Introduction to the
Powell Research and Extension Center

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The Powell Research and Extension Center (PREC) is located one mile north of Powell at 747 Road 9 at an elevation of 4,378 feet. PREC has 200 irrigated acres, including 2.5 acres under on-surface drip, 1.2 acres under sub-surface drip, and 54 acres under sprinkler. The remainder is under surface irrigation using gated pipe. Research at the center focuses on irrigation, weed control, cropping systems, protected agriculture (hoop house), variety trials, and alternative crops (Figures 1 and 2). We serve northwest Wyoming, including Bighorn, Fremont, Hot Springs, Park, and Washakie counties.

Personnel at PREC include one researcher, a farm manager, a research associate, two assistant farm managers, and an office associate. This year, we are excited to welcome our new faculty member, Associate Professor Gustavo Sbatella. Gustavo has initiated many new and exciting

Figure 1. Strip tillage in cropping systems study.

Figure 2. PREC high tunnel.

Figure 3. Camby Reynolds explaining to last year’s PREC Field Day participants the new grain drying system, sponsored by IntelliAir™.

¹Powell Research and Extension Center.
research projects. We are also seeking to hire a new irrigation specialist and are very excited to see what the future brings. We are continually trying to upgrade facilities and equipment to ensure our ability to meet the requirements of any research projects to be launched and completed at PREC. This year, we have many new and exciting projects and look forward to sharing the results (Figure 3).

Additionally, PREC annually conducts variety trials for seed suppliers. Data from those trials are provided to the respective sponsors to aid in the identification and selection of varieties best suited for production in the region. Recurring trials are in process for MillerCoors, J.R. Simplot Company, Wyoming Sugar, Betaseed Inc., SunOpta Inc., and Briess Malt & Ingredients Company.

**2014 Growing Season**
The 2014 growing season was characterized as relatively short, with 122 frost-free days, from May 13 to September 13. Overall, the growing season was wet and cool. PREC received 5.52 inches of rainfall; 19, 25, and 18% of the year’s total fell in April, June, and August, respectively. As a consequence, the barley harvest was greatly affected due to barley sprouting in the field. The average air temperature was 44°F in April. This, coupled with rain showers, created poor planting conditions. The highest air temperature was recorded July 23 at 98°F. The average reference evapotranspiration (ETo), an indicator of the water needs of plants, was .14, .19, and .14 inches per day in June, July, and August, respectively (Figure 4).

**Acknowledgments:** We appreciate PREC staff members for their hard work in day-to-day operations and for efforts in establishing and harvesting variety trials.

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