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### “Quote of the Week”

Middle age is when your broad mind and narrow waist begin to change places.

E. Joseph Crossman

The U of A Board of Directors meeting was held May 17-18 in Salt Lake City. This summary provides an overview. To protect confidential information, sensitive details have been omitted; feel free to contact your local UPGA Board member to learn more.

#### Region reports:

- **Colorado** – Jed Ellithorpe reported that planting is 85 percent completed. The chapter experienced an increase in membership this spring. Acreage production appears on track.
- **Idaho** – Jerry Wright reported that planting is 95 percent completed. Weather has been conducive to planting. The initial Norkotah acres will be down from last year, and members have reduced acres 15 percent from last year. Jerry has traveled the state presenting the dehydration deal. The Idaho co-op has formed United II, a co-op for United members only. United II has surpassed sign-up goals and has picked up 12,500 new acres. Membership in United II now represents 85 percent of fresh acres in Idaho. A preliminary proposal has been presented to an international bank to underwrite the long-term financing of the dehy deal.

**Nevada** – Ron Offutt has agreed to join United with RDO fresh acres in Nevada. He will be the Board director representing Nevada, with Keith McGovern and Tyler Falk as alternates. RDO was able to join only with its fresh acres, since Ron is a large contract fry grower and has a joint venture with and is co-owner of the Lamb Weston fry plant in Park Rapids, Minnesota.

**Kern** – Mike Haddad reported that the desert crop planting was finished

May 3 and that production was not very good. Overall, the crop out of the desert was about 1/3 of normal. Prices are good, with yellow and whites very strong. Harvest of Russets begins June 4, and everyone should be online by June 11. Stockton growers with 1,000 acres are possibly interested in joining. Larry Minor, Inland Empire, has been approached about joining and may be interested, depending on the evolution of the United red pack plan and programs.

**Klamath Basin** – Ed Staunton reported that planting is ahead of schedule and should be finished in a week. Weather has been good, and some potatoes have started emerging. No member meeting has been held recently because of planting schedules. Stocks are very manageable, and Klamath is receiving better data from the shipping reports.

**Southwest** – Keith Barrett reported that planting is behind a week to 10 days in the Texas Panhandle. Kansas is on schedule. Acres will be down in the Southwest this year. This is the first year they've had good data, and some growers are watching to see how United works for the Southwest. They expect a 15 percent or more reduction in acreage in Kansas.

**Washington/Oregon** – Dave Long reported that there will be approximately a 15 percent reduction by fresh growers. Yields were down last year. Crops are ahead of the usual timetable and look better than ever, without frost damage. Barring adverse growing conditions, the basin is developing a potentially large crop. Membership is unchanged.

**Wisconsin** – Russ Wysocki reported that they will have a firm 15 percent reduction with their cutback. Participation in providing data has been good, and the co-op board is becoming more active. Growers are lined up to secure processing contracts.

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## FSA Records Needed

Growers: when you are in the FSA office, please bring a copy of the 578 form (the farm summary and the associated farm and tract detail listings) to the UNITED office so Dwight can review the intentions against the actual plantings. You might have a refund coming if your actual plantings are less than your intentions.

