



Idaho State Department of Agriculture
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**Joint Economic Outlook &
Revenue Assessment Committee**

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Strengths

- Historically, a growing industry-- setting records for cash receipts in six of the last eight years
- A unique climate combined with a developed river system and in-land sea port
- Diversified with 144 different commodities
- Food (and beverage) manufacturing is Idaho's second largest manufacturing sector
- Growing value-added manufacturing:
 - Dairy processing capacity expands
 - Number of wineries has nearly doubled
- Agriculture and food processing are the backbone of much of rural Idaho
- Significant "brand recognition" around the world



Weaknesses

- Lack of reliable and consistent labor
- Lack of rail competition
- Often competing interests between crop and livestock sectors
- Lack of understanding of agricultural issues in growing urban centers



Opportunities

- Agriculture as a source of green energy – production of food, feed, fiber and now fuel
- National trend for local products
- Local demand for hard wheat varieties
- Value-added and niche products – demand for “affordable” indulgences
- Food safety issues create growing demand for U.S. products
- Agriculture may gain back prominence



Threats

- THE ECONOMY – domestic and global
- Strengthening U.S. dollar dampens exports
- Water
- Stricter regulatory environment – fumigation, air, pesticides, etc.
- Input costs – fertilizer, possible increases in fuel
- Diet crazes
- Elimination of a BMP in dairy
- Projected large outbreak of grasshoppers
- Potential for shortage of seed potatoes
- Pest detections, invasives - PCN, Quagga mussel



Conclusion

What does the future hold for
Idaho agriculture for 2009?



Thank you

Questions?