



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
September 8, 2025

“University of Idaho agricultural economics student Luke Acquistapace is first recipient of The John Peavey Legacy Fund Scholarship”

The [Trailing of the Sheep Festival](#) is pleased to announce the inaugural year distribution of an annual John Peavey Legacy Fund scholarship to Luke Acquistapace of Carey, Idaho. Acquistapace was introduced as the first [John Peavey Legacy Fund](#) Scholarship recipient at the recent Trailing of the Sheep Festival’s “Starry Starry Night In The Wild Wild West” fundraising event, which he attended to accept the award.



Acquistapace began pursuing a bachelor’s degree in Agricultural Economics at the University of Idaho this fall and is honored to receive this scholarship award.

He noted in his scholarship application essay;

“The agricultural lifestyle is what I love and it has made me who I am today. I have grown up in an agricultural family where we farm hay and raise beef. I currently work for my parents where we are raising over 800 cows and farming over 1,500 acres of hay. A future in the agricultural field is something that I am very interested in. I want to pursue a degree in agriculture economics at the University of Idaho so I can be well versed in the agricultural field. I am fascinated by learning about what role agriculture plays in the current economy and how I can contribute to the economy through my own agricultural business.”

History of The John Peavey Legacy Fund Scholarship

A third generation Blaine County, Idaho, sheep rancher, John and his wife, Diane Josephy Peavey, created, actively supported and fostered the Trailing of the Sheep Festival into what is now an internationally recognized event celebrating the history and cultures of sheep ranching in Idaho and the West.

An icon of the Sun Valley community, John actively kept up his work and fostered his passions until his passing in June of 2024, at the age of 90. While he had many impressive achievements throughout his life - as a family man, rancher, national agricultural advocate, and Idaho State Senator - the Trailing of the Sheep Festival was very special to him as it allowed him to share his love of the sheep, the land, and his many stories which helped educate and inspire both local residents and visitors from around the world.

As a tribute to John, the Festival launched The John Peavey Legacy Fund in 2024. Donations to this Fund are being used to support this annual scholarship, as well as John's legacy to carry out the Festival's mission to gather, celebrate, present, and preserve the history and cultures of sheepherding in Idaho and the West.

###

Media Contacts:

Laura Musbach Drake, Director, Trailing of the Sheep Festival, 208.720.0585, laura@trailingofthesheep.org

Carol Waller, Festival PR, CW Communications, 208.720.3965, carol@cw-communications.com

IMAGES TO DOWNLOAD FOR MEDIA USE: <https://trailingofthesheep.org/media/photo-gallery/>