



**Idaho State Department of Agriculture**  
**Celia Gould, Director**

**Joint Economic Outlook &  
Revenue Assessment Committee**

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# Strengths

- Agriculture is a **GROWING** industry in Idaho setting record cash receipts in five of the last seven years
- Idaho agriculture is diversified with 144 different commodities
- Food manufacturing is Idaho's second largest manufacturing sector. Together, agriculture and food processing are the backbone of much of rural Idaho
- World Class research (INL, U of I, Future ICLES Center)



# Weaknesses

- Lack of reliable and consistent labor
- Increasing crop prices a two-edge sword. Balance between crop and livestock interests
- Lack of understanding of agricultural issues in growing urban centers
- Lack of access to reliable and affordable transportation – declining rail service, shortage of trucks, shortage of reefer containers



# Opportunities

- Alternative uses for farm waste to supplement farm income
  - Biogas from livestock – Methane
  - Biofuels – ethanol and biodiesel
  - Carbon credits
- Round-up ready sugarbeets – reduce costs
- Opportunities for value-added and premium, niche products
- National trend for local products
- Export growth, declining U.S. dollar



# Threats

- Water-Water-Water
- Potential for shortage of seed potatoes
- Stricter regulatory environment
- Pest detections, invasives - PCN, Water Milfoil
- CCD in honey bees (colony collapse disorder)
- Fuel prices
- Growing food safety concerns
- Trade restrictions



What can the State of Idaho do to enhance the success of the state's agriculture industry?



Thank you

Questions?