

I D A H O W H E A T C O M M I S S I O N

*annual review*  
2025





# Idaho WHEAT

In 1959, Idaho wheat growers presented a request to the Idaho State Legislature to establish the Idaho Wheat Commission. The Wheat Commission was intended to be a vehicle by which Idaho's wheat producers could self-fund grower-driven programs and initiatives to benefit farmers by increasing profitability, production, and market reach. The Idaho Legislature granted statutory authority to the Idaho Wheat Commission as a self-governing agency in Title 22, Chapter 33 of Idaho Code that same year.

Grower Governed. Grower Funded. Grower Led.

*Since 1959*

# Grower Governed

The Idaho Wheat Commission is governed by five grower leaders from around the state who are appointed by the Governor to serve as commissioners. The Idaho Grain Producers Association collects resumes and applications from interested wheat producers, conducts interviews, and submits three names per district to the Office of the Governor for appointment.

The Governor appoints one wheat grower from each of the five Idaho Wheat districts to serve as a commissioner for five years. Commissioners can be reappointed for an additional five-year term through the same process. Current Idaho Wheat Commissioners are:

District 1: Tim Freeburg, Worley

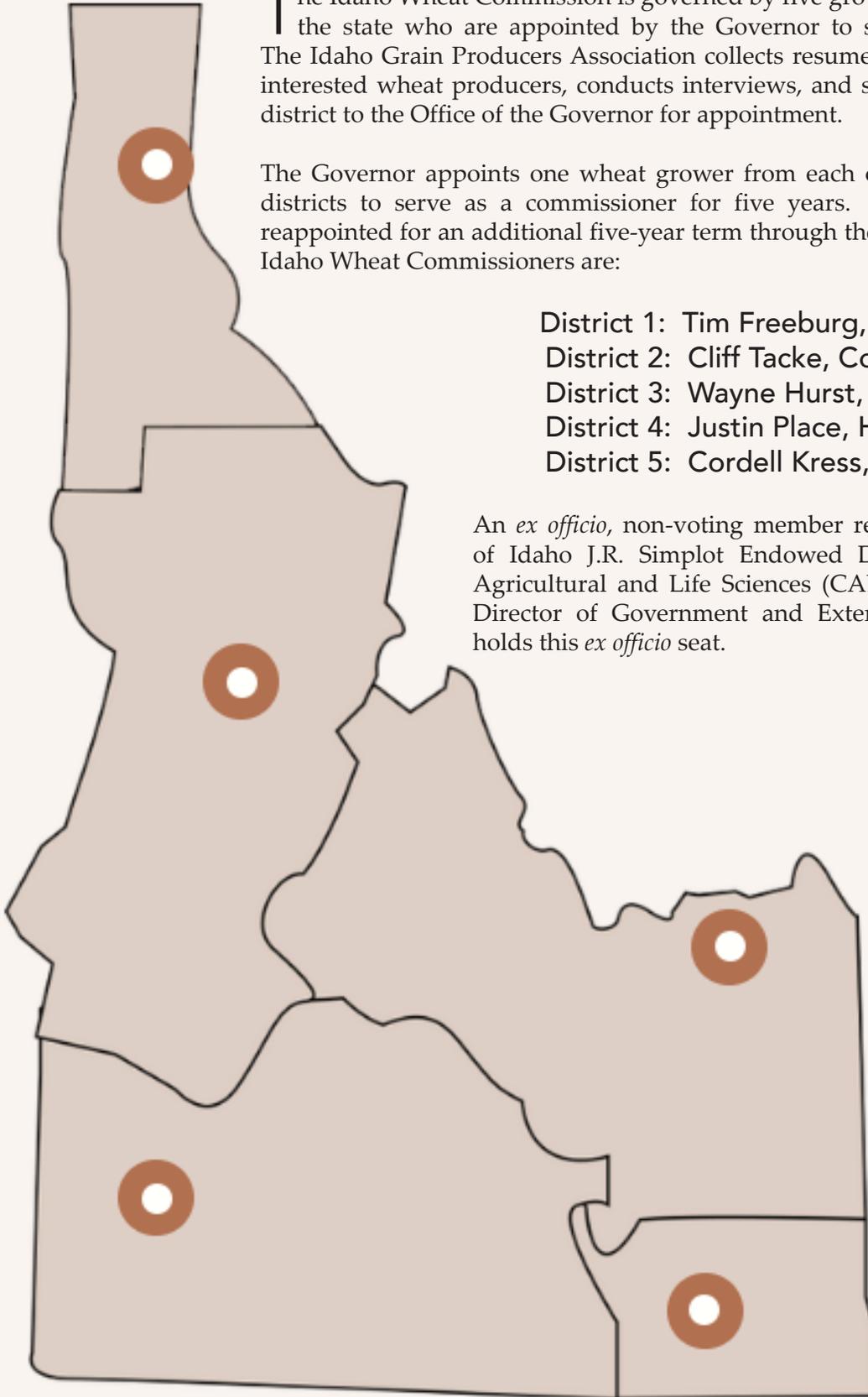
District 2: Cliff Tacke, Cottonwood

District 3: Wayne Hurst, Declo

District 4: Justin Place, Hamer

District 5: Cordell Kress, Rockland

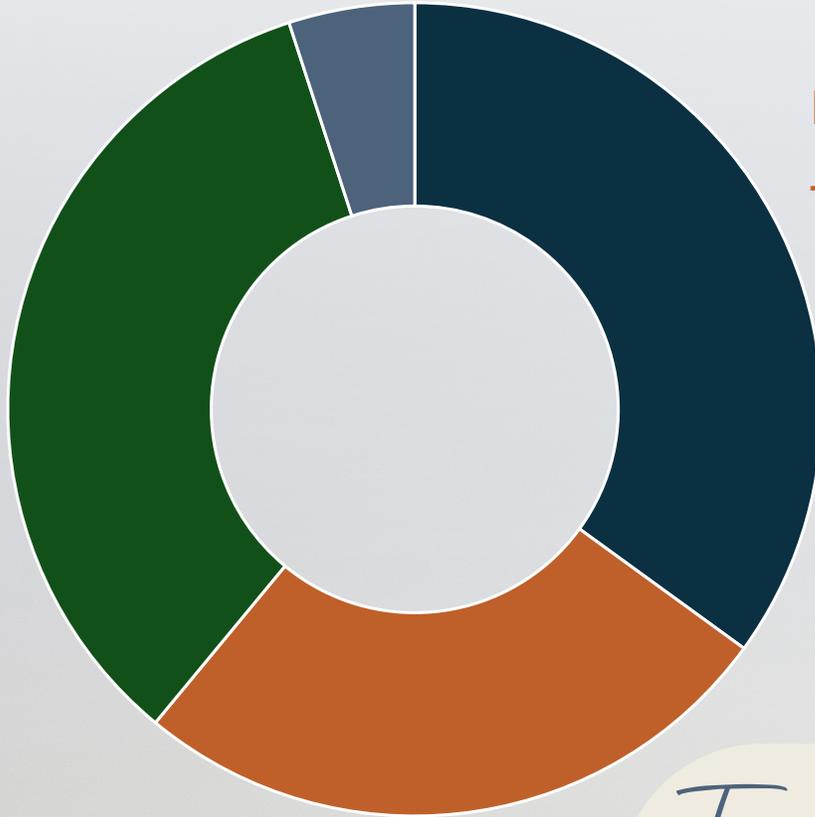
An *ex officio*, non-voting member represents the University of Idaho J.R. Simplot Endowed Dean of the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences (CALs). Rachael Bickerton, Director of Government and External Relations at CALs holds this *ex officio* seat.



# Grower Funded

The Commission is funded exclusively by Idaho's wheat-growing families. Idaho statute – proposed by farmers and approved by the Legislature – enables the Commission to collect an assessment on each bushel of wheat grown in Idaho at the first point of sale. The original assessment rate was \$0.01 per bushel in 1959. The Commission has used the referendum process to increase the assessment rate over time. The current assessment rate in 2025 is \$0.045 per bushel.

Grower assessment dollars are invested into programs that further the mission of the Commission. With the Commission as a clearinghouse, grower dollars are leveraged to provide a greater return directly to the farm in areas of research, wheat promotion, and grower education.



## FISCAL YEAR 2025 BUDGET

TOTAL: \$3,600,052

- Research
- Market Development
- Communications & Grower Programs
- Operating Expenses

The mission of the Idaho Wheat Commission is to increase profitability for Idaho's wheat growers through investments in wheat research, market development and wheat promotion, and grower education and outreach.



Commissioners set the annual budget of the Idaho Wheat Commission and direct Commission staff to execute programs and initiatives that fulfill the mission of the Commission. Identifying, leveraging, and fully utilizing available resources and partner organizations increases efficacy and efficiency in promoting and further developing Idaho's wheat industry. Partner organizations include:

Organization	Purpose
Ag in the Classroom	Agricultural education for elementary schools in the state
Grain Foods Foundation	Wheat marketing based on scientific research focusing on health and nutrition of grain foods
Home Baking Association	Wheat promotion and education for educators and students in Family and Consumer Science programs in secondary and post-secondary education
Idaho Grain Producers Association	State policy
International Grains Program	Independent wheat milling and baking education at Kansas State University
National Association of Wheat Growers	Federal policy
National Wheat Foundation	Wheat promotion
Pacific Northwest Waterways Association	Federal waterway policy – river navigation, dams
Plains Grains, Inc.	Hard Red Winter wheat quality evaluations
PNW Wheat Quality Council	Consortium of wheat breeders, geneticists, and pathologists who collaboratively analyze outcomes of regional wheat research
U.S. Wheat Associates	International marketing and exports
Varsity Idaho	Breeding partnership between University of Idaho and Limagrain Cereal Seeds
Western Wheat Quality Lab	USDA research lab conducting cooperative wheat research in seven western states with breeders, geneticists, and pathologists
Wheat Foods Council	Domestic marketing
Wheat Marketing Center	Research and promotion, initially established to focus on soft white and other PNW wheat

# Grower Led

To ensure Idaho Wheat Commission programs and initiatives remain relevant to growers and return the highest value for grower investment, the Idaho Wheat Commission is governed by farmer leaders from around the state. Being directed by a board of commissioners who are actively farming provides a 'boots on the ground' perspective to Commission programming and strategy. Commissioners seek out, receive, and evaluate grower feedback to determine effectiveness of the Commission and to reprioritize the goals and focus of the Commission based upon current opportunities and challenges for individual farmers and the industry as a whole. The strategic plan is reviewed annually during the Commission budget meeting to ensure investments are aligned with priorities.

Grower leaders create opportunities for engagement and dialogue with the farmers they represent, ensuring the Commission remains focused on fulfilling its mission, and allowing the Commission to be proactive in the best interests of Idaho's wheat growers when new challenges or opportunities arise. The Idaho Wheat Commission Strategic Plan remains a working document of the Commission and is continually updated to best serve the needs of Idaho wheat growers.



## Vision:

Enhance the long-term success of Idaho wheat farmers and provide a viable future for the next generation through responsible allocation of assessment dollars.

## Values:

Integrity  
Leadership  
Stewardship  
Sustainability



## Key Objectives:

**Market Development:** Strengthen existing markets and develop new markets for both domestic and export sales of Idaho wheat

**Research:** Support research that provides maximum benefit to wheat growers and end-users

**Education, Outreach, Programs:** Provide dependable information that supports the progress and success of the industry

**Administration:** Be responsible, transparent stewards of grower dollars and support the professional development and well-being of employees and commissioners

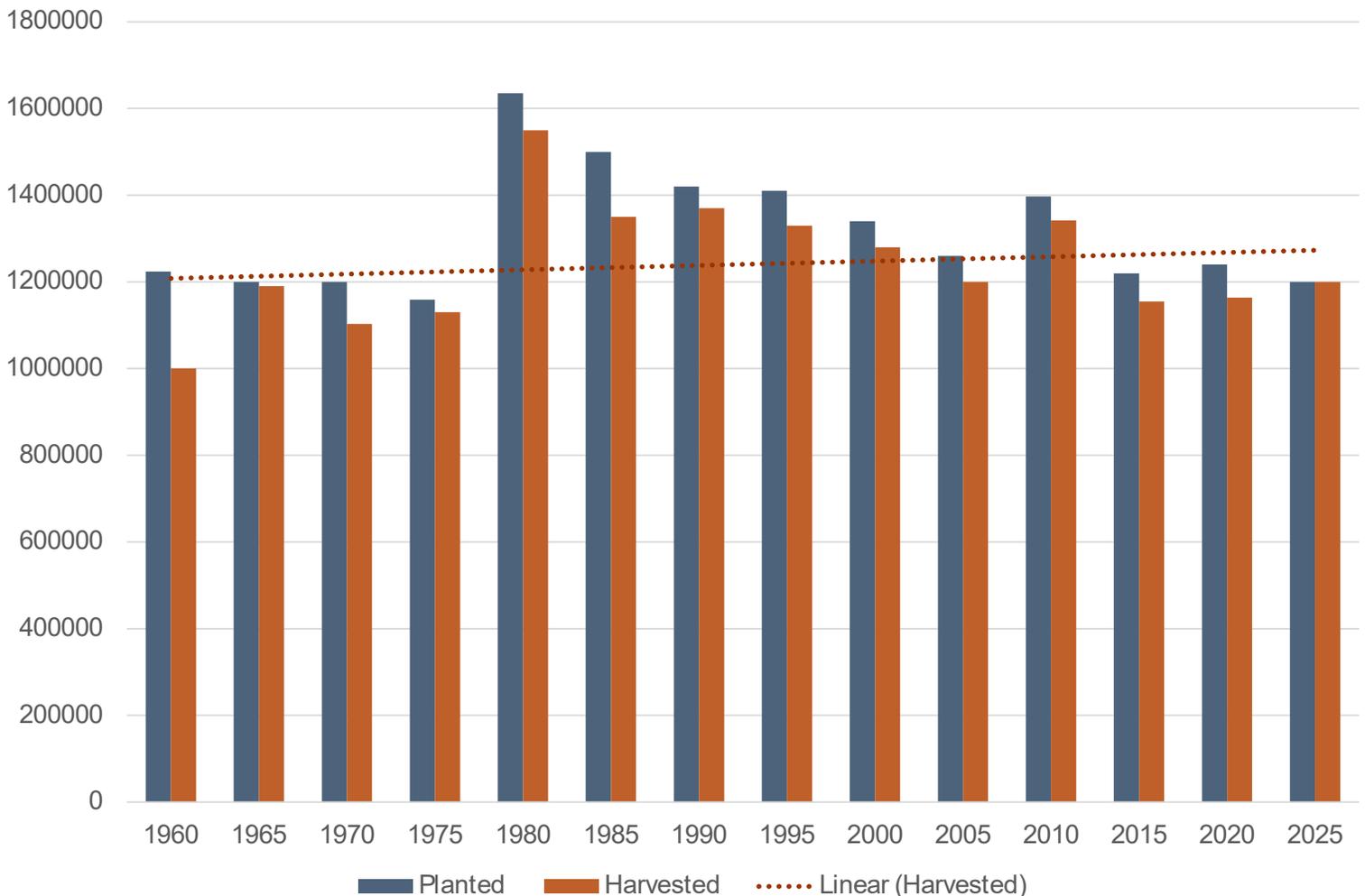


# INDUSTRY GROWTH 1960-2025

While wheat acres across the United States have been steadily giving way to other crops like corn and soybeans, wheat acres in Idaho have held relatively steady for the past 65 years. Idaho farmers continue to plant, on average, 1.2 million acres each year to wheat. Meanwhile, total production values increased from 38.6 million bushels in 1960 to 102 million bushels in 2025.

Investments in research have allowed farmers to maximize wheat production on their farms. In 1960, the average yield was 32.2 bushels per acre. In 2025, average yield had jumped to 83 bushels per acre with irrigated acres exceeding 90 bushels per acre. Idaho farmers consistently harvest among the highest wheat yields in the United States.

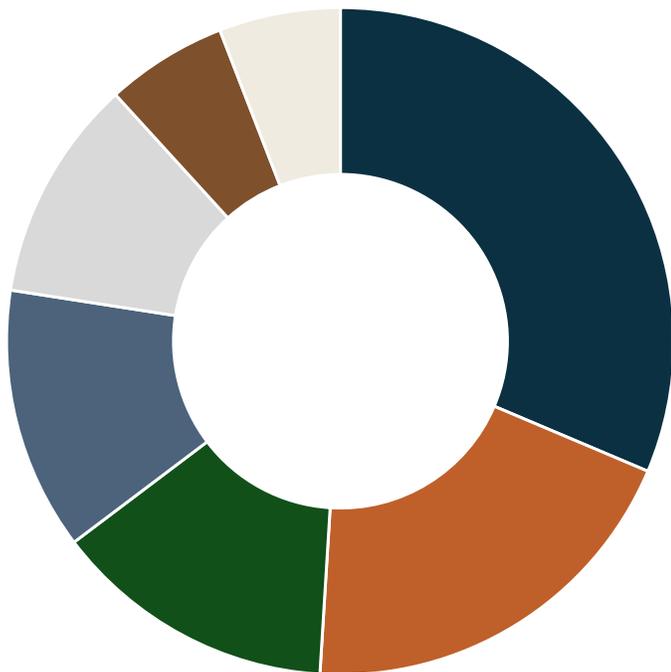
## 1960-2025 IDAHO WHEAT PLANTED & HARVESTED ACRES



Wheat producers use crop rotation systems to mitigate disease and pest pressures and improve soil health. Wheat is an important rotation crop in Idaho and acres planted to wheat are consistent over time.

# RESEARCH & BREEDING GROWER INVESTMENT

\$1,264,926.00



- Wheat Breeding & Genetics
- End-Use Quality Testing
- Extension & Variety Testing
- Disease & Insect Management
- Weed Control
- Agronomy & Plant Nutrition
- Capital Equipment

Grower assessment dollars invested in research provide wheat farmers across the state equal access to unbiased research results. Where other commodities focus on private and proprietary research, Idaho wheat producers rely on a collective investment essential for the public good. Investments in research have benefited Idaho wheat growers through:

## Wheat Breeding & Genetics

Develop and release varieties with improved grain yield, disease and insect resistance, and tolerance to environmental stresses

## End-Use Quality Testing

Evaluate milling and baking attributes of grain from variety candidates and agronomic trials to ensure end-use quality for domestic and export markets

## Extension & Variety Testing

Characterize performance, adaptation, and stability of public and private varieties in multilocation field trials

## Disease & Insect Management

Reduce threats through field surveys, varietal screening, cropping systems, and crop protection strategies

## Weed Control

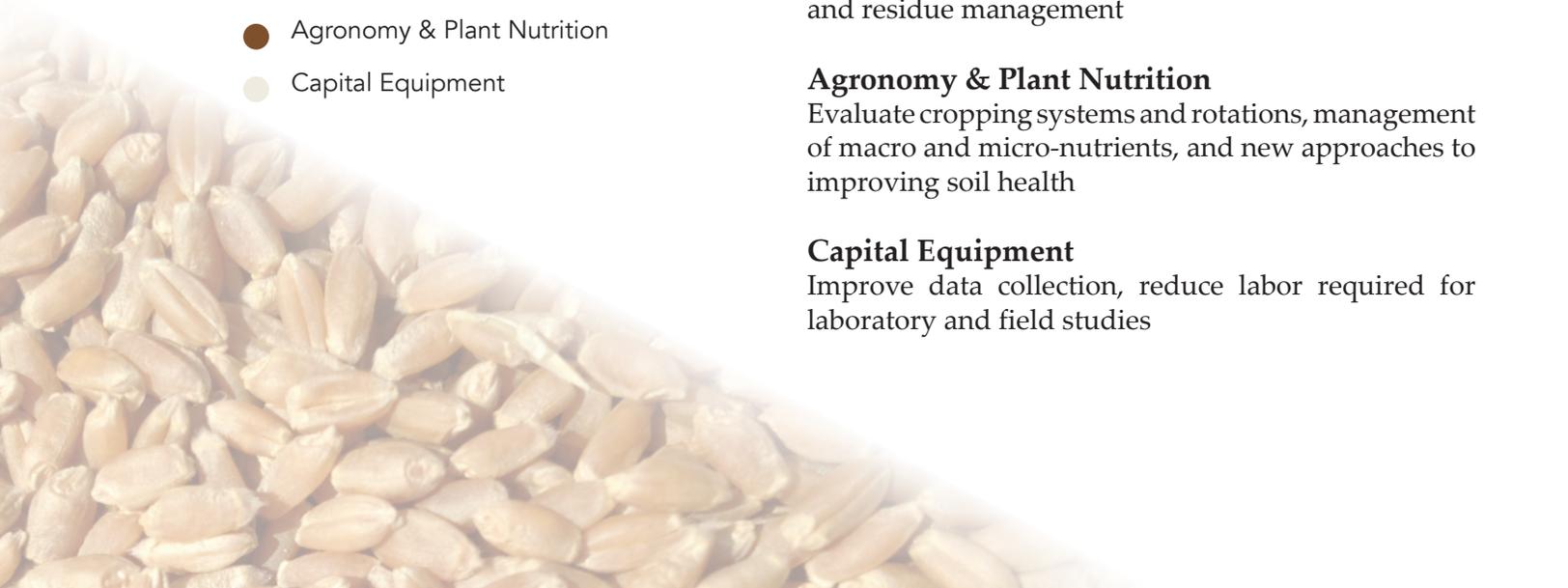
Evaluate herbicide efficacy and resistance, reduce weed seedbank through effective cropping systems and residue management

## Agronomy & Plant Nutrition

Evaluate cropping systems and rotations, management of macro and micro-nutrients, and new approaches to improving soil health

## Capital Equipment

Improve data collection, reduce labor required for laboratory and field studies



# Research and Breeding

Through the Idaho Wheat Commission, Idaho growers provide critical direction and long-term funding to public sector research, which has led to improved agronomic practices, new wheat varieties, and high-quality grain. Idaho is renowned worldwide for producing exceptional, consistent quality and quantities of wheat.

Wheat growers have invested more dollars in research and development through the University of Idaho than any other commodity in the state. IWC has created and funded three endowed positions including the Bill Flory Endowed Chair of Risk Management and two endowed professorships. These endowed positions provide stable research funding and lead to improved productivity, sustainability, and profitability of growing wheat in Idaho.

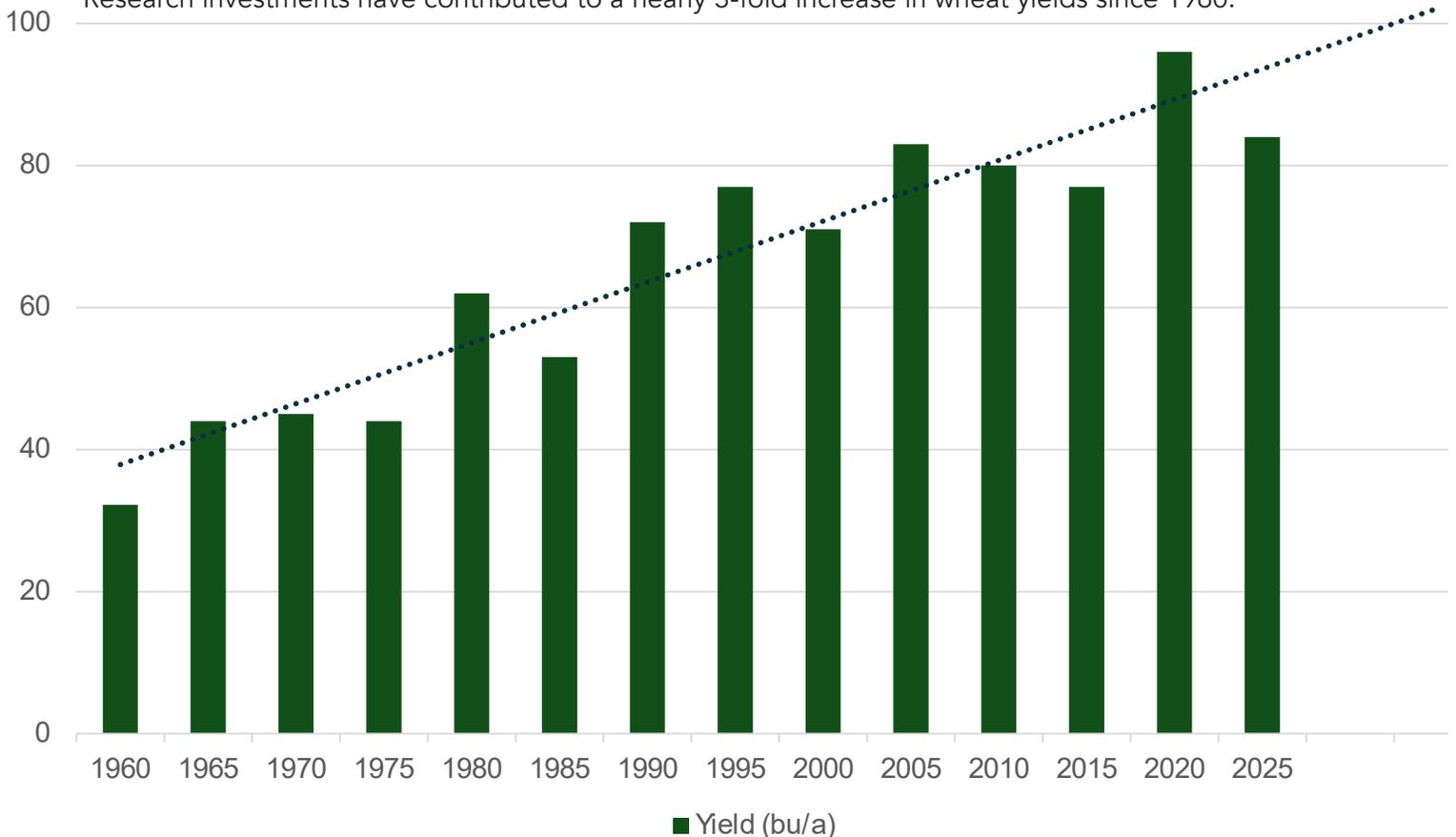
Idaho wheat growers have invested more dollars in research and development through the University of Idaho than any other commodity in the state.

## A NEW *Wheat Production Guide* FOR IDAHO GROWERS

**Building an updated, readily accessible source of information for growers and industry.**

### 1960-2025 BUSHEL PER ACRE YIELD INCREASE FOR IDAHO WHEAT

Research investments have contributed to a nearly 3-fold increase in wheat yields since 1960.



DIRECT AND PRACTICAL  
RETURNS ON

# Research INVESTMENTS

## Breeding & Variety Development for

### Increased Yields & Superior Quality

The University of Idaho has developed and released the new hard white wheat variety UI Gold. The variety was developed at the Aberdeen Research and Extension Center with support from the Idaho Wheat Commission. The variety has shown excellent yield potential, yield stability, and disease resistance and is being quickly adopted by growers in southern Idaho. Investments in wheat breeding and genetics continue to bring higher yields, increased profitability, and reduced input costs to Idaho growers. UI Gold also has exceptional end-use quality, increasing demand for hard white grain and furthering Idaho's reputation for producing superior quality grain.



## Breeding & Variety Development for Disease Prevention

The University of Idaho and Idaho Wheat Commission support critical research to monitor diseases and insects and determine the best approaches to crop protection. Wheat varieties are routinely screened to identify those with resistance to stripe rust, dwarf bunt, Fusarium, Hessian fly, nematodes, viruses, and root diseases. A recent example is the identification and monitoring of Soil Borne Wheat Mosaic, a new viral disease in Northern Idaho. Varieties with resistance to the virus have been identified and sanitation methods recommended to reduce spread and impact of the disease. Information, recommendations, and new products are being provided to growers to counter ongoing disease and insect threats and contribute to improved management strategies, enhanced sustainability, and increased profitability of Idaho growers.

Idaho farmers have consistently won the National Wheat Yield Contest for production and quality with yields in excess of 220 bushels per acre with wheat varieties developed with as much as \$1 million in investment.



### Research for

## Nutrient Management, Chemical Application, Crop Protection, & Production Practices

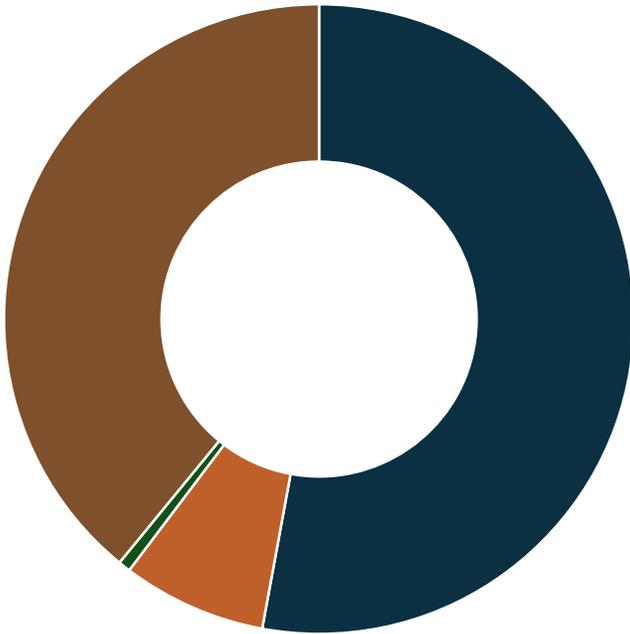
Weeds with resistance to commonly used herbicides are an increasing threat to production and quality of Idaho wheat. The University of Idaho and Idaho Wheat Commission support important research to monitor the development and spread of herbicide resistant weeds such as downy brome, goatgrass, Italian ryegrass, kochia, Russian thistle, lambsquarter and wild oat. New and alternative chemistries and production practices are routinely evaluated for their ability to control these problematic weeds. Growers are then alerted to the most promising and economical crop protection strategies to reduce spread and reduce losses in grain yield and quality due to herbicide resistant weeds. Adoption results in increased profitability, sustainability, reduced herbicide use, and lower input costs for Idaho growers.

*Since 2002, Idaho wheat producers have invested \$27,544,420.00 into research and development programs. The results of that research are owned by and accessible to all wheat farmers in the state of Idaho. Funding research through public programs, like the University of Idaho, allows research programs to leverage additional grant money and conduct unbiased research.*



## MARKET DEVELOPMENT GROWER INVESTMENT

\$935,470.00



- Overseas Market Development
- Domestic Market Development
- Transportation
- Additional Projects

Idaho farmers produce, on average, 100 million bushels of wheat each year. Without investments by Idaho wheat farmers to develop and strengthen market demand and promote Idaho wheat, every person in the State of Idaho would have to eat 2,067 loaves of bread every year, or nearly six loaves each day. Instead, market development efforts return broader market demand for Idaho's wheat, keeping farms profitable.



Idaho farmers grow consistent, premium quality wheat that is known around the world. On average, half of Idaho's wheat crop stays in the U.S. and half is exported overseas.

Market development and promotion is a vital responsibility of the Idaho Wheat Commission for increasing on-farm profitability. The Idaho Wheat Commission functions in collaboration with U.S. Wheat Associates to promote Idaho wheat in emerging markets overseas and strengthen relationships with loyal customers to increase market access. As Idaho's wheat production has increased due to research and development, Idaho's export markets have grown and export volume has been trending upward since 1960.

In fiscal year 2025, the Idaho Wheat Commission coordinated farm tours and trade missions and attended marketing conferences connecting Idaho wheat with more than 30 countries around the globe.

# Market Development

Top Export Markets for Idaho Wheat



Emerging Markets for Idaho Wheat



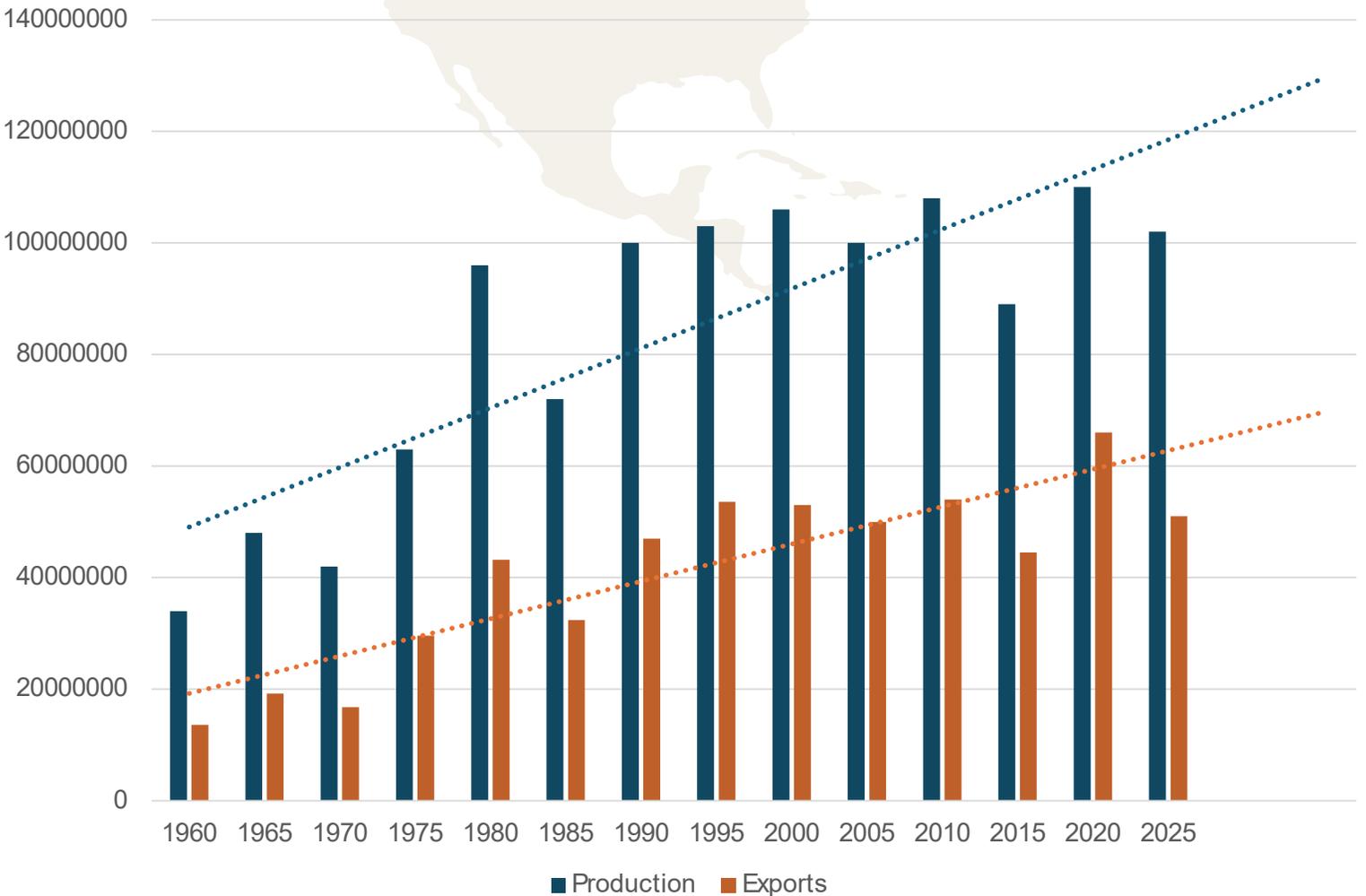
In 2025, Idaho wheat growers benefited from purchasing agreements signed with three countries:

132.3 million bushels to **Taiwan** over 4 years

25.7 million bushels each year for 5 years to **Bangladesh**

36.74 million bushels each year to **Indonesia** until 2030

## 1960-2025 EXPORT GROWTH OF IDAHO WHEAT



Idaho wheat growers have invested assessment dollars in the South American market by securing a technical specialist in the region, providing samples of Idaho wheat for milling trainings, and building trust and strengthening relationships with buyers through reciprocal trade teams.

*July 2024*

Molicentro buys 367,400 bushels (9,800 MT) soft white wheat + 73,500 bushels (2,000 MT) hard red winter + 36,700 bushels (1,000 MT) hard red spring from the PNW, valued at \$4.2 million.

*September 2023*

Molicentro makes first purchase of soft white wheat, 404,200 bushels (10,800 MT) valued at \$3 million.

*October and November 2024*

The Idaho Wheat Commission visits Molicentro to discuss crop quality, strengthen relationships, and express appreciation for their purchases of PNW wheat.

**Investing grower dollars in market development with U.S. Wheat Associates and other partners allows the Idaho Wheat Commission to leverage those dollars in federal trade promotion and market access programs and return more to the producer.**

February 2021

U.S. Wheat Associates donates a sample of soft white wheat and technical support to Molinera del Centro (Molicentro).

August 2022

Technical trade team visits Idaho from Molicentro, accompanied by the USW South American technical specialist, visiting farms and learning about quality across the value chain.

May through August 2023

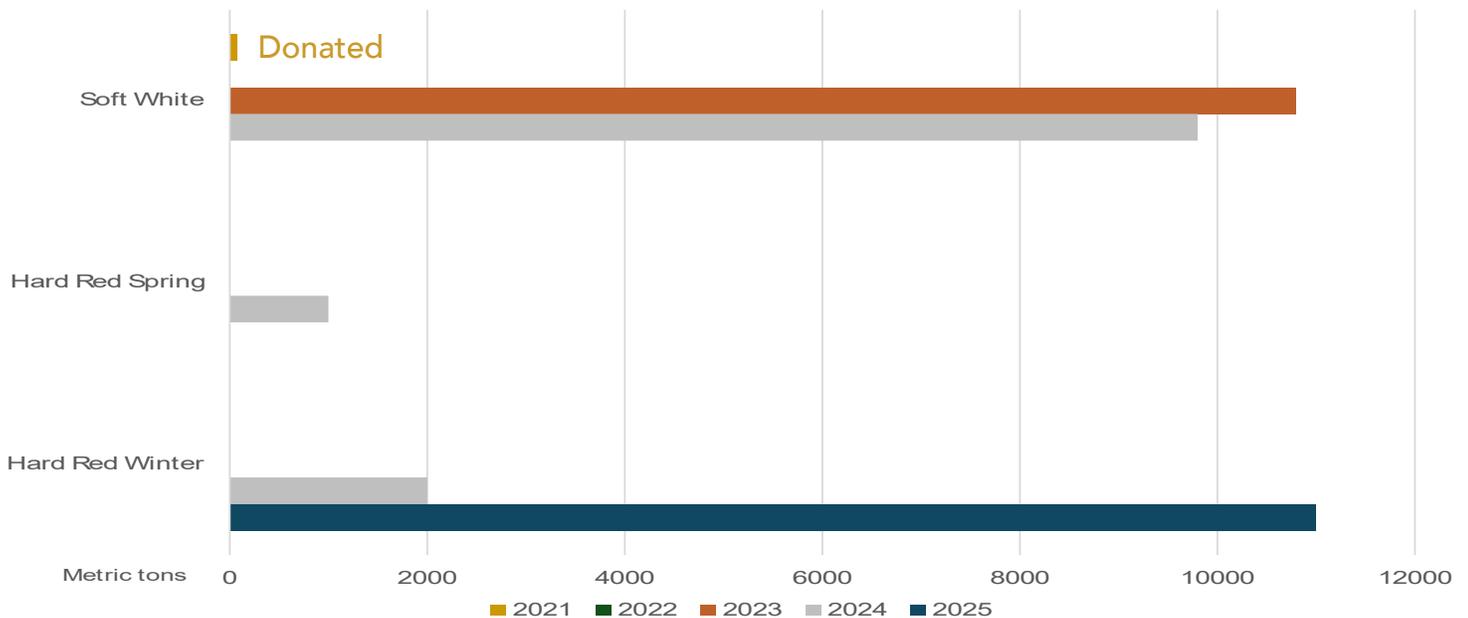
U.S. Wheat Associates provides trade and technical support, as well as lab training, to Molicentro.

September 2025

Molicentro purchases 404,200 more bushels (11,000 MT) of hard red winter wheat from the PNW.

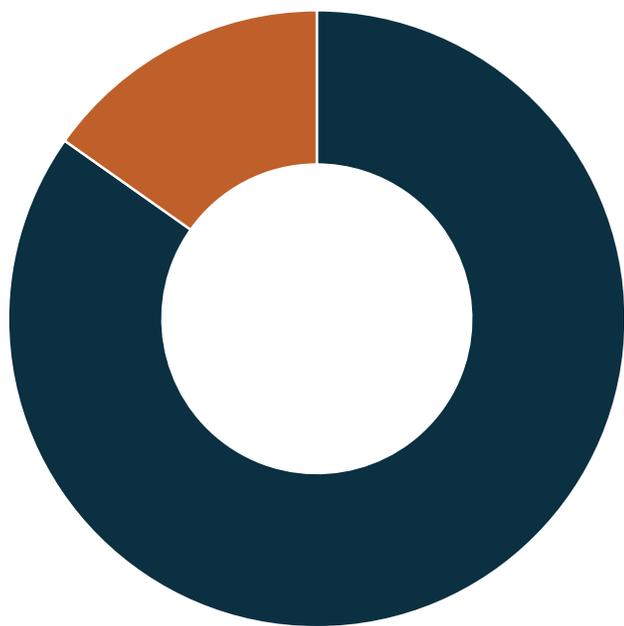
The investment of assessment dollars has returned customer loyalty and increased sales of Idaho wheat.

### PURCHASES OF PNW WHEAT BY CLASS MADE BY MOLICENTRO 2021-2025.



# COMMUNICATIONS & PROGRAMS GROWER INVESTMENT

\$1,207,479.00



- Producer Communications & Programs
- Consumer Communications & Programs

The Idaho Wheat Commission provides useful and necessary information and educational programs for Idaho wheat growers on all topics that impact farm profitability. The Commission is a resource of information about Idaho's wheat industry to partners, customers, potential partners, government agencies, elected officials, and the public.

## PROGRAMMING INCLUDES:

### Idaho Wheat Wrap and Focus on Research

Electronic newsletters with news, research investments, and transparency of the Commission's stewardship of grower assessment dollars.

### From the Field: Farm Chat with Idaho Wheat

A roundtable discussion with an expert in any field complementary to the wheat industry recorded and posted on our podcast channel.

### Idaho Wheat Workshops & Grower Experiences

Seminars designed to specialize in topics relevant to niche groups of farmers, such as no-till or minimum-till farming practices or risk management. Also tours of single sites within the wheat value chain.

### Pacific Northwest Export Tour

For farmers, media, and legislators to learn more about the journey Idaho wheat takes from field to export markets.

### Domestic Marketing Tour

An in-depth look at the journey Idaho wheat takes from the field to domestic markets.

### Idaho Grain Industry Mentor Program

In collaboration with IGPA, immersive professional development for Idaho wheat growers. Intended for young farmers to develop future industry leaders.

# Communications and Programs

## BREAD in a BAG

A grower-funded, hands-on experience developing healthy relationships with wheat foods for Idaho students for more than 40 years.



Bread in a Bag is a program used widely throughout the state of Idaho in elementary schools – typically fourth grade classes. It is a hands-on experience teaching students about planting, growing, harvesting, milling, and baking wheat. The program culminates in the making, baking, and eating of a wheat food recipe. Students are sent home with a cookbook, baking tips, and nutritional benefits of wheat to share with their families. Over the past decade, more than 81,000 Idaho students have participated in Bread in a Bag and developed healthy relationships with wheat foods.

*“I do this program with my students every year I can. I love the program and the kids love the bread and learning about wheat.”*

- Ms. Rodriguez, Boise, Idaho

## PREPARING FOR TOMORROW TODAY:

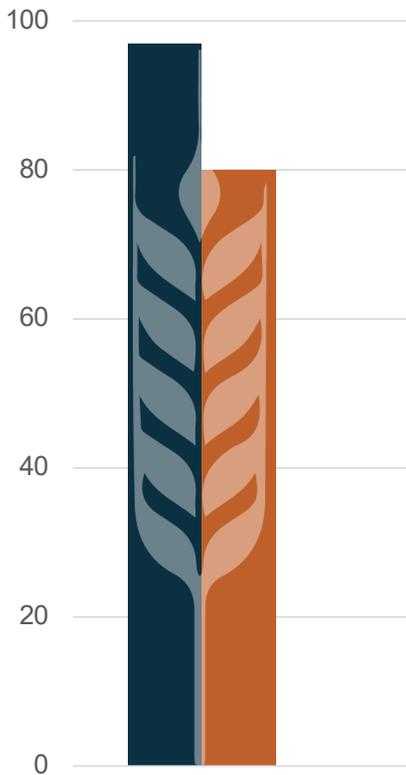
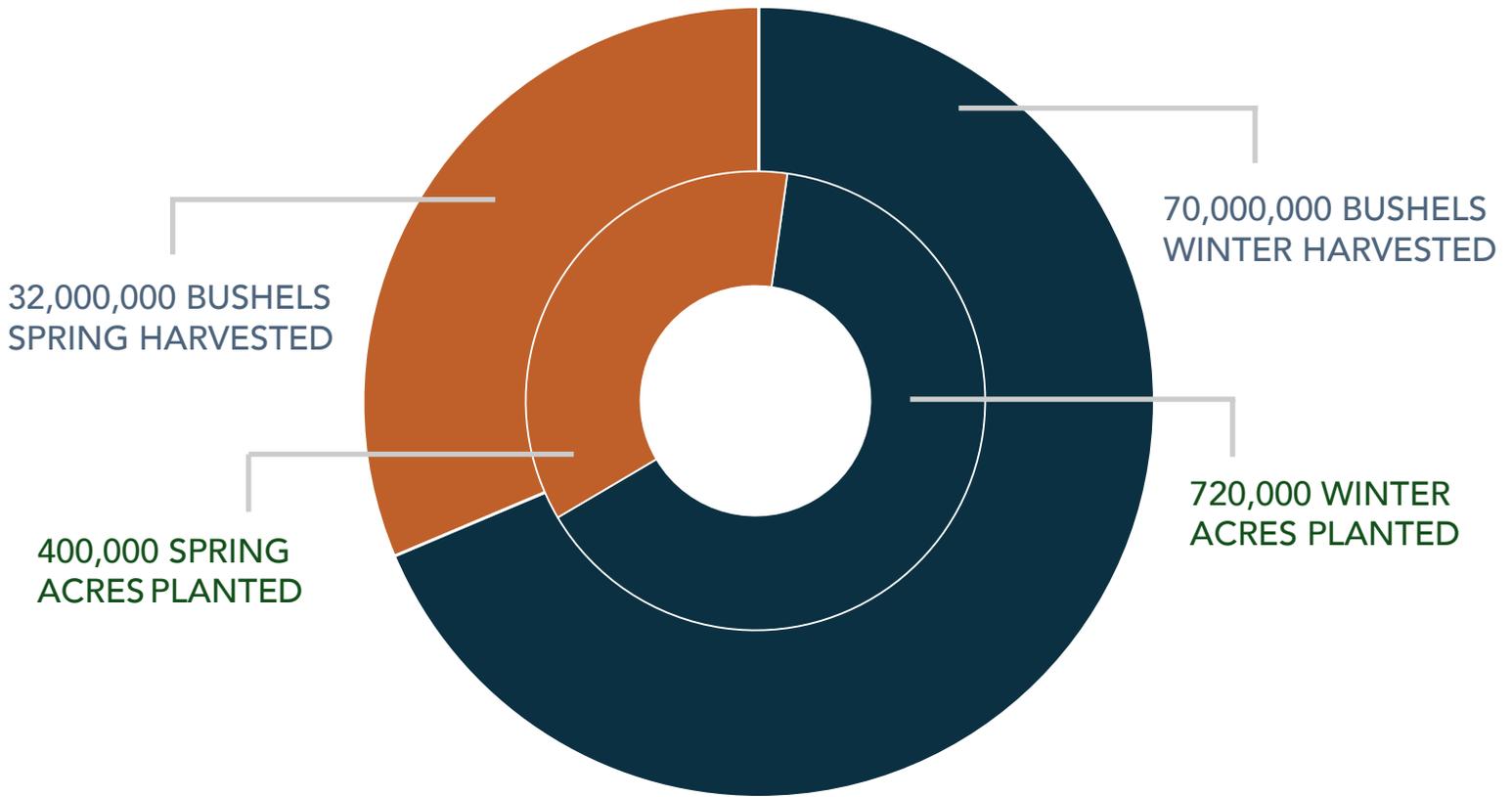
### Leadership Development & Mentoring

Just as harvest begins at planting, preparing for the future of Idaho’s wheat industry starts now. These ongoing efforts to develop tomorrow’s leaders today are what industry sustainability is all about. Partnering with the Idaho Grain Producers Association, the Idaho Wheat Commission invests in the mentoring and education of young farmers, tailoring the program to match skills and interests. Mentees go on to become mentors for other growers, creating a chain of commitment and accountability to and for Idaho’s wheat industry. Because of the mentor program, Idaho has been represented well and often in local, state, and national leadership in research, market development, and policy organizations.

*“The mentor program is, in my opinion, the most important investment the Commission makes of grower dollars. I became more invested in the industry after participating in the program and I encourage anyone who is interested to take advantage.”*

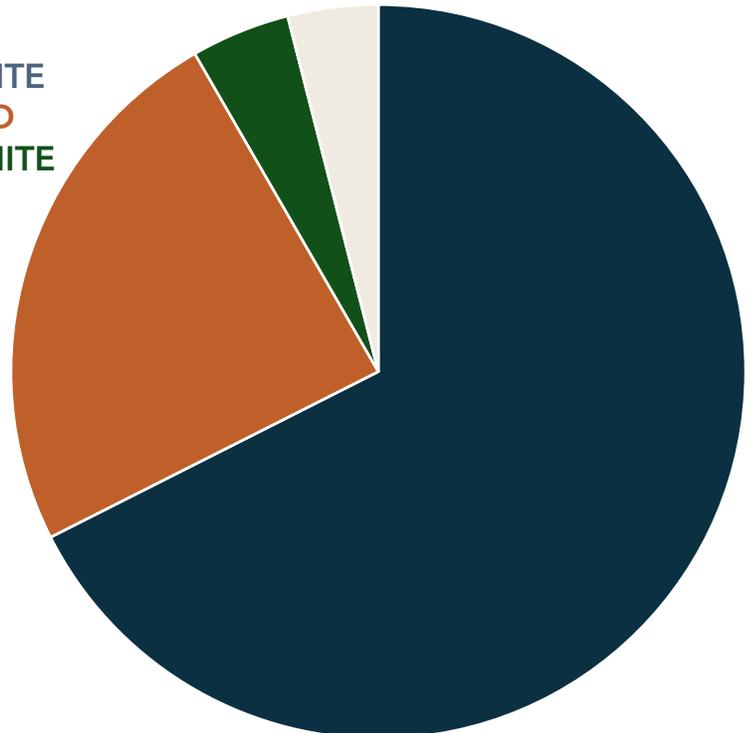
- Clark Hamilton, Ririe

# 2025 Production and Quality

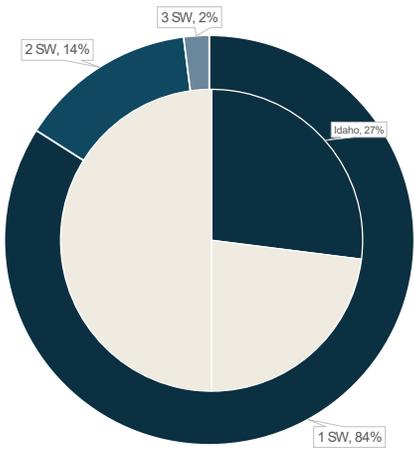


93 bu/a WINTER  
80 bu/a SPRING

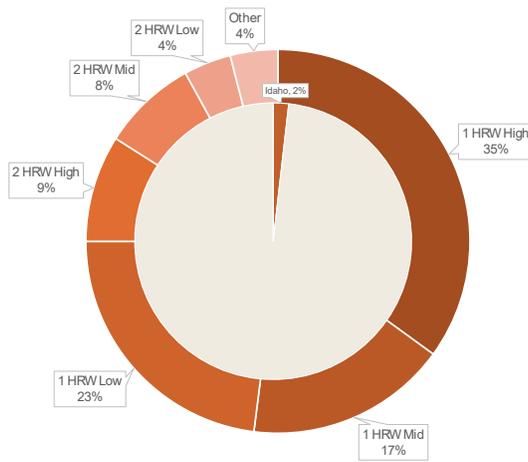
SOFT WHITE  
HARD RED  
HARD WHITE  
CLUB



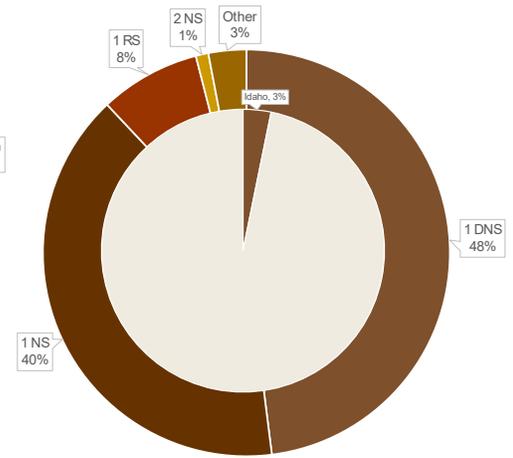
# 2025 QUALITY REPORT



SOFT WHITE



HARD RED WINTER



HARD RED SPRING

1,200,000 ACRES • 102,000,000 BUSHEL  
GRADE 1 OVERALL IN ALL CLASSES





 *Idaho*   
**WHEAT**