

HOW DOES IDAHO RANK IN THE UNITED STATES?

9th in TOTAL FORAGE PRODUCTION:
12 MILLION TONS

2nd in ALFALFA YIELD:
4.2 MILLION TONS

6th in ALFALFA ACREAGE:
1 MILLION ACRES

3rd in HAY & HAYLAGE PRODUCTION:
\$932 MILLION

14th in TOTAL HAY ACREAGE:
1.33 MILLION ACRES

7th in CORN SILAGE YIELD:
5.9 MILLION TONS

3rd in ORGANIC HAY PRODUCTION:
61,077 TONS (IN 2014)



ABOUT IHFA

Formed in 1995, Idaho Hay and Forage Association, Inc. is an organization that represents the hay and forage producers and allied industry members. We have six basic objectives:

- 1) Develop a coordinated, unified, statewide hay and forage program.
- 2) Establish a uniform grading system for all hay and forage marketed in the State of Idaho.
- 3) Acquire, preserve and disseminate useful information pertinent to the hay and forage industry.
- 4) Develop an Idaho State Hay and Forage Directory for the purpose of promoting the hay and forage industry both in and out of the State of Idaho.
- 5) Encourage research, testing and educational programs for the benefit of the Idaho hay and forage industry.
- 6) Be actively involved in all legislative matters pertaining to the hay and forage industry.

CONTACT

Idaho Hay and Forage Association
55 SW 5th Avenue, Suite 100
Meridian, ID 83642
ph: 208-888-0988 fx: 208-888-4586
e: rick@amgidaho.com
WWW.IDAHOHAY.COM



HAY + FORAGE

WWW.IDAHOHAY.COM



BASIC TERMINOLOGY

BALE : Condensed bundle of hay, haylage, or straw tightly bound with twine, net, or wire

CEREAL PLANT : Any grass that produces an edible grain

FORAGE : Vegetative portion of plants in a fresh, dried, or ensiled state

GREEN CHOP : Fresh forages harvested in the field and fed to livestock

HAY : Dried forage used for feeding farm animals

HAYLAGE : Ensiled forage with about 45% moisture in absence of oxygen

SILAGE : Green or dried forage that is chopped into a silo where it is compressed to exclude air and undergoes an acid fermentation that retards spoilage

STRAW : Dry stalks of cereal plants after the grain has been removed

SWATH : Layer of forage left by mowers or windrowers that are wider than windrows and have not been raked

TEDDING : Mechanical fluffing of cut forage in the field to aid drying

WINDROW : Narrow band of forage remaining after raking a swath

COUNTIES LEADING IDAHO IN HAY + FORAGE PRODUCTION:

- ★ Owyhee
- ★ Twin Falls
- ★ Jerome
- ★ Cassia
- ★ Bingham
- ★ Jefferson



INTERESTING FACTS

Harvest of irrigated alfalfa in **SOUTHERN** Idaho begins around May 15, with the last cutting occurring around October 15.

Harvest of alfalfa in **NORTHERN** Idaho begins around July 4, with a second cutting in late July or early August.

Alfalfa is harvested:

- 4-5 times in **SOUTHWESTERN** Idaho
- 3-4 times in **SOUTHCENTRAL** Idaho
- 3 times in **SOUTHEASTERN** Idaho
- 2 times in **NORTHERN** Idaho
(less cuttings = fewer frost-free days)

In a 4-cutting season, the first cutting usually accounts for about 35-38% of the year's total yield.

In a 5-cutting season, the first cutting contributes about 27% of the year's total yield.

Annual yields average 4 tons/acre but range from 2 to 10 tons/acre.

HARVESTING

