

Mark Samson, State Executive Director for Idaho Farm Service Agency



Mark is an Idaho native who was born in Sandpoint and raised in Pocatello. He received his Bachelors and Masters in Agriculture Economics from the University of Idaho (U of I).

Samson has worked in the wheat industry for the majority of his career, serving in many leadership roles including: assistant director of Western Wheat Associates (now U.S. Wheat Associates) in Washington, D.C., administrator for the Idaho Wheat Commission and vice president for the U.S. Wheat Associates' for South Asia in Singapore and vice president for Europe, the Middle East, East and North Africa in Egypt and the Netherlands.

Earlier in his career he worked for Morrison Knudsen in Alaska and Saudi Arabia as a project accountant, the Idaho Department of Economic Development and Commerce as the International Trade Coordinator and has owned his own international trading and consulting firm.

As Executive Director for Idaho FSA, Samson oversees all aspects of federal farm program delivery for an agency that employs over 220 people (state and county office staff and elected county committee members) and on average, issues more than \$450 million annually in commodity, conservation, disaster and credit benefits to farmers and ranchers across the state.

Mark knows Idaho's agriculture industry. He is the son of a University of Idaho Agriculture Extension Agent and has conducted many programs for the U of I, College of Agriculture. Samson also has experience working with several agricultural entities and organizations in Idaho including the wheat and barley producers, Idaho Department of Agriculture, Idaho Grain Producers Association and Idaho State Legislature.

Mark and his wife Cory, a native of Lewiston, have two adult children, one residing in Boise and the other in Newport Beach, CA.