

LIA Briefs . . .

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Congratulations to **Ray Matsuura, Class 21**, named by USDA Secretary Tom Vilsack to the US Potato Board. This is a three-year term. Ray has been involved in a farming operation near Blackfoot with his brother for 25 years. From 2002-2009, Ray served on the USDA Farm Service Agency State Committee.



Sympathy is extended to **Mary Hasenoehrl, Class 17**, whose husband Gary (53) died unexpectedly at the family farm on April 7 while working with his brother and one of his sons. Mary is an LIA Trustee.

Sympathy is also extended to **Chad Neeley, Class 19**, in the recent passing of his father.



Bob Hays, Class 28, retired on March 31 from the Idaho State Department of Agriculture after 20 years of service. Bob has worked for state government in other capacities for over 31 years. Bob was recently named a Commissioner for Meridian Cemetery District, the same board that Executive Director Rick Waitley has served on for over 12 years.



Josh Tewalt, Class 22, recently was featured on the front page of the Idaho Statesman in an article related to his climb through Idaho politics. Tewalt is currently the new Deputy Chief for the Bureau of Prisons. Josh was originally hired as a staff assistant to Governor Dirk Kempthorne and then served Congressman Butch Otter in a variety of other political positions within the Otter administration.



Over 1480 packets of material were mailed to potential participants in Class 32. Each person was sent a copy of the new promotional brochure for Leadership Idaho Agriculture.



Western Idaho Fair has recently announced a new opportunity for Idaho farm and ranch families. During the 2011 Western Idaho Fair at the end of August, 10 families in Idaho will be named as a **Farm Family Today**. The initiative will showcase today's farm families in a modern world, presenting them to their urban neighbors. Application deadline is June 15. You can complete the application online by visiting the Western Idaho Fair home page at www.idahofair.com. *Let's have a number of LIA farm and ranch families nominated to show our pride in Idaho's agriculture industry!* Displays about each winning family will be in the Food Producers of Idaho Ag Pavilion.



The LIA 25th Anniversary Committee developed a lapel pin in honor of the LIA 25th Anniversary Celebration. The pins can be purchased from the LIA office at a cost of \$4.00 each. They are a silver pin in the shape of Idaho with a blue and silver 25th Anniversary medallion attached and the words Leadership Idaho Agriculture. You can write for yours today by contacting Kay Johnson at kay@amgidaho.com.



A U of I graduate student needs practical farm experience. This young man's name is Robin and he is from India. He has been under the leadership of LIA alumnus **Dr. Mike Thornton, Class 12**. If you know of a farmer looking for some excellent help who could provide this young man some experience in farm management, please contact the LIA office or Mike at Parma R and E. The student mentioned that he is not so concerned about the pay as much as the opportunity to learn and develop an experience for his resume.



Congratulations to Lauren Clark, daughter of **Leah Clark, Class 26**, who won the Public Speaking Competition in Twin Falls at the State FFA Convention the first of April. Lauren will now compete at the National FFA Convention in the fall. Lauren is employed part-time after school at Association Management Group in Meridian.