

IMPACT

University of Idaho
Extension

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Making money from your land: assisting hay producers on the Weippe prairie

AT A GLANCE

In 2015 a new workshop was developed to help local hay producers take advantage of the increasing markets for hay in the region.

The Situation

Hay prices have increased in recent years and hay is increasingly looked at as a viable economic use of land in the area. The Weippe Prairie of Clearwater County has productive hay ground with many producers growing grass hay for export. These producers have not had the benefit of Extension programming but need assistance to improve yields, keep informed of market conditions and control weeds.

Our Response

To address this gap, the workshop *North Central Idaho Hay Day* was developed in 2015 to provide hay producers with information to help them improve their hay production enterprise. Local hay producers were canvassed to learn their needs for information to tailor the program agenda.

The day-long workshop was held at the Fraser Community Center in May. Presentation topics included soils (Paul McDaniel, University of Idaho), hay varieties and growth characteristics for north-central Idaho (Steven Fransen, Washington State University), harvest management (Glenn Shewmaker, University of Idaho), fertilization (Daniel Sigler, CHS Primeland), marketing strategies (Shannon Neibergs, Washington State University), and ventenata control (Tim Prather, University of Idaho).



Loading round bales of alfalfa. Photo by Bill Warren.

Program Outcomes

The first North Central Idaho Hay Day attracted 34 participants (representing an estimated 5,821 acres of hay ground), 93% of which reported that the information presented was helpful, with 90% stating that they would be able to use what they learned. This workshop served as a model for a similar one to be conducted by UI Extension Boundary County in November.

Quotes from attendees: *"Excellent speakers and presentations."* *"Lots of really quality info."*

The Future

Based on the turnout and the feedback on this program it is anticipated that it will be repeated about every two years for the benefit of area hay producers.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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