**Lesson 8: Barley Baffling? Explore It**

**Directions:** Access the commodities and products tab on the AgMRC website (http://www.agmrc.org) and find the link to Grains and Oilseeds. Utilize information located here to answer the questions below:

1. Why has barley production declined in recent years? What implications do this hold for American agriculture?

2. Where is American barley production concentrated today? What factors promote production in these areas? (Hint: Think climate)

3. What are some factors that producers have to pay attention to in order to meet contract requirements? Why do barley buyers set these requirements? What do you think could happen if producers do not meet these requirements?

4. What value-added marketing opportunities exist for barley products today? What flexibility do these additional products provide barley producers?

5. According to the AgMRC website, “[t]he primary competitive pressure on U.S. barley production continues to be relatively high prices for corn and spring wheat.” What implications does this issue hold for American barley producers and markets? What about the malting barley industry?