues are out of the farmer's hands.

Government regulations can also make their jobs extra difficult by increasing costs and limiting profits. This year, COVID-19 is already having a huge impact on the prices the farmers and ranchers are receiving.

Farming is beautiful work, but it is very difficult, physical labor and although, there is always a need for the food that farmers and ranchers produce, there is not a guarantee that the farmer or rancher will have a good income no matter how much they work or how healthy and plentiful the crop is.

As Tracy looks forward to retirement at the end of the 2020 season, the current plan is to rent out their land to other local farmers, but it is possible that they would sell if the right buyer came along.



BettyLin Thiessen is the 2-year-old daughter of Duane and Kimberly Thiessen, owners of Living Sky Farms. Living Sky Farms is one of the producers in Weiser that consumers can find advertised on The Market’s business board. Local consumers can buy poultry, eggs, beef, lamb, pork, and raw milk all from this local producer based on the Weiser Flat.

Interest grows in buying direct from producers

One Weiser business trying to connect consumers with locally sourced food

by Nicole Miller

The buy local movement has grown in the last few years as consumers show an interest in knowing where their food is produced and seek out the freshest farm-to-table meat and produce.

The interest in buying not only local but also directly from producers is growing. Whether consumers are interested in supporting local farmers and ranchers, or just focused on knowing exactly where their food came from, buying direct from farmers and ranchers can be a great way to support the local economy and to get quality products for a great price.

Buying local in Weiser has become more convenient than ever. The farmers market is growing with new produce and homegoods vendors each year. The farmers market is held weekly in August and September at Weiser’s historic train depot. The Market, located at the former States Produce on East 6th St., is offering local produce and plants.

For goods that can’t be carried and bought at The Market – fresh meat, poultry, eggs and dairy, The Market is working hard to connect buyers with local producers with their “local producers” wall. Here, local ranchers with livestock, milk or eggs can post their information and consumers can have a better idea of what is available locally.

Social media has also made it easier for producers to connect directly with the consumer. Local ranchers can post their cattle and pigs and soon have several sold. For those looking for a one stop shop to make sure they can find those producers, there is even a “Weiser Local Foods and Goods” group for those producers to post their available goods

for free. There’s even a national website and app called Barn2Door that exists solely to help farmers and ranchers sell directly to the consumer.

Local small farms and artisans in Weiser have a variety of products to offer. Honey, eggs, poultry, lamb, beef, pork, goats milk (and goat milk products), lavender products, and soap just in Weiser and without going outside the Treasure Valley, consumers can buy local dairy and even bison.

When it comes to buying meat products, buying direct from the rancher, does sometimes mean stocking up and filling the freezer. Most farmers who have finished steers, slaughter size (1,000-1,500 pounds) will offer different options: most common being whole, half, and quarter.

Pigs are similar. As the consumer, you will pay a price per pound for the live weight of the animal divided according to your purchase amount.

The farmer then delivers the steer to the processor, where you will then communicate some choice of cuts and how you’d like your meat divided and portioned. Then once your meat is ready, you pick it up from the processor and pay for your processing fee.

The farmer or rancher benefits from getting a premium price for their livestock and the consumer gets a premium product for much less than they would typically pay for the same quality elsewhere. The overhead and number of people in contact with the product is lower, so those that have the freezer space and the means to stock up on their meat supply, it’s a win win for both the producer and consumer.



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Farmers in Idaho across the U.S. were surveyed this spring about their crop planting projections for 2020 by the USDA. Idaho farmers said they planned to put about 4 percent more acreage in corn, a crop that has many uses and can always find a market. Idaho is in the top 10 states in growing wheat, and farmers plan to plant 1.2 million acres in all varieties this year. Winter wheat is the largest crop in Idaho. *Courtesy photo*

Farmers intend to plant more acres in corn, wheat and hay this year

USDA surveys producers every spring about crop plans

by Steve Lyon

Idaho farmers surveyed earlier this spring about the 2020 growing season said they planned to grow more acres of corn, wheat and hay this year than they did in 2019.

The total acreage planted in corn this year in Idaho is estimated at 400,000 acres, an increase of 4 percent over the 385,000 acres in 2019. Idaho is one of four states with record acreage planted in corn this year.

The trend is nationwide with corn acreage for all purposes up by 8 percent over last year. Farmers across the country planned to plant 97 million acres in corn, which is an increase of 7.29 million acres over 2019, and the highest planted acreage since 2012, according to the USDA's National Agriculture Statistics Service.

Mary Ridout University of Idaho extension educator, said it's not surprising that corn acreage is up. Given the crop has many uses as feed, silage and even fuel guarantees a market when prices for high value crops like onions and potatoes may be more volatile.

"It's a crop that is always going to have a market of some sort," she said. "With corn, farmers have some different outlets."

The NASS offered a mixed bag on planting plans for other crops, with some increasing in acreage and some decreasing or staying flat. The acreage estimates are based on surveys conducted during the first two weeks in March.

A total of 80,000 farmers across the U.S. were surveyed on their prospective planting in late March before the coronavirus brought the economy to a halt and sent crop and beef prices sliding due to lack of demand. The NASS statistics are a snapshot of crop production in each state and across the U.S.

The total acreage planted in all wheat varieties in Idaho this year is estimated at 1.2 million acres, which

is up by 1 percent over last year. The biggest wheat crop will be winter wheat at 730,000 acres, followed by other spring wheat, excluding durum, at 470,000 acres, an increase of 2 percent from last year.

Idaho is ranked as one of the top seven wheat producers in the nation and one of a few places anywhere that produces all five classes of wheat. Wheat is grown in 42 of Idaho's 44 counties, and the state is the largest grower of hard white wheat in the U.S. Over half of the total wheat crop in Idaho is soft white wheat.

Idaho wheat farmers have some of the highest yields per acre. All wheat production in 2019 totaled 98.8 million bushels with a production value of \$500 million at \$5.05 per bushel. The yield was estimated at 87.8 bushels per acre, down 4.1 bushels from 2018, according to the NASS.

Approximately 50 percent of Idaho wheat is sold to foreign markets, making it one of the state's top farm exports. In terms of revenue generated, wheat has consistently ranked as Idaho's second largest crop behind potatoes. About half of Idaho's crop goes to domestic mills and the other half is exported, primarily through the Port of Portland to Asian and Latin American customers.

A top five producer of sugarbeets in the U.S., Idaho's 850-plus sugarbeet growers planted an estimated 168,000 acres this year, a slight dip compared to 171,000 acres in 2019, but up from the 163,000 acres planted in 2018. Total U.S. acreage planted in sugarbeets in 2020 is estimated at 1.13 million acres, up 1 percent from 2019.

Sugarbeets are Idaho's fourth most valuable crop, trailing the state's billion dollar potato industry. Idaho growers provide 20 percent of the total U.S. yields, harvesting more than 6 million tons annually. The yield in 2019 in Idaho was 39 tons per acre, a decrease from 40.5

tons per acre in 2018.

Sugarbeets are grown primarily in irrigated areas of the Snake River Valley in southern Idaho and refined at plants in Paul, Twin Falls, and Nampa. Processing facilities across the state produce granulated sugar, powdered sugar, liquid sucrose, brown sugar, and betaine.

The NASS does not provide information on the number of acres that are projected to be planted in onions. Between southwest Idaho and southeastern Oregon, about 20,000 acres are planted in onions annually in the west end of the Treasure Valley, with most of those acres dedicated to the Spanish sweet yellow onion variety.

All hay acres expected to be harvested in Idaho are estimated at 1.35 million acres in 2020, up 4 percent from 2019. In 2019, all hay production totaled 5.11 million tons, up 2 percent from 2018 and yield was estimated at 3.93 tons per acre.

Other crops Idaho farmers will plant this year include 48,000 acres of dry edible beans, a slight increase from 47,000 acres in 2019. Another 25,000 acres will be planted in dry edible peas, a decrease of about 4,000 acres from 2019.

Idaho farmers grow a sizable chickpea crop to supply the hummus and other food industries. The estimated planting for 2020 totals 62,000 acres of both large and small chickpeas. The total acreage is down 30 percent from 2019, when farmers planted 88,000 acres in chickpeas, also known as garbanzo beans.

Idaho, and specifically northern Idaho, is the fourth largest lentil producer in the U.S. with an estimated 32,000 acres planted this year, which is down from 34,000 acres in 2019. The acreage devoted to dry edible peas is down at 25,000 acres in 2020 compared to 29,000 acres in 2019.

A clearer picture of 2020 crop acreage in the U.S. will be revealed when USDA releases its next crop acreage report on June 30.



Washington County’s Abandoned Orchard Review Board is charged with investigating complaints about neglected or abandoned orchards that could serve as a source of harmful insects or diseases.

Orchard board still vigilant in role monitoring for fruit pests

Board was created decades ago to monitor pests and pathogens that could impact apple industry

by Steve Lyon

A small group of Washington County citizens serve as investigators on a board that few have probably heard of and don’t know what it does.

Created decades ago by county ordinance, the orchard review board is responsible for handling complaints about abandoned apple orchards that could become a source of pests and diseases and impact fruit growers. There are currently orchard review boards in place in Canyon, Gem, Payette and Washington counties.

Mary Ridout, the University of Idaho extension educator for Washington County, said the board was created many years ago to protect fruit producers. It is not as active as it was 20 or 30 years ago, when landowners were selling property and leaving orchards unattended, creating the conditions for harmful insects to move in.

“There is so little orcharding going on locally that there’s only a certain number of people interested in it,” she said.

The board is empowered to take action if a written complaint is received about an abandoned orchard within a mile of an active orchard. The process begins with appointing an investigative team of three members for a field inspection, including the extension educator. If pests or diseases are found in apple trees, steps are initiated to get the owner to either control the problem or hire a contractor to remove the trees, roots and all.

Board members are aware that the remnants of an apple orchard exist in the Mann Creek area and the trees have produced apple maggots in the past, but it is so far away from active fruit growers that it doesn’t pose much of a threat.

These days the orchard board meets once a year, usually in December when farming is at a lull. The board’s discussion is less about abandoned orchards that need investigation and more about current issues in the apple and fruit business, such as the latest threat in diseases and pests.

“It’s something we keep going as a protection for producers,” Ridout said.

The heyday of a once-thriving industry with a dozen or more apple producers growing and packing fruit has come and gone in Washington County. There are a few apple growers left, mostly located near the border with Payette County, and they have diversified their crop to include cherries, peaches, nectarines, pluots, table grapes and other fruit.

Orchard review board member Ron Kelley, who with wife Kimi operate Kelley Orchards south of Weiser, said the panel has not had to take any action involving neglected or abandoned orchards in the county in quite a few years.

The Kelleys grow 30 varieties of apples off of Hill Road near Weiser to satisfy today’s consumer, who wants to try new varieties. The fresh apple has the highest value, and the Kelleys do good business at farmers markets during the summer. Some apples they grow are sold to packers or Tree Top for juice or applesauce.

He remembers the last time the county orchard board had to take action to protect the local apple business. It occurred in the late 1990s and involved about three acres of abandoned apple trees on Hill Road, not that far from his orchards. The issue went as far as the county commissioners, who are empowered under state law to order remedial action.

The trees were cut down and the roots removed, but not before Kelley had to battle an infestation of codling moths, a pervasive insect that continues to be a problem for apple growers in southwest Idaho. His regular spraying could not keep up with the moths coming from the nearby abandoned orchard.

To this day, it’s a never-ending fight with the codling moth, which causes higher economic losses for apple growers than any other pest. Larvae bore directly into the apple, and infested apples either drop from the tree or are culled at harvest.

“The classic worm in the apple is the codling moth larvae,” Kelley said.

The Kelleys have about 15 acres of apple orchards and another 15 acres of stone fruit, including peaches, nectarines and more. In addition to retailing at weekly farmers markets from Weiser to Boise, the Kelleys also sell dried fruit and fresh fruit in season at their fruit stand on Hill Road.

Idaho farmers have been growing apples for more than a century and helped pioneer the apple industry in the Northwest. Idaho orchards began producing fruit in the 1890s, and Washington County orchards were known for growing dozens of varieties that were shipped far and wide.

The apple business today is centered in a relatively small area in the southwest part of the state, an area known as the “banana belt,” where the climate, soils and abundant water contribute to producing a high-quality crop. Apples are grown in Canyon, Gem, Owyhee, Payette and Washington counties, and to a smaller extent in Jerome and Twin Falls.

The apple is still the leading fruit crop in the state with production topping 60 million pounds annually. Apples represent 62 percent of the total fruit acreage. There are about 149 apple growers that manage 5,705 acres of apples, according to the Idaho Apple Commission.

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Congress dropped country of origin labeling regulations in 2016 due to trade pressures from Canada and Mexico. Some U.S. beef backers argue that bringing the COOL regulations back would help bolster the livelihoods of American ranchers during the COVID-19 and falling cattle prices. *Courtesy photo*

Backers of U.S. beef seek food labeling law in face of foreign livestock imports

Mandatory country of origin labeling could help struggling ranchers, organization says

by Steve Lyon

A petition launched by a trade group representing U.S. cattle producers that seeks to get the president and Congress to pass mandatory country of origin labeling (COOL) laws for beef, pork and dairy products has collected nearly 400,000 signatures since April.

The Ranchers-Cattlemen Action Legal Fund, United Stockgrowers of America (R-CALF USA) argues that mandatory COOL laws are needed now more than ever to strengthen national food security and help economically struggling ranchers, who have seen cattle prices drop precipitously during the coronavirus pandemic.

R-CALF USA has stepped up efforts to get Congress to reinstate labeling requirements and regulations that require retailers to inform customers what country certain commodities originated in, giving shoppers more information and allowing producers to compete in a more transparent marketplace.

“In this time of crisis every American consumer should be able to make an informed purchasing decision as to where their food is from. Access to safe food is the right of every American. Mandatory country of origin labeling allows U.S. food producers to compete fairly against undifferentiated substitute imports,” the petition states.

In 2016, Congress repealed COOL laws requiring the country of origin labeling for beef and pork, while retaining labeling regulations for several products, including chicken, lamb, goat, farm-raised and wild caught fish and shellfish, and most nuts.

Congress took the action in the face of retaliatory trade threats from Canada and Mexico. The two countries said the COOL regulations discriminated against their meat products, constricted trade and caused economic harm.

As a result, the USDA’s Food Safety and Inspection Service does not require that beef be born, raised and slaughtered in the U.S. in order to carry a “Product of the U.S.A.” label. Livestock imported from foreign countries can be labeled “Product of the U.S.A.” as long as the beef undergoes additional processing at a processing plant in the U.S.

An unabashed booster of American beef, Montana Sen. Jon Tester has lobbied lawmakers to reinstate COOL laws for years. Most recently, Tester and Sen. Mike Rounds of South Dakota introduced a resolution on May 13 to bring back the country of origin labeling requirements for beef.

Tester has said the country’s farmers and ranchers produce the best agricultural products in the world. Consumers want to buy American-made products,

and country of origin labeling lets producers show their product was raised in America.

Bill Bullard, CEO of R-CALF USA, said he was disappointed in the resolution introduced in Congress by Tester and Rounds. The resolution will not provide U.S. cattle producers relief from the rising tide of imported cattle and beef. His organization has been working aggressively to find members of Congress willing to sponsor legislation to bring mandatory labeling back.

Bullard said that during the COVID-19 crisis American cattle ranchers are being denied access to their own markets, while packers and other importers continue to import tens of thousands of foreign cattle into the U.S. each week from Canada and Mexico.

“It’s unconscionable for the U.S. to allow foreign cattle to displace American cattle producers’ access to their own domestic market and only with COOL can consumers begin supporting the American food supply chain by choosing to buy beef that is exclusively born, raised and harvested in the United States,” he said.

Leo McDonnell, a former director of the U.S. Cattlemen’s Association, also wants to see COOL laws reinstated. Consumers are increasingly seeking out more information on the products they choose to feed their families. The U.S. produces the highest quality, safest, and most eco-conscious beef in the world. U.S. cattle producers deserve the opportunity to showcase their product in the retail marketplace, he said.

Not every organization that represents livestock producers is in favor of Congress passing new COOL laws to cover beef and pork. Some have criticized the labeling requirements as a costly and burdensome program that doesn’t return much in benefits for cattle producers.

Philip Ellis, president of the Denver-based National Cattlemen’s Beef Association, said repeal of COOL by Congress in 2016 was actually a win for cattle producers. COOL was a failed program with its costs imposed on cattle producers, he said.

Idaho Cattle Association Executive Vice President Cameron Mulrony said the organization has policy that supports the intent of COOL regulations and consumer driven labeling but also has concerns that costs of enforcing the regulations will fall to beef producers.

“Although we support U.S. beef being properly labeled, we have concerns with the government mandate portion of the COOL proposal. The regulatory burden will ultimately trickle down and the cattlemen will shoulder the costs of the regulatory burden placed on the industry,” he said.



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Bees will add to agriculture education at Weiser High School

Teacher and beekeeper hopes to have a working hive ready this fall for students

by Nicole Miller

This fall the agriculture department at Weiser High School is hoping to add a new addition that will both enhance the education for many students and help the local community, with a working beehive being homed at the ag program by teacher and beekeeper Patti Matthews.

As part of a pollinator unit in the horticulture class and in the AG 1 class, bees were studied. Thanks to the generosity of Matthews, the students will get to see these vital pollinators in action, hopefully, this fall.

Matthews and her family have been beekeepers for around eight years, so she is looking forward to bringing this hands on learning experience to the students at WHS.

The bees were relocated back to Weiser after having been in California for almond pollination. Matthews shared that the bees had been doing important work this winter for the crops down there. Each farmer has to

keep at least two colonies per acre of land, so it takes honey bees from all over the United States relocating during the winter months for the almond crops to be successful.

“It takes about 1.5 million colonies of honey bees to pollinate the almond crops of California,” Matthews said.

The relocation is necessary for the almond farmers, but it is also beneficial to the bees. The warmer California climate helps them thrive during the winter months, so when they return they have already rebuilt their colonies and are ready to split.

The original plan was to bring the colony to WHS in March of this year, but with the school closures and other delays caused by COVID-19, plans are now more up in the air, but Matthews is hopeful that she will be able to bring the colony to the ag buildings this summer so that the colony is established there this fall.

That way, if school is back in session, students will get to see

the hive in action. Due to their finicky nature, Matthews will always be the main bee tender, with the students getting to interact with the bees under supervision.

“I know there are several students in the horticulture class that want to put suits on and get out there and pull it apart and see what it looks like,” Matthews said.

This is not the first beehive at Weiser High School. Under retired teacher Megan Overgaard, the science department used a hive housed in the science classroom. That hive was studied by the science classes and the science club including the award winning Envirothon team. That hive was housed behind a glass window outside Overgaard’s room for students to observe.

The hive that will be in place in the ag department will be a working hive, like what is commonly seen in the fields around the area. Matthews will set up the hive based on the weather

and time of year and when they receive their mated queen in the mail. The set-up and proper planning will determine how much honey is produced.

Matthews said that having a live beehive will not only provide students an amazing opportunity to see the bees in action, but it will also show them how much work goes into keeping a colony alive and thriving.

Being a good beekeeper means being extremely conscientious of the environment around the hive, the age and condition of the hive, and the health of the bees. Bees are a domesticated animal and they need to be on a health program in order to thrive.

Bees are vital to local agriculture. Many crops, including alfalfa, rely on bee pollination to thrive. Between the prevalent use of fungicides, pesticides and urban sprawl, bee populations have been in a decline in recent years.

While the honey they produce is enjoyed by many, bees, are the most important pollinators

of many native and introduced plants. In fact you can thank bees for 1 out of every 3 bites of food you eat.

Matthews shared that locally, the farmers are really good about helping the bee hives stay healthy by limiting their chemical use and letting the local beekeepers know when they need to use chemicals so they can do what they need to to protect their hives.

People know about the effect of farming pesticides and fungicides, but sometimes those chemicals are necessary to protect the crops, and from Matthew’s experience all the farmers have been cautious to protect the bees and pollinators in the process.

Matthews also shared that on average there are more chemicals used on a typical pristine city yard than there are on a 10-acre farm field. So it’s important to make sure to use less chemicals and plant pollinator friendly plants in our own yards.



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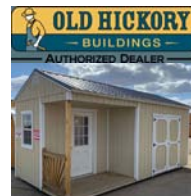
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In agriculture state, one university sees marketing potential

University of Idaho plans to put logos on ag buildings located along highways

by Steve Lyon

Billboards along roads and highways have long proven their value as an effective and eye-catching form of advertising.

The University of Idaho has come up with a unique marketing plan along similar lines to promote the state’s oldest university and its long history of agricultural education.

The home of the Vandals wants to partner with farmers and emblazon the University of Idaho’s logo on grain bins, grain elevators and barns across the state. The effort both symbolizes the agricultural foundation of the state and also serves as long-term billboards that support the U of I.

“The greater Vandal family can help tell the University of Idaho’s story along the highways and byways through the Gem State,” university marketing officials said.

Owners of industrial or commercial property who want to help promote the university are encouraged to contact the marketing department, which will investigate the site’s potential. The property owner must agree to donate space on a grain bin or barn and the U of I will cover the cost of graphic development, materials and installation.

The university’s marketing department will schedule a time to visit the location and verify it will work out. Barns and grain silos must be located along state highways and interstates.

The marketing team will provide a recommendation for either vinyl or paint logos. The average lifespan of a graphic installation is three to five years. All designs must be approved by the Idaho Department of Transportation. The university will handle the permitting.

The first Vandal grain bins, elevators and barns are slated for installation in spring of 2020.

The University of Idaho was formed by the territorial legislature in 1889 and is the state’s land grant and primary research university.



The image above is an artist rendering of marketing signage on a grain silo. The University of Idaho, the state’s land grant and agriculture institution, wants to sign up ag producers across the state to help market the university. The idea is to put the university’s logo on barns and grain silos located along highways across the state. The university marketing department will cover the costs of the graphic and installation. The graphics last about three to five years. *Courtesy photo*



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