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Meet Joseph Anderson, Genesee farmer and board member of the Idaho Wheat Commission.

Joseph and his wife, Leslie, have lived in Lewiston since 2017, but he still farms north of Genesee, where he and his brother, Jay, are fourth-generation farmers and partners. Their family's farm has been an Idaho Century Farm since 2002. Their great-grandfather, Louis Anderson, built the barn in 1902, and the house in 1903, according to family history.

"Farming and caring for the land, knowing we only have it for a brief moment in history, has been important to our family," Joseph said. "We have always wanted to leave the land as good or better than we got it, and have used reduced till, no-till, and crop rotations to try and accomplish that, while earning a living. Many quotes from George Washington and other founding fathers of this country have said it much better than I can, but it is a noble profession that makes the rest of civilization possible."

Joseph is a strong proponent of the Port of Lewiston and the Lower Snake River dam system because of the river-transportation opportunities it provides for farmers throughout the region and the clean, abundant hydropower it generates.



"The existing river system, like many other engineering feats including irrigation, the interstate highway system, air travel, space travel, and our food and clean water in this country, may not be perfect, but they represent a steady path toward improvement in man's way of life as we gain knowledge," he said. "Most change in our lives come as a result of our desire to improve our safety, comfort, or longevity. We don't want to return to a life without air conditioning or heat, spending all day just to gather enough food to live another day. The river system represents an efficient way to deliver food to mouths around the world, as well as storing energy in the form of water power."

"Those wanting to breach the dams say we are afraid of change. All you have to do is look at how far agriculture, transportation and energy have come in the last century to see that is blatantly false. As businessmen, inventors and entrepreneurs we need to know that change will improve our life before we adopt it. Losing the Lower Snake River dams does not offer that promise."

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COLUMBIA-SNAKE RIVER SYSTEM

- **No. 1 WHEAT EXPORT** river gateway in the nation
- **1/3 OF PACIFIC NORTHWEST** wheat exports come from Snake River grain terminals
- **> 150K SEMI-TRUCKS** would be needed to move the annual cargo barged on the Snake River
- **1:134 RATIO OF BARGES** to semi-trucks that would be needed to haul same amount of wheat
- **56 MILLION TONS** of international trade in 2018
- **\$23 BILLION** in cargo value

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