

Leadership  
Idaho   
Agriculture  
Foundation

2022  
2023

**IMPACT REPORT**





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**COVER PHOTO BY:**

Taylor Grant, *LIA Class 35* | Grant 4-D Farms - Rupert, ID

**PHOTOS THROUGHOUT BY:**

LIA Alumni, LIA Class Co-Chairs, LIA Staff Members

**LAYOUT + DESIGN:**

Nic Gibson, *LIA Class 37* | Gibson Associates - Meridian, ID



# What is Leadership Idaho Agriculture?



LIA is the premier leadership development program for agriculture in the state of Idaho. LIA works to cultivate leaders in the state's biggest and most influential industry. Since 1985, LIA has been offering concentrated, hands-on learning experiences to improve leadership skills and develop advocates for agriculture who will serve as a voice for the industry for generations to come.

**WHAT IS THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN LIA & THE AG INDUSTRY?** The Core Program hosts premier speakers focusing on industry, agricultural influence, and state and local government that interact with regional agriculture. LIA strives to offer curriculum that addresses relevant issues facing agriculture including a commodity spotlight at each of the four sessions.

**HOW LONG HAS LIA BEEN AROUND?** In the late 1980's, society as a whole was moving to more urban environments, further away from their food source, thereby losing the first generation connection to agriculture. In 1985, a dedicated group of individuals came together and developed the initial framework for a program and LIA was born. LIA is a 501(c)(3) non-profit, governed by a Board of Trustees, and fully supported through alumni memberships and private donations.

**IS LIA A PUBLIC SPEAKING PROGRAM?** Yes and no. LIA is much more than public speaking. LIA takes a learning-based approach to developing leadership skills in personal and professional environments. A key part of leadership is practicing effective communication styles, conflict resolution, media training, and public speaking.

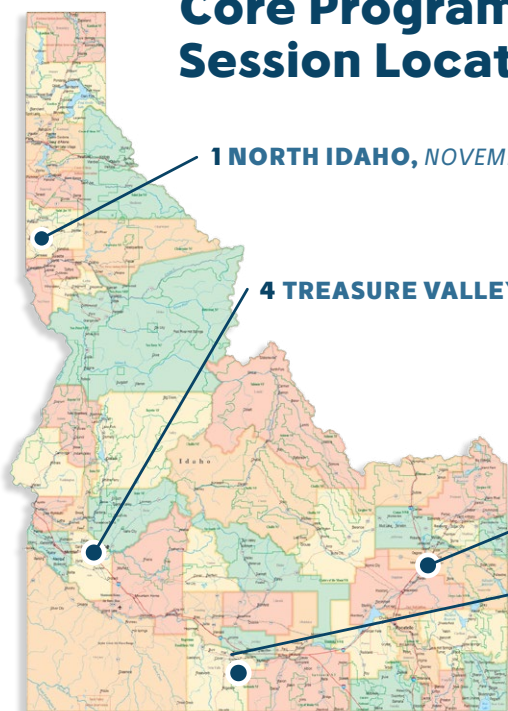
**WHAT IS THE TIME COMMITMENT?** The Core Program takes place over 18 days in four consecutive months November-February. A class of 30 will move around the state of Idaho starting in Moscow and ending in Boise. Attendance is required at all four sessions.

**WHAT HAPPENS AFTER YOU GRADUATE?** Once an individual has graduated from the Core Program, they are an alumnus of the program and are eligible to participate in alumni experiences and tours offered as continuing education opportunities (see page 11 for additional details).

**WHO IS AN IDEAL CANDIDATE?** LIA participants come from many different backgrounds across the state of Idaho. There is no one size fits all. A potential candidate for LIA is someone who works in or has a passion for the agricultural industry. The application process is highly competitive as only 30 individuals are selected annually.

**HOW MUCH DOES IT COST?** Tuition is currently set at \$3,000. Participants are responsible for lodging and travel, and scholarship support is available.

## Core Program Session Locations



1 NORTH IDAHO, NOVEMBER

4 TREASURE VALLEY, FEBRUARY

2 EAST IDAHO, DECEMBER

3 MAGIC VALLEY, JANUARY

Since 1985, 43 classes made up of 1,100 individuals have graduated from LIA. The LIA Alumni network reaches far into the framework of Idaho Agriculture and serves as advocates for the agricultural industry.

**APPLICATIONS ARE DUE AUGUST 1ST! SCAN OR VISIT:**

[WWW.LEADERSHIPIDAHOAG.ORG](http://WWW.LEADERSHIPIDAHOAG.ORG)



# How is my Donation Utilized?

## PROGRAM

- Continuing to grow and enhance the LIA Program to stay relevant in an ever-changing ag climate
- Continuing to develop the next generation of leaders in agriculture who will serve as industry advocates
- Continuing to elevate the profile of Leadership Idaho Agriculture as the premier organization in developing future leaders
- Continuing to keep tuition costs at a minimum to attract new industries and participants
- Continuing to expand alumni activities for continued learning and leadership development

## BENEFITS OF GIVING

- Interaction with participants and alumni
- Exclusive sponsorship and naming opportunities
- Attendance at the Alumni Gala + Auction
- Promotion and exposure to over 1,100 alumni and organizational supporters

It's important to keep our silos full. Our organizational strategy is made up of these areas of giving: **Program**, **Tuition**, and **Endowment**. Each play a vitally important role and work together to sustain the LIA Program. All donations are 100% tax-deductible.

## TUITION

- Support for production agriculture participants
- Support for specific industry participants
- Support for the LIA Scholarship Fund
- Support for the Washington DC Experience and State Exchange Trip

## BENEFITS OF GIVING

- Verbal recognition by participants in the program
- Printed recognition in class promotion and correspondence
- Individual support for customers, employees, and industry associates
- Promotion and exposure to over 1,100 alumni and organizational supporters

## ENDOWMENT

- Ensures the longevity of LIA
- Ensures organizational relevance in an ever-changing ag climate
- Ensures development of leaders in agriculture for years to come

## BENEFITS OF GIVING

- Legacy giving
- Multi-year giving
- Promotion and exposure to over 1,100 alumni and organizational supporters

Leadership  
Idaho  
Agriculture

INTERESTED IN SUPPORTING LIA? CONTACT DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR, KENDRA DUSTIN AT [KENDRA@AMGIDAHO.COM](mailto:kendra@amgIDAHO.COM)





# Annual Report

July 1, 2022 - June 30, 2023

## INCOME

Membership	\$ 20,475.00
Tuition	\$ 90,602.94
Partnerships	\$ 412,263.47

**TOTAL INCOME** **\$ 523,341.41**

## EXPENSE

Administration	\$ 189,889.49
Ag Summit	\$ 39,447.10
Alumni	\$ 4,753.62
Auction	\$ 68,796.93
Congressional Aides Tour	\$ 23,634.83
Foundation Operations	\$ 16,105.29
Golf Scramble	\$ 11,402.50
Office Operations	\$ 15,742.12
Program	\$ 75,091.31
Promotional	\$ 4,005.17
Tailgate Talks	\$ 39,667.48

**TOTAL EXPENSE** **\$ 488,535.84**

## INVESTMENTS

Fidelity	\$ 393,867.01
Idaho Community Foundation	\$ 87,303.44

*LIA is funded through the generous support of foundation donors (noted above in Partnerships) and alumni membership dues. This support allows LIA to keep participant tuition at a minimum and maintain affordability for participants while continuing to enhance programs available to alumni and participants.*

# Expanding Perspecti

## EXECUTIVE PROGRAM DIRECTOR'S PERSPECTIVE:

July 1, 2022, marked the start of the 37th year of the Leadership Idaho Agriculture program in Idaho. From 24 individuals in Class 1, to a full class of 30 in Class 43, LIA has reached a milestone graduating a total of 1,100 graduates. Graduates in the early years of the classes largely remained in Idaho but, just as society has transitioned, graduates from LIA are literally located around the globe.

The pool of applicants for the program continues to grow and each year the caliber of individuals remains strong with leaders from all corners of the state. It is nearly impossible to walk into a board meeting or gathering in Idaho ag where you will not identify a handful of LIA graduates. More and more of those graduating are reinvesting in their local communities serving on school boards, irrigation districts, planning and zoning commissions

and running for city and county positions of leadership. LIA has opened horizons of opportunities and provided these individuals with the strong tools of leadership that gives them an edge in their role in government, organizations, associations, and companies.

**While it is great to acknowledge the roles of leadership that many graduates have assumed since completing the program, most important to me is the personal satisfaction and professional growth that many graduates have gained from their LIA experience.**

It has been my privilege to lead classes through their LIA journey since 1993. I believe that this program is more critical now than ever before as the growth in Idaho has changed the landscape of our state we must continue to develop advocates for agriculture and a voice for our industry.

## CHAIRMAN'S PERSPECTIVE:

It has been a wonderful year serving as Chairman, and to be able to work with such great people who care about the success of LIA and agriculture in this state. A special thank you to all the wonderful people who have contributed to another year of success for the organization. In my six years of being on the Board of Trustees, I have seen growth and determination to keep LIA an organization that will continue to thrive in the coming years.

This year we had another successful auction with great attendance and support, and Class 43 did a fabulous job securing items for the auction and had a wonderful class prize. Our first state exchange trip to Kentucky had great turnout, excellent tours, and many learning opportunities. We are looking forward to future trips to other states.





# ves & Opportunities

As agriculture continues to thrive in our great state, LIA pushes forward, supporting individuals through their journey and equipping good leaders to become great leaders. As my term comes to an end, LIA will continue to move forward. As has been done for 37 years, it is my hope that the organization will continue to encourage our alumni to be engaged in their communities, and empower individuals to have the courage to influence others to do great things.

#### **DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR'S PERSPECTIVE:**

This was an exciting year for LIA. After the past few years of trying to figure out what was going to happen next in the world, and how that would affect what we were trying to do, LIA was finally able to jump back in with both feet and move forward with the priorities that were outlined in our strategic plan. We could not do this without all of the generous donors who give annually toward Leadership Idaho Agriculture to support the development of leaders through our core program and toward the vision of program expansion.

**Expanding the opportunities for alumni engagement continues to be a high priority for LIA as we have spanned three decades of classes and over 1,100 graduates.**

In the past year, I have been fortunate to expand my role outside of only development work to also take the lead on our special program expansion which includes the State Exchange Program, Congressional Aides Fact Finding Tour, and the Washington DC Experience. These opportunities are so valuable for alumni.

As I enter my 13th year with LIA, I am still blown away by how this organization continues to grow and adapt to the various changes and challenges facing Idaho agriculture. Thank you for trusting me with the opportunity to tell your story and advocate for the future of this program on a daily basis. I can't wait to see what's in store for LIA in the coming years.



Rick Waitley, *Class 8*  
LIA Executive Program Director



Neil Durrant, *Class 34*  
LIA Board of Trustees Chairman



Kendra Dustin, *Class 32*  
LIA Development Director

# Leadership Idaho Agriculture's Impact in a

## AUGUST 2022

### LIA Congressional Aides Fact Finding Tour Treasure Valley Emphasis

*Eight Congressional Aides representing members of the US House of Representatives participated in a four-day tour of the Treasure Valley. The tours were hosted and presented by LIA Alumni and leaders in Idaho's agriculture industry. Visits focused on onion and alfalfa seed production, hop industry, Syngenta Seed Research, Timber Creek Recycling, corn and bean field trials, Koenig Distillery and Vineyards, Panel on Immigration, Idaho's Water Infrastructure, National Interagency Fire Center, CS Meat Packing Plant and Embryology Lab.*



Congressional Aides Fact Finding Tour

## OCTOBER 2022

### LIA State Exchange Trip: Kentucky

*32 LIA alumni and guests participated in the first ever LIA State Exchange trip to Kentucky. Partnered with our sister organization, Kentucky Ag Leadership, LIA spent a week immersed in Kentucky commodities learning directly from producers about the issues facing agriculture in the state. Participants learned about the equine industry and horse racing, the corn industry and the demand based on the booming bourbon industry, poultry, cattle, and the state's legacy crop of tobacco.*



Tobacco Drying Barn in Kentucky



# Year

## NOVEMBER 2022

### Class 43 North Idaho Session (Moscow)

- Commodity Spotlight - Pulse Crops
- Dressing Professionally
- Time Management
- Forest and Timber Industry in Idaho
- Green Energy Issues Facing Idaho

## DECEMBER 2022

### Class 43 Eastern Idaho Session (Idaho Falls)

- Commodity Spotlight - Potatoes
- Your Personal Workstyle with Others
- Understanding Mental Health Issues and How to Manage Stress
- Understanding Public Policy
- Speaking and Thinking on Your Feet

## JANUARY 2023

### Class 43 Magic Valley (Twin Falls)

- Commodity Spotlight: Dairy
- Media Training
- Etiquette Training
- Water Law and Water Issues in Idaho
- Effective Meetings
- Idaho Business in Education



Moscow Session of LIA Class 43



LIA Class 43 Tour during Idaho Falls Session



Media Training at Twin Falls Session with Dee Sarton





LIA Class 43 at the Idaho State Capitol Building in Boise

## FEBRUARY 2023

### Class 43 Treasure Valley Session (Boise)

- Public Policy & State Government Spotlight
- Strolling Supper with Legislators
- Speaking before the Governor
- Pro/Con Panel Presentation
- The Legal side of Agriculture
- Legislative Committees and floor action
- The role of lobbyists in the Legislature

### Class 43 Graduation

#### Idaho Ag Summit

*Presented by LIA, this special two-day event focused on “New Frontiers – Driving Agriculture Innovation.” Attendees gathered to learn, network, and honor five Governor’s Award winners for Excellence in Agriculture.*

#### LIA Alumni Gala + Auction

*Over 500 LIA Alumni and friends gathered together for an evening supporting LIA, and focusing on graduates who have made an impact in Idaho agriculture. Over \$150,000 was raised for the LIA Foundation, specifically for scholarships and program expansion.*



LIA Class 43 hosts the Annual Gala + Auction



LIA Class 43 Speeches before the Governor

SPONSORED BY:



## JUNE 2023

### LIA Alumni & Friends Golf Scramble

*A total of 23 teams participated in the 6th Annual LIA Golf Scramble at Canyon Springs on a beautiful day in the Magic Valley to support the LIA Foundation. “Fries on 14” returned with fresh McCain fries on the 14th hole, a great opportunity for the LIA staff and board to interact with players while they sampled one of Idaho’s most prized commodities! This event continues to be a great opportunity to gather alumni and recruit potential candidates for LIA.*

SPONSORS:



Golf Scramble & “Fries on 14” in Twin Falls



# Strategically Speaking

## 2018 Strategic Plan Comes to a Close, What's Next for LIA?

**Rick Waitley, LIA Executive Program Director**

In 2018, the LIA Board of Trustees contracted with a professional facilitator to be led through a strategic plan that would help chart the course of LIA for a period of five years. 2023 marked the final year of that plan. In reviewing the results of the plan, the board and organization would get an A+ for achievement. Some of the accomplishments over the past five years are outlined below:



Financially, LIA is in a solid position with invested funds that now work on behalf of the organization. The finance and investment committee carefully monitors the opportunities to return income from investments. An endowment was created to give LIA the ability to accept major and planned gifts and the development work has allowed the organization to continue to grow and expand programs offered to graduates.



The Board of Trustees provides strong leadership to the organization. A new committee structure from the plan has helped build a solid foundation for the organization. The results can be seen in increased stability financially, more engagement of alumni, governance of the organization and expanded curriculum for LIA sessions.



A State Exchange was a top priority in the plan. This would give alumni a chance to visit another state and learn about their agriculture practices. The first state selected was Kentucky, and the tour sold out quickly. Over 1,800 miles away, Kentucky's climate, soil, and ag resources are totally different than Idaho. For the 31 participants who ventured for this initial exchange, the trip was a huge success (see highlights on page 8). Special thanks to Kendra Dustin, Development Director for the Foundation, who spearheaded the arrangements for this tour.



As an added bonus, there were two NEW programs that LIA inherited that had not been considered: The Larry Branen Idaho Ag Summit and the Congressional Aides Fact Finding Tour. While these had not been specific priorities, one component in the plan was to expand the opportunities for alumni. Both programs have provided leadership opportunities and a chance to deepen the advocacy for Idaho agriculture, allowing LIA alumni to interact with leaders in Idaho agriculture farm and commodity organizations. This has resulted in deepened relationships that have advanced the agriculture industry in the Gem State.

## Looking Forward:

**The Board of Trustees will be embarking on a new strategic plan that will seek to explore and identify opportunities for growth and outline strategic goals for the organization.**

# LIA Alumni Opportunities

*One of the greatest accomplishments that came of our strategic plan was the ability to expand our program offerings to the growing number of over 1,100 alumni. Surveys indicated there was a strong desire for graduates to participate in continuing education, practice their leadership and speaking skills, and have the opportunity to experience agriculture in different parts of the country and the world.*

## CONNECTING:

**LIA LINK CALLS:** Born during the COVID shut-down, when many people found themselves at home, these video calls were a resource for those searching for information about what was happening in our industry and the world. Now, once a month, alumni still come together to listen to relevant speakers on timely topics.

## LEADING:

**CONGRESSIONAL AIDES FACT FINDING TOUR:** LIA alumni serve as tour coordinators and presenters for this tour held annually each August. The tour hosts a dozen congressional staff from the House Agriculture Committee in Washington DC for an in-depth experience with Idaho issues and western agriculture. LIA alumni utilize this opportunity to tell their story in a way that can directly impact ag policy.

## LEARNING:

**WASHINGTON DC EXPERIENCE:** This weeklong immersion into the culture of our Nation's Capital builds on the foundation that was established in the core program. Participants meet with the members of Idaho's congressional delegation, gain a better understanding of national agricultural organizations, and tour various government agencies and landmarks.

**STATE EXCHANGE TRIPS:** Exchange trips provide the opportunity for graduates to visit another state and learn about their ag industry while also having the chance to interact with their state's ag leadership program. While each state offers many unique perspectives and tours, the greatest impact of this experience is the opportunity to connect with producers who, although thousands of miles away, face similar challenges and concerns.



LIA LINK Calls



Congressional Aides Touring Hartman Farms



Kentucky State Exchange Trip for LIA Alumni



# LIA GIVING BACK

*As an organization, LIA believes in giving back to others by investing in future leaders, being thoughtful citizens, and educating our communities on the importance of agriculture in Idaho.*

**ROOTS AFRICA:** LIA was instrumental in the life of Roots Africa Founder, Cedric Nwafor (LIA Affiliate Member). Roots Africa is an organization that empowers and teaches young people resilient agriculture and entrepreneurship in African countries. Since its founding, LIA alumni have served as mentors both virtually and in person to emerging young leaders. In May, two LIA alumni had the opportunity to join Roots on their leadership trip to Uganda (see guest editorial on page 14).



Roots Africa Founder, Cedric Nwafor

**STATE FFA OFFICER TRAINING:** The six incoming state FFA officers connect with LIA staff and alumni for a training on being a state officer and how to develop leadership in the next 12 months. The training is a reduced version of LIA core training, and includes how to conduct business and industry visits, as well as resources that can be used for Chapter visits for all ages of students the officers will be connecting with in high schools throughout the state.



2022-23 State FFA Officers

**BYU PUBLIC POLICY CLASS:** Annually, BYU brings students to Boise to study public policy issues and operations of the Idaho Legislature. LIA has served as a co-sponsor with Idaho Water Users in providing an opportunity for students to interact and ask questions of State Legislators.

**BABY CAPS AND BLANKETS:** LIA has a strong statewide network. A group of ladies in Boise knit newborn caps and blankets for several hospitals in Idaho. LIA alumni have helped to deliver these completed items to birthing centers located in Sandpoint, Moscow, Cottonwood, Grangeville, and Twin Falls.

**ARTITORIUM:** The ARTitorium, located in Idaho Falls, recognizes October as Agriculture Appreciation Month. LIA has been a sponsor with Idaho Preferred and Food Producers of Idaho to provide educational materials to thousands of children who visit in October. One dedicated weekend, outside of the building, the ARTitorium puts together a hands-on agriculture opportunity featuring farm animals and other exhibits that give visitors the opportunity to experience Idaho agriculture up close and personal.



GUEST EDITORIAL BY:  
**Ron Jones, LIA Class 2**

# Roots Africa

## A Story Rooted in Idaho Agriculture



Our journey to Uganda started with a visit from Cedric Nwafor to Idaho in 2019. I had the opportunity to spend two days with Cedric showing him the Magic Valley and learning about agriculture in the small village he grew up in located in Cameroon, Africa. Cedric often tells his story of finding his calling on a LIA Foundation trip to Idaho in 2014, after being amazed at the productivity of agriculture here. It inspired him, and he is inspiring others, to see the opportunity to improve agricultural communities by training young local leaders thus leading to the founding of Roots Africa.

In April 2023, Teri Murrison (LIA Affilate Member) and I flew from Boise to Seattle, then directly to Qatar (15 hour flight) before connecting on to Entebbe, Uganda, where we would spend the next two weeks exploring southeastern Uganda to see the work of Roots Africa. Our group of nine Americans also included an agronomist and a pumpkin farmer from North Dakota. We were a small diverse group connected by our interests in agriculture and the work of Roots Africa. Each of us brought a different ag background knowledge – but most had never actually set foot in Uganda.

Entebbe, Uganda, rests along the western shore of Lake Victoria, the source of the Nile River, almost on the equator, just a few miles south of the capital city, Kampala. We were met at the airport by two Ugandans and a Nigerian who work ‘on the ground’ for Roots Africa. Much of rural Africa suffers from a brain-drain of bright young people migrating to the cities because they haven’t seen opportunity to live well in rural villages. We Americans don’t often consider how blessed and lucky we are to live in our Idaho communities with so much support and encouragement from groups like LIA, U of I, 4H, FFA, the banking system, the transportation system, the marketing systems, etc. that are underdeveloped in much of Africa.

If the work of Roots Africa can be summarized, it is the phrase emblazoned on their t-shirts: **“AFRICA DOESN’T NEED CHARITY – IT NEEDS CHANGEMAKERS.”** Those of us who grew up around 4H and FFA were reminded of the principals of developing leadership through a combination of training, mentoring, and supporting young people interested in agriculture. With a minimum of resources (money) these young people are carrying out projects to learn agricultural innovations and take them to their home farms and villages. Most of these projects can be quickly scaled to reach people who are watching closely for any opportunity to improve their lives. For subsistence farmers, a small amount of extra cash can help support their families and pay to educate their children.

What we saw as we traveled to agricultural universities and farms in Uganda were people working hard to improve their lives with their own initiative, along with some guidance and support from







Roots Africa. They weren't expecting us to build dams or railroads or give donations. The political situation there means that much foreign aid is diverted before it reaches the farmers and villages.

One of my favorite memories of the trip was when I was standing in a soybean field talking to farmers about rotations, seed selection, and ways to improve production. They had planted and maintained 2.5 acres of soybean foundation level seed with no mechanical tools and no synthetic fertilizer or pesticides. The beans looked good for only their second year of producing soybeans, and they had learned a lot. They had learned a hard lesson about buying seed from an unreliable source without the germination testing we take for granted. Undaunted, they are pressing ahead with learning how to interseed soybeans amongst the coffee, banana, and corn they already grow. This is one of many projects supported by Roots Africa.

We visited a remote village that has developed their own local cooperative. They have a 'credit union' with excellent loan repayment history and save a portion of the interest earning to support young people going to school. The village recognizes the need to educate their children and create opportunity so they'll return to the village.

At Mountains of the Moon University, near the border of the Republic of Congo, a very enthusiastic professor led us on a tour of their jungle research farm where they teach students how to harvest food and make a living through a complex holistic system where they don't clear the jungle. He testifies how that method will raise more food and make more money than the common practice of clearing the land.

Some of the young leaders in Roots Africa are developing vertical coffee projects where they teach farmers then help them plant the coffee, grow it, process it, and market it. One quizzed me about the possibilities for macadamia nut production. (Not something we usually grow here, but I was able to connect him to growers in Hawaii.)

Cedric has worked hard and connected with the right people to build a program that is scalable throughout Africa – if they can develop good leadership and some funding support. The COVID pandemic forced Roots Africa to develop online training programs that are much more cost efficient than sending outside experts to Africa. I was impressed by how much they accomplish with very modest funding. Like farmers everywhere, a shortage of capital has been partially replaced by determination and ingenuity.

I believe that in any group of people there are some born leaders who can be coached and mentored to improve. There is another group that has the ability to lead but doesn't know it. Given training, they can become effective leaders, even without official status or recognition. I think that's a premise of programs like LIA and it can be applied to the work of Roots Africa. The future of Africa (and Idaho) can be shaped by developing local "changemakers." Seeing the effects of nearly 40 years of LIA makes it easy to support this innovative organization working toward similar goals.

**Scan to learn more about Cedric's story and the Roots Africa organization >>**



# CONGRATULATIONS

## McINTYRE FARMS 2023 LEGACY FARM FAMILY

SPONSORED BY:



The McIntyre family started farming in 1909. Father Loren (LIA Class 32) and sons, Ben and Brad (LIA Class 29), run the farm as the third and fourth generations. The farm started with row crops and raising animals, including a small dairy and watermelons. Loren's dad also started an alfalfa business, which is still part of the operation today. Fast forward to 2009, after returning from college, Ben and Brad were picking up rocks in fields and began to wonder why the rocks just seemed to keep coming up. This led them down the road in many directions, to no-till, and a study of the biology of the soil.



The McIntyres realized that life below ground was just as essential as life above. They started bringing more cows back on the land to help build soil and to utilize the refuse left through the no-tilling practice. Their goal was to build the land the way nature did instead of with artificial fertilizers and pesticides. This means more cows as well as pastured hogs, chickens, and turkeys, which follow in rotation behind the cattle. Pastured laying hens are the perfect 'sanitizer' to clean up flies and live the way nature intended, free to graze on lush pasture and build the soil's health. They graze and grow cover crops, and never let their soil go "naked." Rotations include grasses, forages, brassicas, peppermint, and more. They work to educate and sell the cover crop seeds that they grow along with their animals.

Like it has been for generations, McIntyre Farms continues to be a family affair. They have a great passion for soil health and love teaching people about agriculture. Together they have built a remarkable organic empire with an impressive local distribution as well as a robust social media following. Throughout the year, various family members are called on to help, which is part of what makes the operation so special. There are always lots of kids running around and enjoying the beautiful way of life on the farm. It is evident that the entire McIntyre family cherishes life together on the farm. If you have the chance, follow them on social media or pay them a visit and you will see for yourself the love of what they do.

### PAST RECIPIENTS OF THIS AWARD:

2022 – Hartman Farms  
2020 – TLK Farms and Dairies  
2019 – Grant 4-D Farms  
2018 – Big D Ranch







# LARRY BRANEN **IDAHO** AG ♦ SUMMIT

Presented by  Leadership Idaho Agriculture



The Idaho Ag Summit has a rich history with many chapters. Nearly 30 years ago, a group of Idaho agriculture leaders came together under the leadership of State Department of Agriculture Marketing Director Kelly Olson, LIA Class 16, to discuss various matters facing Idaho agriculture. From that meeting, an idea was born to create a two-day Summit that would attract the leadership of commodity and farming organizations to address current issues. The concept was simple. Gather annually around a themed Summit and bring in quality presenters on timely and relevant topics then break up into small groups to discuss and bring possible solutions to the issues at hand. From that the Idaho Ag Summit was developed.

In 2004, the name was changed to the Larry Branen Idaho Ag Summit in honor of Dr. Branen who served over 25 years at the University of Idaho, providing outstanding leadership to Idaho agriculture and Idaho's Land Grant Institution. In 2022, Leadership Idaho Agriculture began presenting the Larry Branen Idaho Ag Summit.

Over the years, the summit has grown to include the following key components:

- Strolling Dinner with Legislators and State FFA Officers
- Governor's Awards for Excellence in Agriculture
- Pat Takasugi Leadership Award to a commodity leader

The Idaho Ag Summit Planning Committee meets annually to establish the Summit theme, program content, awards, and overall plan for the summit. A volunteer chairman and co-chairman take responsibility for a major portion of the summit in conjunction with staff. Many LIA alumni have served as a co-chairman of the Summit, as mem-

bers of the Planning Committee, and have received recognition in one of the five areas of Excellence established by the Governor.

As the LIA alumni network continued to grow, and the Summit continued to be successful, it was a natural progression that a permanent home for the Summit would be within LIA. In 2020, this was decided, and Idaho Ag Summit officially became a part of LIA. The LIA Foundation provides support by way of sponsorships, fundraising, and staffing which allowed for continued growth and expansion of Idaho Ag Summit.

Leadership Idaho Agriculture is thrilled to have the Larry Branen Idaho Ag Summit as a part of the LIA family. We hope to see you at future Summits.

## GOVERNOR'S AWARD RECIPIENTS

### EDUCATION/ADVOCACY

**\*Susi Larrocea, Meridian**

### ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP

**\*Justin Place, Hamer**

### MARKETING INNOVATION

**\*Jim & Hillary Lowe, Kuna**

### TECHNICAL INNOVATION

**Darin Moon, Burley**

### LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT

**Scott Brown, Soda Springs**

*\* LIA Alumni*





# Congratulations

## LIA Class 43 Graduates

These quality men and women came from diverse backgrounds and regions, but all shared a common commitment to agriculture and rural Idaho. They have joined the ranks of over 1,100 alumni who are currently making a difference locally, regionally, and nationally. This network of graduates provides leadership to a wide range of organizations and industries.

Front Row (L to R): Maryellen Zeise; Lizzie Allender; Shawna Adams; Wendy Calvert; Megan Satterwhite; Jordan McClintick-Chess; Lori Idsinga; Allison Jenkins; Kim Glineski; Xiaoli Etienne

Second Row (L to R): Pamela Pavek; Paul Huddlestun; John Richards; Brogan Parkin; Brody Isham; Paul Firth; Kody Youree; Sharayh Krantz; Shawn Boyle, Co-Chair; Cori Wittman Stitt, Co-Chair

Third Row (L to R): Ashlee Struble; Ryan Franco; Jason Thomas; Royd Carlson; Dan Sievers; Bronson Larsen; Corbin Knowles; Kyle Myers; Trevor Knudsen; Tay Brackett, Krista Huettig



# LIA CLASS 43 AT A GLANCE

## TOURS

Boyer Farms | Lindsay Creek Winery  
Spudnik, Glanbia Innovation Center  
Idaho Power Headquarters

# 39.8

AVERAGE AGE  
OF CLASS 42

# 10

PARTICIPANTS IN  
PRODUCTION AG

## PRO/CON TOPIC GREEN ENERGY: FRIEND OR FOE?

Pro/Con is an ongoing project through the four sessions. A relevant public policy issue is selected by the Board and the class is split and assigned a side to argue. The goal is to research, evaluate, debate, and educate on their assigned side of the issue and present their findings to a panel of experts.

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# TAILGATE TALKS

REUNIONES RÁPIDAS

Tailgate Talks was initially created by Idaho Dairymen's Association (IDA) as manager-led safety discussions for dairy workers available in both English and Spanish. In 2021, spearheaded by LIA Class 41, the idea to take the original Tailgate Talks content and make it "agriculture neutral," not specific to one commodity, was presented to the Board of Trustees. The Board saw a great opportunity to work in collaboration with IDA, on the development of an agricultural neutral version of tailgate talks that would work to address issues of farm safety.

The finished product was rolled out in January 2022 and included six new additional topics:

**Electrical Safety**  
**Grain Bin Safety**  
**Harvest Safety**  
**Irrigation Safety**  
**Mental Health**  
**Off-Road Vehicle Operation**

Over 2000 copies have already been distributed across the state. The goal of Tailgate Talks is to promote agricultural safety and ultimately reduce the number of accidents that happen on a farm or ranch. By providing a resource that farm managers can use anytime, anywhere, it is the hope that these resources will increase dialogue on these very important issues. Resources are printed in both English and Spanish and are meant to be quick efficient ways to facilitate conversation, with each topic lasting about 5-10 minutes each.



If you are interested in learning more about Tailgate Talks or purchasing copies, please visit the website below.

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