



MORRIS BOWER & HAWS PLLC

12550 W. Explorer Drive, Suite 100, Boise, Idaho 83713
Tel: (208) 345-3333 | Fax: (208) 345-4461

Canyon County Jury Awards \$3.48 Million Verdict To Local Farmers In Insurance Fraud and Bad Faith Case

On June 10, 2019, a Canyon County jury awarded fourth-generation local farmers, Nate and Kristin Pancheri, \$3,481,767.00, following a twenty-seven (27) day trial with Farm Bureau Mutual Insurance Company of Idaho (“Farm Bureau”). After just seven (7) hours of deliberation, the jury returned a unanimous verdict against Farm Bureau on all ten (10) causes of action submitted by the Pancheris, including: constructive fraud, fraud in the inducement, breach of contract, bad faith, negligence, and intentional and negligent infliction of emotional distress.

Farm Bureau sold the Pancheris a crop hail policy for their 2016 alfalfa seed crops. The Pancheris suffered catastrophic hail loss to those crops on July 10, 2016. The dispute arose when Farm Bureau sent out adjusters who were untrained and unqualified in alfalfa seed hail loss adjustment to adjust the loss. The Farm Bureau team also used a loss adjustment procedure that was not disclosed to the Pancheris when they purchased the policy. Farm Bureau’s team of adjusters used the undisclosed guidelines and determined an average of 14% loss on multiple parcels. The Pancheris enlisted several third-party experts in the industry who determined the loss on the same parcels was on average 90%.

As a result of the verdict, the Pancheris will be able to continue their farming operations in the Treasure Valley. The Pancheris were represented by longtime Treasure Valley residents Danny Bower and Gabe Haws, with the law firm Morris Bower & Haws PLLC, which specializes in complex litigation and transactional matters.