

New Crop Residue Burning Program

Growers in Idaho will be allowed to burn crop residue under a new program expected to begin early September 2008.

The new program will require growers to register their fields, pay a \$2 per acre fee, and obtain approval from the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) before burning. DEQ expects to begin accepting registrations on August 1, 2008. Registration needs to occur at least 30 days prior to the proposed burning. Growers must also have completed field burning training within the past five years.

Burning will be allowed on fields where crops were grown. Burning baled material such as old hay or straw is not allowed. Fields may only be ignited by reburn machines, propane flammers, or other portable devices. Burning will be limited to weekdays during daylight hours only. Burning on weekends or holidays is prohibited.

The new program applies statewide to all lands other than the five Indian Reservations in Idaho. For information on burning on reservations, contact individual Tribes.

Before granting approval to burn, DEQ must consider air quality conditions, the number of acres to be burned, crop type, fuel characteristics, meteorological conditions, and proximity of the burn to institutions with sensitive populations, public roadways, and airports. Burning will only be allowed if air quality levels are below and are not expected to exceed 75 percent of any national ambient air quality standard or 80 percent of the 1-hour action criteria for particulate matter.

The new program was negotiated by DEQ, the Idaho State Department of Agriculture (ISDA), Safe Air for Everyone (SAFE), the Idaho Farm Bureau, grain and grass growers, and others. DEQ will run the program; ISDA will advise.

For more details, visit DEQ's Web site at www.deq.idaho.gov/crop_residue_burning.cfm or call the DEQ Regional Office nearest you. Offices are located in Boise, Coeur d'Alene, Idaho Falls, Lewiston, Pocatello, and Twin Falls.