



STATE OF IDAHO

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

C.L. "BUTCH" OTTER
Governor
CELIA R. GOULD
Director

Welcome to the 2017 Western Association of State Departments of Agriculture Annual Meeting

Idaho is honored to host the 2017 Western Association of State Departments of Agriculture Annual Meeting in Sun Valley, ID July 24 – 27, 2016. We are proud of our state and welcome the opportunity to show you why we love living and working in Idaho.

The WASDA Annual Meeting is a key event for uniting agricultural initiatives and public policies in the West. We look forward to a productive meeting as we discuss important issues and generate solutions to state and regional problems.

Idaho is a strong agriculture state, ranking in the top 10 in the U.S. for over 25 crops and livestock. Food and beverage processing are also important in Idaho, representing our state's second largest manufacturing industry. Our food processing sector continues to grow in large part because we have tremendous agricultural diversity and a government structure that moves at the speed of business.

As part of this year's meeting, we plan to show you some of Idaho's great agricultural companies and facilities. We will visit Chobani's state-of-the-art plant in Twin Falls. This facility is the largest yogurt manufacturing plant in the world and produces all of the new Chobani Flips products. We will also visit Monsanto's recently-opened Wheat Technology Center. The center serves as a vital wheat breeding research and development facility. Our tour will also include a stop at Clear Springs Foods, the leading producer of premium rainbow trout. Clear Springs Foods holds well over 50 percent of the total U.S. production for rainbow trout, and Idaho is the number one trout producer in the country. I am confident that these tours will be one of the highlights of the WASDA 2017 Annual Meeting.

I invite you to attend this important meeting and visit the great State of Idaho. We look forward to welcoming you in July.

Sincerely,

Celia Gould
Director