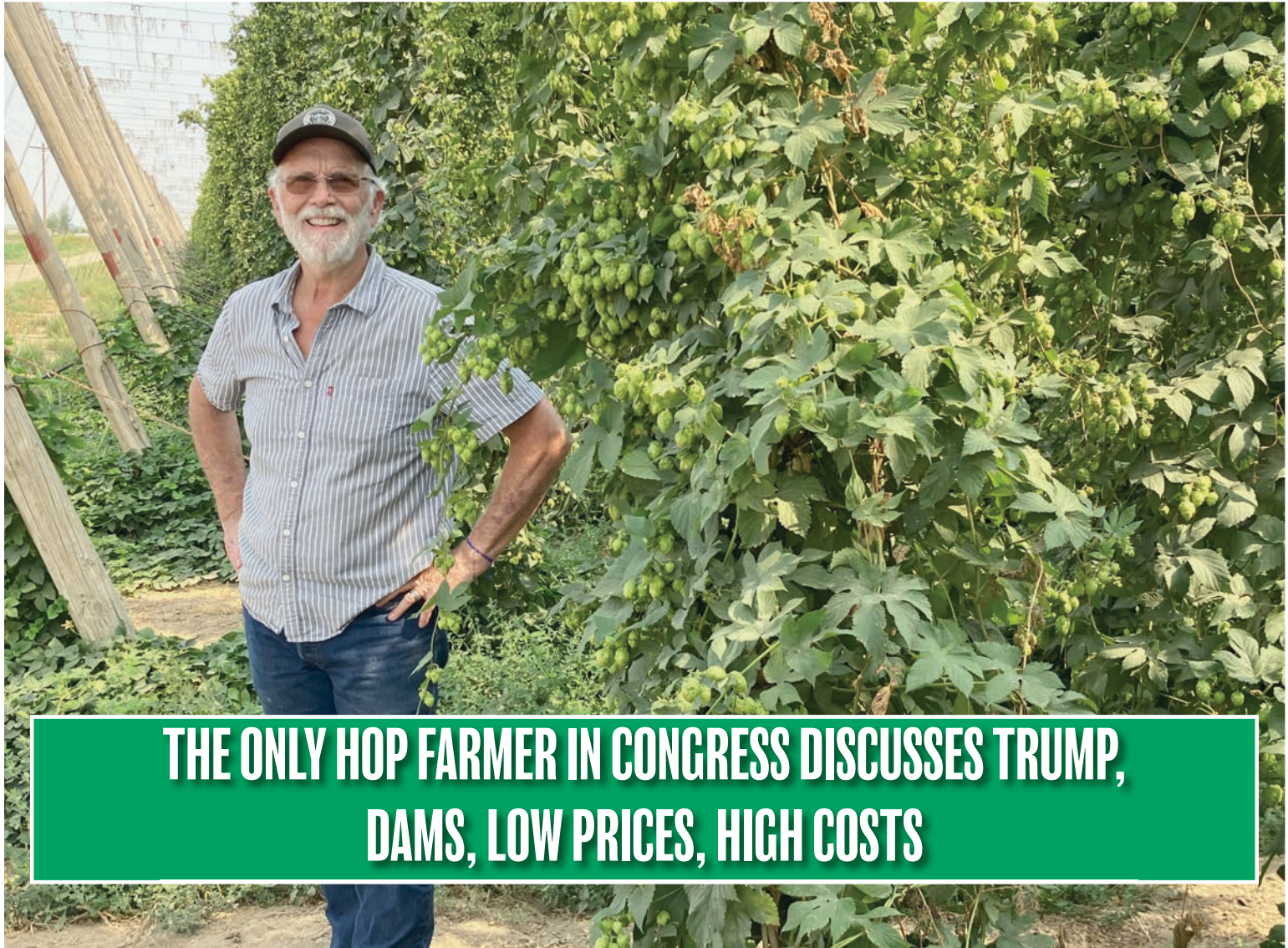


SEPTEMBER 2025

The GROWERS' GUIDE

Volume 43 48 Pages PO Box 2048, Salem, OR 97308 Phone: (509) 397-2191 Number 5



THE ONLY HOP FARMER IN CONGRESS DISCUSSES TRUMP, DAMS, LOW PRICES, HIGH COSTS

Matthew Weaver/Capital Press

Rep. Dan Newhouse, R-Wash., the only hop farmer in Congress, stands in a row of hops on his family's farm in Sunnyside, Wash., the afternoon of Aug. 29.

By MATTHEW WEAVER
Capital Press

SUNNYSIDE, Wash. — Hop harvest began on Rep. Dan Newhouse's family farm on Aug. 25, a Monday, and workers and equipment were in full swing on Friday afternoon sorting the earthy green crop.

Newhouse, R-Wash., was fresh from speaking during the Beer Institute's hop roundtable discussion in Yakima the day before, where he noted that he is the "only hop farmer in the

entire U.S. House and Senate."

Newhouse is a third-generation Yakima Valley farmer. His grandfather began farming more than 100 years ago. Son Devon and daughter-in-law Halley now manage day-to-day operations on the 850-acre family farm in Sunnyside, Wash.

They raise hops, grapes, tree fruit, alfalfa and some corn.

Newhouse tries to be involved "as much as possible," but "being in Congress, that doesn't leave a lot of room at times."

See PRICES, Page A2

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Asian grilled chicken

Cooking with chicken

By DANA
September is National Chicken Month. Here are some recipes from the Delmarva Chicken Association.

Mediterranean chicken thighs with polenta

Ingredients

- 8 chicken thighs, skin and fat removed
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1/4 teaspoon pepper
- 3 teaspoons olive oil, divided
- 2 cloves garlic, minced
- 1 can (15 1/2 oz.) cannellini beans, drained, rinsed
- 1 can (14 1/2 oz.) diced tomatoes
- 1/2 cup small pitted black olives, halved
- 1 teaspoon balsamic vinegar
- 2 bay leaves
- 3 tablespoons chopped fresh parsley

Preparation

Season chicken with salt and pepper. In large nonstick fry-pan, place 2 teaspoons oil and heat to medium high tempera- ture. Add chicken and cook, turning, about 10 minutes or until chicken is browned. Remove chicken; set aside. To drippings in same pan, add remaining 1 teaspoon oil and garlic. Cook, stirring, about 1 minute. Stir in tomatoes, olives, vinegar and bay leaves. Return chicken to pan; cover and reduce heat to medium-low. Cook about 20 minutes or until chicken is fork tender. Stir in cannellini beans and heat through. Remove bay leaves and discard. Sprinkle parsley over chicken before serv- ing. Serve over polenta.

Asian grilled chicken

Ingredients

- 8 boneless, skinless chicken thighs, fat trimmed
- 1/4 cup reduced-sodium soy sauce
- 3 tablespoons brown sugar
- 1 tablespoons toasted sesame seeds
- 1 tablespoon fresh lime juice
- 1 tablespoon canola oil
- 2 large cloves garlic, pressed (about 1 teaspoon)
- 1 teaspoon five-spice powder
- 1/2 teaspoon crushed red pepper
- Vegetable cooking spray

Preparation

In a bowl whisk together soy sauce, brown sugar, sesame seeds, lime juice, oil, garlic, five-spice powder, and crushed

See KITCHEN, Page A5



Chicken & asparagus Marsalas

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KITCHEN:

Continued from A4

red pepper. Mix well. Place chicken in sealable plastic bag; pour in soy mixture. Seal bag and turn until chicken is well coated with soy mixture. Refrigerate at least 30 minutes or up to overnight. Spray grate of grill with cooking spray and heat grill to 400° F. Remove chicken from marinade; reserve marinade. Place on prepared grill and cook, turning, about 10 minutes per side or until chicken is cooked through (165° F). Heat reserved marinade to boiling and boil one minute. Baste chicken with heated marinade during grilling.

**Chicken & asparagus
Marsala**

Ingredients

- 4 boneless, skinless chicken breast halves
- 2 tablespoons butter or margarine
- 1/2 pound mushrooms, sliced
- 1/4 cup Marsala wine
- 1/4 cup water
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1/4 teaspoon pepper
- 1 pound fresh asparagus, cut in 5-inch spears*
- 1 tablespoon chopped parsley

Preparation

On hard surface with meat mallet or similar flattening utensil, pound chicken to 1/4-inch thickness. In frypan, place butter or margarine; heat to medium-high tem-

perature. Add chicken and cook, turning about 5 minutes or until browned. Remove chicken and set aside. To drippings remaining in same frypan, add mushrooms and cook, stirring, about 2 minutes. Add Marsala wine, water, salt, and pepper. Return chicken to pan; spoon sauce over chicken. Arrange asparagus over chicken. Heat to boiling; reduce heat to medium, cover and cook about 8 minutes or until chicken and asparagus are fork tender. Transfer chicken and asparagus to serving platter; keep warm. Heat Marsala sauce to boiling and boil about 2 minutes to reduce liquid. Spoon sauce over chicken; sprinkle with chopped parsley.

*One and one-half packages (10 ounces each) frozen asparagus spears can be substituted.



Mediterranean chicken thighs



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PRICES:

Continued from A2

Q. As a farmer, how do you feel President Trump is doing on behalf of farmers?

Newhouse: I think we need to be patient. He's working very hard on some of the trade deals that are going to be very helpful for agriculture. We've had some major announcements, but anticipating a lot more, we're hoping

for a lot more.

Obviously, people are getting anxious because harvest time is here, and we need those markets available to us. Every opportunity I get, I try to make sure the agriculture industry is top of mind for our trade negotiators and the president.

It's an uncertain time. We need every available market, we need access. Hopefully, that's coming. But I think the president has spoken very strongly on some of the things that are important to agriculture, generally.

He's been very positive about labor force issues, and I'm hopeful we can get some good legislation passed that will help solve some of the labor issues we face, the challenging issues of labor shortages and costs.

Q. You've said you feel good about the chance to pass the Farm Workforce Modification Act.

Newhouse: I think we have an opportunity, if we can convince enough of my colleagues that this is the time.

Reforms to our ag labor visa programs will really be part of the solution for solving our border challenges, if people have a legal avenue to come to the country. I think that would be a much preferred pathway to come and work.

As it relates to water, particularly the hydroelectric system we have in the Northwest, the president's been positive about that. As you know, that impacts agriculture a lot: Transportation, the barge system, available water for irrigation for some parts of the state and power costs.

Q. Is the risk of breaching the Snake River dams completely gone?

Newhouse: I wish I could say it was completely gone. As of right now, during this administration, obviously the effort to breach dams has subsided substantially. The Trump administration stopped the process the Biden administration had begun to work towards dam breaching, so that's a positive thing.

It's something we're going to have to continually work against. There's a lot of people who still believe that breaching is the right thing to do. Salmon and dams can and do co-exist. It's up to us to make sure that's always the case. We have to do everything we can to ensure that salmon have every chance possible. It's incumbent upon us to continue receiving the benefits the dams provide.

Q. How likely is a farm bill by the end of the year?

Newhouse: House Agriculture Committee Chairman G.T. Thompson was just out recently. I think he told me that over

two-thirds of the farm bill was included in H.R. 1 (Trump's One Big Beautiful Bill). So that's a good thing.

Farmers need a modern farm bill and all of the things it encompasses — safety net crop insurance, conservation — need to be up to date.

The chairman is determined to get a "skinny" farm bill, what's left, done as soon as possible. There's a lot of things we have to do in September as Congress, before the end of the year. We can work on the skinny farm bill while we're doing those other things.

Q. (What's the) message to farmers?

Newhouse: I understand it's a challenging time. But as farmers know, the only thing constant is change. Things will get better. We're going to try to do everything we can in Congress to provide that opportunity for things to get better. It's going to take a lot of determination on the part of people in agriculture to get through this low spot. But I'm confident that we will.

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Rep. Dan Newhouse, R-Wash., inspects a string of hops on his family's farm Aug. 29 near Sunnyside, Wash.

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It's the Pitts: My auction addiction

By LEE PITTS

My name is Lee Pitts and I'm addicted to auctions. I'm an auction junkie and if I'm not working an auction I'm watching one on the Internet. If I had a dollar for every auction I worked or watched I'd be able to afford a therapist to help me deal with my awful auction addiction.

I've been working auctions as a ring man for over 50 years and have helped sell everything from A to Z; from Alpacas and Angus to Zebras and zebras. During those five decades I've seen some very funny stuff like the time a 2,000 pound bull decided to join the auctioneer on the auction block. There wasn't room for both of them so the auctioneer dove into the ring.

Then there was the time a very crazy cow began butting the bullboard. A ring man was standing behind the bullboard and with each butt of the cow the board inched ever closer to the ring man's chest. We were afraid he'd be slowly crushed to death. He survived but for the rest of his life he was a hunchback.(Note to anyone having an auction: make sure the posts of the bullboard are securely cemented and that termites haven't compromised the integrity of the bullboard.)

I witnessed two auctions that were real show stoppers. One was delayed at least an hour and forty five minutes because the auctioneer failed to show up and the other time was when a cow got wedged in behind the bullboard and we couldn't get her out.

Although we all laugh about it now, the Pruett-Wray sale in Arizona harmed us all in a very personal way. The reason a lot of ring men and auctioneers are slightly too obscenely obese is because we pig out on the free barbecue every day at purebred cattle auctions during the Fall and Spring runs. Pruett-Wray put on a nice big spread for everyone but we should have known something was wrong with the beans because they were still bubbling long after they were removed from the fire. Before long the stands started emptying out as everyone was out behind a building barfing their guts out. The line to the Porta-Potty was 20 deep. Even the sale manager was afflicted and he left the auc-



Lee Pitts

tion stand saying WHOA OH, OH! After that sale I made it a rule to never eat the beans or the potato salad at cattle auctions.

Also in Arizona were the many John Wayne sales I attended. While the Duke was alive his sales were often the highest averaging sales in the Hereford business. If you bought a bull you got a photograph of you and the Duke. After he died the market cooled off considerably.

The most dangerous sale I ever worked was a Longhorn auction in Elko, Nevada. We were cruising along nicely when a a Longhorned devil who knew how to use her sixty inches of horn entered the ring blowing snot and kicking up dust. That witch picked up one side of the makeshift ring with her horns and then somehow got under the panel, knocked over an entire section of metal seating and was head-hunting humans to shish-kabob. The sale was indoors so we were all trapped until someone opened the door and the witch was last seen running east down Interstate 80.

I missed out on the video auctions the Texans had on an airplane and a cruise ship but I did work one of the first... and last ostrich sales. All I knew about ostriches was they were selling for around \$30,000. The auctioneer had never sold an ostrich sale before so he was somewhat surprised when the ostrich in the ring became obsessed with his big diamond ring. When the ostrich pecked at the shiny object in the middle of his chant he jumped three feet in the air and said the F word on the way down, amongst other profanities. Needless to say he never sold another ostrich sale but it didn't really matter because shortly thereafter the ostrich market took a big belly flop and the breeders were turning their birds loose to fend for themselves.

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Lack of MAHA pesticide recommendations alarms environmental advocates

By MATEUSZ PERKOWSKI
Capital Press

Environmental advocates are growing worried the Trump Administration is unlikely to impose stricter restrictions on pesticides as part of its push to “Make American Healthy Again.”

Earlier this year, it was agriculture groups who feared the “MAHA”

movement would be detrimental to their interests after an administration report released in May included criticisms of crop protection chemicals.

The American Farm Bureau Federation complained the MAHA report excluded the viewpoints of growers and relied on “unproven theories” and “outlier studies” to undermine confidence in the agriculture industry.

“It is deeply troubling for the White House to endorse a report that sows seeds of doubt and fear about our food system and farming practices, then attempts to celebrate farmers and the critical role they play in producing the safest food supply in the world,” the Farm Bureau said at the time.

Now, however, prominent environmental organizations are sounding the alarm about a “lack of action on pesticides” after obtaining a draft version of a subsequent MAHA report that outlines federal policy recommendations.

The Center for Food Safety nonprofit said it’s “extremely disappointed” with the draft report, which it expected to advocate for “limiting exposure to pesticides” but instead omitted potentially new restrictions.



Capital Press, file

A sprayer applies herbicides in Oregon's Willamette Valley in this Capital Press file photo. Environmental advocates are frustrated that a "Make American Healthy Again" report does not include recommendations for new pesticide restrictions.

“Despite the Commission's previous recognition of the overuse of pesticides in America's industrial food system and the potential harm these toxins are causing children, public health, and the environment, they have now capitulated to the pressure of agriculture lobbyists and the pesticide industry,” the Center for Food Safety said.

For example, the earlier MAHA report said that pesticides and other toxic substances are found in the blood and urine of children and pregnant women “at alarming levels,” raising the possibility of “adverse health outcomes.”

The earlier report also identified “corporate influence” as a concern

in scientific research, stating that a “significant portion” of toxicology and epidemiology studies are conducted by private companies, including major pesticide manufacturers who “spent billions on research initiatives.”

“Limited comparisons between industry-funded research versus non-industry studies have raised concerns over potential biases in industry-funded research,” the earlier MAHA report said.

To compare, the more recent draft report from the MAHA commission, whose members were appointed by the Trump administration, primarily focuses on using “precision agriculture” to reduce pesticide volumes applied by farmers.

The draft report also says federal agencies should work with the food and agriculture industries to “ensure that the public has awareness and confidence” in the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency’s “robust pesticide review procedures”

and how they limit the risks from agricultural chemicals.

The Center for Biological Diversity, another prominent environmental nonprofit, complained the recent draft report left out any specific mention of such chemicals as glyphosate and atrazine, arguing the MAHA commission succumbed to pressure from the pesticide industry.

“Despite the administration’s promises to MAHA and the reality that using a billion pounds of pesticides in the U.S. each year is a major threat to public health, pesticide interests again prevailed in protecting their profits,” according to the nonprofit.

Apart from the draft report’s language, environmental advocates said they were frustrated by Trump administration policies, such as the appointment of an agricultural lobbyist to oversee EPA pesticide policies and the recommended approval of dicamba herbicides for spraying on genetically engineered cotton and soybean crops.

“The MAHA Commission is insulting the intelligence of Americans. It’s outlandish to recommend solving our pesticide woes by having the EPA and Big Ag try to convince us that the deeply flawed pesticide regulatory process is working just fine,” the Center for Biological Diversity said.

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Washington hop leaders optimistic as harvest gets underway

By **MATTHEW WEAVER**
Capital Press

YAKIMA, Wash. — Washington hop leaders say this year's crop is "in a good spot" as harvest gets underway.

The Beer Institute, a national trade association for the brewing industry based in Washington D.C., hosted a panel of state hops industry leaders Aug. 28 in Yakima, Wash. Beer Institute President and CEO Brian Crawford led the panel.

Members were Ryan Hopkins, CEO of Yakima Chief Hops; Tom Davis, CEO of John I. Haas; Louis Gimbel, CEO of Hopsteiner and Rep. Dan Newhouse, R-Wash. — "the only hops farmer in the entirety of the U.S. House and Senate."

Harvest in the Yakima Valley began the week of Aug. 18, and will last through early October, Hopkins said, noting this year's hops have strong quality.

"We're excited about

the next 30 days ahead of us," he said.

Two years ago, the U.S. industry began a market correction to address oversupply.

"The crop is smaller than it was for the past few years," Hopkins said. "There were a lot of acres that were reduced, a lot of volumes were changed. We've been more proactive than we have in the past to get things in balance."

"It's been a difficult period, to tell you the truth," Newhouse said. "Farms are not producing at 100% capacity, costs are spread over lesser acres. It makes it very difficult. We're hopeful that we can get past this point in our struggle to get back to profitability. I think we've made good progress there."

Gimbel noted that the industry doesn't rely on a spot price due to futures contracts with customers.

"Brewers have given us the opportunity to partner longer-term," he said.

'Soul of the beer'

The crop draws a passionate crowd.

"The next couple of weeks, you're going to have hundreds and hundreds of craft brewers coming here to rub and sniff the hops to see which one they like, they'll pick their favorite," Davis said. "They're going to have hop tattoos up their arms, they love hops — it's the soul of the beer. It really is a magical industry and a magical ingredient for a wonderful product."

"It is a global product," Hopkins said. "This little valley is not easy to get to, it's kind of remote."

But he pointed to the connections local farmers have forged with other hop production regions in Bavaria, New Zealand and some in Argentina.

"That is a very small, niche industry of hop growers, merchants and sellers," Hopkins said.

Need for certainty

The panelists advo-

cated for trade predictability in regulatory environments and the ability to deliver consistently to hops customers.

"The need for certainty is hugely important for businesses to plan," Crawford said. "The challenge we're facing in Washington (D.C.) right now is the unpredictable nature of 'Tariffs are on, tariffs are off, tariffs are increased.' President Trump in my opinion is trying to re-set the global trade market, and he is using trade deals as leverage."

See HARVEST, Page A13



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Matthew Weaver/Capital Press

Panelists Ryan Hopkins, CEO of Yakima Chief Hops; Tom Davis, CEO of John I. Haas; Louis Gimbel, CEO of Hopsteiner and Rep. Dan Newhouse, R-Wash., all look to Beer Institute president and CEO Brian Crawford Aug. 28 during the event in Yakima, Wash.



Matthew Weaver/Capital Press

Several hop samples are displayed during the Beer Institute panel Aug. 28 in Yakima, Wash.

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Courtesy Calby Van Hollebeke

Musicians Alex Crisp, a University of Idaho graduate teaching assistant in violin; Calby Van Hollebeke, a Washington State University oboe graduate student, and Kamil Tarawczyk, a WSU oboe graduate student, set up inside a shop to perform a “Harvest Interludes” chamber music concert for a harvest family during lunch as part of Van Hollebeke’s summer fellowship project.

Grad student adds sweet sounds to harvest season

By **MATTHEW WEAVER**
Capital Press

Harvesting memories

Washington State University graduate student Calby Van Hollebeke performed several chamber music concerts for harvesting farm families in the greater Palouse area.

Van Hollebeke is in the second year of her master’s degree. She studies oboe and performance.

The “Harvest Interludes” concerts are part of Van Hollebeke’s project as a recipient of the Publicly Engaged Fellows program, funded by a National Endowment for the Humanities NextGen grant.

Van Hollebeke was one of four fellows in 2025 named by WSU’s David G. Pollart Center for Arts and Humanities, which partners with the WSU Graduate School to host the program for graduate students.

“I knew I wanted to do something with music that was unique to my family’s heritage and my connection to the Palouse and surrounding areas,” Van Hollebeke told Capital Press. Her family raises wheat, Black Angus cattle and eggs near Kahlotus, Wash., and she attended school in Washtucna, Wash.

With fellow musicians Alex Crisp and Kamil Tarawczyk, Van Hollebeke performed for two farm families, and ended with a concert Aug. 24 at Sonny’s Tavern in Washtucna.

Visiting her father and his family in the field during harvest was always “the highlight of my summer,” Van Hollebeke said.

As an elementary school student, she would ride with her grandfather in the bankout wagon. She would ride with her father and grandfather in the combine or the grain truck to the wheat elevator.

The oboe

Van Hollebeke began playing the oboe in the 5th grade and decided to get her degree in music around the 7th or 8th grade.

When she met Keri McCarthy, director of WSU’s School of Music and a professor of music, oboe and music history, in late middle school and early high school, she realized, “Oh! You can get a doctorate in oboe? I want to do that!”

She attended a concert the Spokane Symphony puts on for area 4th graders, which included a solo feature for each instrument.

“When they got to the oboe, I heard the oboe play, and decided right then and there, that was the instrument I wanted to play,” Van Hollebeke said. “I love its unique sound. It doesn’t really sound like any other woodwind instrument. Usually in orchestral music, we get all of the really pretty solos. It feels like an extension of myself now.”

See GRAD, Page A15

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‘20 CASE IH 9250 HILLCO HILLSIDE, 4WD, w/FD145.....\$535,000

‘20 CASE IH 8250 HILLCO HILLSIDE, 4WD, w/FD145.....\$535,000

‘16 CASE IH 8240 HILLCO HILLSIDE, 4WD, w/40’ FD140\$355,000

‘11 CASE IH 8120 HILLCO HILLSIDE, 4WD 2162, 40ft.....\$175,000

‘08 CASE IH 8010 HILLCO HILLSIDE, 4WD, 3020.....\$120,000

‘07 CASE IH 8010 LL, 2WD duals, 3020 35’\$78,000

‘14 JOHN DEERE 680 RAHCO, 4WD, 635\$215,000

‘14 JOHN DEERE 670 HILLCO, 4WD, 635\$205,000

‘04 JOHN DEERE 9860 HILLCO HILLSIDE, 4WD.....\$115,000

(2) JOHN DEERE 9770 HILLCO HILLSIDE, 4WD, 635D.....\$110,000

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‘21 GVM T380 PROWLER, 120ft, 16 section, auto glide boom, Hawkeye, Viper 4, 900 & 380 tires, 1650 hrs.....\$500,000

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‘20 NEW HOLLAND BB340 PLUS, 18,000 bales\$90,000

‘08 NEW HOLLAND BB960A TANDEM\$19,500

‘18 JOHN DEERE WR235, w/16’ 500R, 1300 hrs.....\$140,000

‘09 JOHN DEERE 4930, 120’, 1300 gal, 4907 hrs\$80,000

‘14 John Deere 4940, 120 ft 3300 hrsCALL

‘04 New Holland BB960A, rotor cutter\$25,000

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‘22 CASE IH 580 QUAD, 36”, PTO, 6 valve.....\$520,000



‘21 CASE IH 580 QUAD, PTO, 36”, 6V, 1870 hrs.....\$475,000

‘21 CASE IH 580 QUAD, PTO, 36”, 6V, 2800 hrs.....\$400,000

‘19 CASE IH 90 NARROW FARMALL, 153 hrs\$68,500

‘07 CASE IH 380 QUAD, 3pt, 36”, 12,118 hrs.....\$60,000

‘05 CASE IH 450 QUAD, 30”, 10,800 hrs\$120,000

‘04 CASE IH 450, PTO, 36”, 7340 hrs.....\$130,000

‘03 CASE IH 450 QUAD, PTO, 36”, 10,700 hrs.....\$110,000

‘11 JD 8360RT, 3pt, PTO, 30”, 4V\$145,000

‘12 CHALLENGER MT865C, PTO, 36”, 8000 hrs\$155,000

‘55 IH 300 S/LOADER STRAIGHT\$3,500

‘02 NEW HOLLAND T70 bucket, forks 1186 hrs.....\$29,500

‘71 FORD 3000, w/Farmhand loader.....\$4,500

‘82 CAT D5B 26X, 8771 hrs, 1011 on eng.....\$10,500

‘23 CASE IH 580 QUAD, PTO, 36”, 6v, 1620 hrs.....\$535,000

‘22 CASE IH 580 QUAD, PTO, 36”, 6v, 2552 hrs.....\$495,000

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‘16 McFARLANE 16-bar 70’ harrow\$35,000

‘04 SUMMERS 48’ 5 BAR TIME\$15,000

‘04 DEGLMAN SM7000 50’ 5 time, 8 bar-flex.....\$27,000

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USFV photo
The fisher is a medium sized member of the weasel family, found in thick forests with plenty of tree cavities for nesting and rearing young kits. Fishers prey mainly on tree squirrels and are active mostly at night.

Feds decide against ESA protections for fisher population, siding with timber industry

By MATEUSZ PERKOWSKI
Capital Press

Federal wildlife officials have decided against protecting a population of rare forest-dwelling mammals in Southern Oregon and Northern California under the Endangered Species Act.

A threatened or endangered listing is “not warranted” for the region’s “distinct population segment” of the fisher, a member of the weasel family,

because the species has adequate habitat to persist despite the hazard it faces, according to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

“Many attributes of fishers, including their distribution across multiple ecosystems, dispersal distance, physiological tolerances, and a generalist life history as an opportunistic predator, are positively correlated with adaptive capacity,” the agency said.

Environmental advocates claimed threats from wildfires, toxins and climate change justify federal protections for the fisher, while the timber industry countered that voluntary measures taken by forestland owners are sufficient to prevent its extinction.

In its determination, the Fish and Wildlife Service acknowledged the fisher population’s habitat would likely be diminished in the future by factors related to climate, such as drought and fire, as well as by fragmentation and deteriorating forest health.

Ultimately, though, the agency found that “connectivity” between surviving “pockets of suitable habitat” will ensure enough “gene flow” among fishers to maintain the population’s “demographic viability and genetic diversity.” Given the fisher population’s tumultuous legal history, however, it’s hardly guaranteed the government’s recent “not warranted” determination will be the final word on its ESA status.

Over the past quarter century, environmental groups have repeatedly asked the Fish and Wildlife Service to protect West Coast fishers and sued if the agency rejected their arguments.

The government has vacillated as to the fisher’s ESA status, initially saying protections were warranted but precluded by other priorities, then proposing to list the species as threatened before later changing its mind.

After a judge overturned an earlier decision not to list fishers along the West Coast, the Fish and Wildlife Service adopted a new tack with a split decision on ESA protections.

In 2020, the agency divided native West Coast fishers into

two “distinct population segments:” One in California’s southern Sierra Nevadas, which received endangered status, and another in Southern Oregon and Northern California, which wasn’t listed at all.

The denial of ESA protections for the latter population prompted another environmental lawsuit, which the agency settled by agreeing to reconsider its status, resulting in the recent “not warranted” determination.

As this legal drama has unfolded in federal court, timber companies haven’t just stood on the sidelines. Instead, they’ve been working with the Fish and Wildlife Service to prevent injury to the fishers inhabiting their forestlands — and to protect themselves from liability, whatever the population’s eventual ESA status.

Several timber organizations also voluntarily intervened in the most recent lawsuit filed by environmental advocates because they feared ESA protections would affect their ability to harvest timber from their own property and federal lands.

“Here, a listing would adversely affect the Associations’ forest management efforts and would impede their fisher reintroduction and conservation efforts,” the organization said in a court document.

The timber organizations argued that listing the fisher population would actually hinder conservation measures they’ve been taking voluntarily.

In the past decade, timber companies and state governments have entered into voluntary conservation deals with the agency on a “massive” scale, encompassing millions of acres in Oregon, Washington and California, according to the American Forest Resource Council.

Under these “candidate conservation agreements with assurances,” or CCAAs, landowners take specific steps to avoid harming fishers in return for assurances their property won’t be subject to additional restrictions if the species is listed.



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HARVEST

Continued from A9

“We don’t live and die by the trade, but I think if we make in Yakima the best hops, they’re going to continue to be bought world-wide,” Davis said.

Hop acres

U.S. hop acreage strung for harvest in 2025 is forecast at more than 42,000 acres, down 6% from last year’s harvested total of nearly 45,000 acres, according to Hop Growers of America’s crop production report. Washington has the largest hop acreage. For 2025, nearly 32,000 acres were strung, down 5% from 33,000 acres. Newhouse’s family has produced hops since the 1940s. “Seventy-five percent of United States production, more or less depending on the year, is within 30 miles of

my house,” Newhouse said. In Idaho, area strung for harvest was 5,100 acres, down 12% from 5,800 acres in 2024. Oregon growers strung 5,400 acres, down 4% from 5,600 last year.

Beer statistics

Washington’s beer industry represents more than 157,000 jobs, including about 3,000 retail jobs; 4,100 distributing jobs; 1,460 agriculture jobs; 2,000 manufacturing jobs and 21,000 retail jobs. That represents \$3.7 billion in wages and benefits and \$12.4 billion in total economic output, with \$1.5 billion in taxes paid. Nationwide, the beer industry represents 2.4 million jobs; \$142.5 billion in wages and benefits; \$471 billion in economic output and nearly \$58 billion in total taxes paid.

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Nursery tour showcases businesses embracing automation

By KYLE ODEGARD
Capital Press

ST. PAUL, Ore. — Pete Brentano demonstrated how workers use a robotic arm and gripper to lift trees onto an automated potting line at his family's nursery.

"It has to be as soft as a human hand because we don't want to bruise the trunk," Brentano said.

The potting line at Brentano's Tree Farm uses automation for mixing soils, shearing roots, replanting trees ready for market and placing product on trailers.

The farm moves about 80,000 trees through its pot-in-pot acreage every year, and Brentano adopted high tech equipment to keep his aging workforce — they won't have to lift heavy pots — and increase efficiency.

"I wanted it to be as close to a zero-lifting operation as I could get," Brentano said. "It's been an evolution. It didn't happen overnight."

About 55 people learned about the tree farm's cutting edge practices during an automation tour Aug. 19 for the Far-west Show.



Pete Brentano of Brentano's Tree Farm near St. Paul, Ore., demonstrates how to move a tree with a robotic arm. The nursery has trees in 25-gallon pots, but an aging workforce. Brentano didn't want to have to rely on "young guys with strong backs."

The nursery trade show, held at the Oregon Convention Center Aug. 20-22, is organized by the Oregon Association of Nurseries and attracts more than 4,000 people from across the

U.S. and other countries.

The automation tour also included stops at Woodburn Nursery & Azaleas and Bountiful Farms near Woodburn, Ore., as well as GK Machine in Hubbard, Ore., which hosts automated greenhouse start-up Canopii.

Every nursery is different, and managers said companies such as Wurdinger Manufacturing and Lommers were willing to custom build automated machinery.

Woodburn Nursery & Azaleas has a one-of-a-kind 60-foot

autonomous trimmer that's driven by GPS and tilts its blades to cut foliage in pyramids or cones.

Kyle Fessler, part of the family that owns the nursery, said it wasn't cost effective to trim every block of trees twice by hand, but the trimmer can cover that much work easily.

Fessler added that automation provides consistency and quality for products and makes tasks easier for workers, but can come with a high initial price point.

Over time, however, that investment pays off.

Fessler said pot-in-pot nursery systems make GPS mapping and automation easier, since socket locations don't change.

Todd Nelson, Bountiful Farms CEO, said he tries to determine his nursery's biggest labor problems and find

automated solutions.

An automated tree tyer, for example, can handle a 15-foot shade tree in a minute, far faster than humans, and that frees workers for other important jobs, he said.

Lloyd Nackley, an OSU associate professor of nursery production, expects more automation in the industry.

"Automation is coming in to supplement labor shortages to meet growers' needs," Nackley said, as a drone flew nearby in a demonstration.

Advanced machinery also is removing monotonous tasks that could lead to injuries with an aging workforce, he said.

"The idea isn't replacing workers. It's moving workers into more highly skilled tasks," Nackley said.

The cost of technology keeps dropping and small nurseries can automate potting lines to rapidly increase efficiency, Nackley said. "It's a really exciting time."

Some attendees said visiting GK Machine was neat because their businesses use equipment made by the company.

"To see all the automation there and all the machinery, it was pretty incredible," said Scott Baker, owner of Hamby Wholesale Nursery & Trucking in Ripon, Calif.

Baker said he was taking home good ideas from the tour.

Omar Mendoza, a summer intern at Robinson Nursery in Amity, Ore., said he was impressed with the robotic arm at Brentano Tree Farm.

"That's for sure keeping their workers there longer. You want to keep people with experience," said Mendoza, who recently graduated from McMinnville High School.



Woodburn Nursery & Azaleas has a one-of-a-kind 60-foot autonomous trimmer that's driven by GPS and tilts its blades to cut foliage in pyramids or cones. It wasn't cost effective for the nursery to trim every block of trees twice by hand, but the trimmer covers that much work easily.



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GRAD

Continued from A11

Concert playlist

Van Hollebeke’s trio would play five songs over about 20 to 30 minutes.

They played a trio arrangement of “Dance of the Little Swans” from Tchaikovsky’s “Swan Lake,” which is a famous oboe duet; an arrangement of the song “Without You, Without Them,” by the band boygenius; a selection of Beethoven’s “Variations on ‘Lá ci darem la mano,’” originally by Mozart; a medley of songs from “The Nightmare Before Christmas,” and Tarnawczyk’s arrangement of ABBA’s “Dancing Queen.”

“They loved it,” Van Hollebeke said of the farm families’ responses to the concerts. “They especially loved ‘Dancing Queen,’ I think that one was the fan favorite overall.”

Next steps

Van Hollebeke is in the final year of obtaining her two-year master’s



Courtesy Cab y Van Hollebeke

Musicians Alex Crisp, a University of Idaho graduate teaching assistant in violin; Kamil Tarawczyk , a Washington State University oboe graduate student and WSU oboe graduate student Calby Van Hollebeke perform a “Harvest Interludes” chamber music concert for farm families near LaCrosse, Wash.

degree. She is developing her recital and working on her thesis project. She'll prepare audition music for doctoral school this fall.

She would love to offer more harvest concerts next summer, if possible, before she heads off to doctoral school.

“A lot of local and regional symphonies will do summer concert series, but they’re usually during the peak of harvest, which

just means the times they’re happening isn’t accessible to farmers working harvest,” Van Hollebeke said.

She also noted that the distance it would take a grower to travel back and forth to an evening concert program would be prohibitive. Instead, her goal is to “bring the music to them, rather than them having to try to carve out the time during one of their busiest times of the year to go to these concerts.”

PROTECTIONS

Continued from A12

In Oregon alone, these “candidate conservation agreements with assurances” cover more than 2 million acres, including nearly 200,000 owned by the state government, according to the Oregon Forest Industries Council.

The agreements in Oregon allow federal biologists to enter enrolled lands to monitor fishers, restrict logging and trapping in the vicinity of fisher dens and allow for the reintroduction of the species in unoccupied habitat, according to

the timber organizations. However, ESA protections would impede such voluntary measures, as CCAAs are only available for candidate species, so timber companies could not enroll in new agreements if the fisher population is listed as threatened or endangered, the groups said.

It’s in the interest of timber companies to “avert the need for listing based on health ecosystems,” the organizations said. “Species recovery will allow greater and more flexible multiple use of the forest and its natural resources.”

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SM GRAIN, PRWD, HILLCO LEVELER, HOURS: 639

\$472,999

Year	Make	Model	Description	Hours	Ad Price	Location
2003	JD	9750	SM GRAIN, PRWD, RAHCO 35% LEVLER	6487	\$15,999	COLFAX
2018	MD	FD75	MACDON FD75 45' PLATFORM	N/A	\$69,999	COLFAX
2020	MD	FD140	MACDON FD140 40' PLATFORM	N/A	\$93,999	MOSCOW
2021	MD	FD145	MACDON FD145 45' PLATFORM	N/A	\$101,999	COLFAX
2022	MD	FD240	MACDON FD240 40' PLATFORM	N/A	\$101,999	COLFAX
2011	CA	7088H	CASEIH, SM GRAIN, PRWD, HILLCO LEVELER, PLATFORM	3387	\$122,999	COLFAX
2019	JD	S780	SM GRAIN, PRWD, HILLCO LEVELER	1873	\$422,999	FOUR LAKES
2021	JD	S780	SM GRAIN, PRWD, HILLCO LEVELER	846	\$513,999	MOSCOW
2023	JD	S780	SM GRAIN, 2WD, DUALS, LEVEL LAND	317	\$559,999	FOUR LAKES
2021	JD	S780	SM GRAIN, PRWD, HILLCO LEVELER	483	\$588,999	MOSCOW
2022	JD	S780	SM GRAIN, PRWD, HILLCO LEVELER	554	\$639,999	MOSCOW
2023	CA	9250H	CASEIH, SM GRAIN, PRWD, DUALS, HILLCO, FD140 HEADER	408	\$705,999	COLFAX

TRACTORS

2022 JOHN DEERE 9RX590

TEKOA
FOUR TRACK, 36" TRACKS, PTO, HOURS: 914

\$654,999

Year	Make	Model	Description	Hours	Ad Price	Location
1999	JD	9300	4WD, DUALS	9458	\$46,999	MOSCOW
2010	CH	MT665C	CHALLENGER MFWD, DUALS	4627	\$89,999	COLFAX
2009	JD	8345RT	TWO TRACK, 3PT/PTO, NEW IVT	8066	\$126,999	MOSCOW
2011	JD	8260R	MFWD, IVT, ILS, SINGLES	7073	\$136,999	FOUR LAKES
2013	JD	8335R	MFWD, IVT, ILS, SINGLES	6293	\$186,999	FOUR LAKES
2023	JD	6175M	MFWD, PQD, TLS, SINGLES	376	\$194,499	TEKOA
2015	JD	8370R	MFWD, IVT, ILS, DUAL FRT, TRIPLE REAR	4583	\$199,999	COLFAX
2016	JD	8370RT	TWO TRACK, 3PT/PTO, 30" TRACKS	3183	\$209,999	COLFAX
2014	JD	9510R	4WD, PST, TRIPLES	3413	\$229,999	MOSCOW
2017	CA	1H380	CASE IH ROWTRAC, 24" TRACKS, CVT, 3PT/PTO	2588	\$240,999	TEKOA
2021	FD	930	FENDT MFWD, CVT, DUALS	650	\$298,999	TEKOA
2024	JD	7R250	MFWD, IVT, TLS, SINGLES, 700M LOADER	591	\$339,999	FOUR LAKES
2023	FD	938 MT	FENDT VARIO 938 MT	1127	\$349,999	COLFAX
2023	FD	943 MT	FENDT VARIO 943 MT	1338	\$377,999	COLFAX
2022	FD	1151 MT	FENDT VARIO 1151 MT	1972	\$384,999	COLFAX
2023	JD	8R340	MFWD, IVT, ILS, DUALS	178	\$459,999	TEKOA
2023	JD	9R440	4WD, PST, HIGH FLOW, PTO, DUALS	537	\$469,999	TEKOA
2021	JD	9620RX	FOUR TRACK, WIDE GAUGE, 36" TRACKS, PTO	2037	\$518,999	COLFAX
2023	JD	6140M	MFWD, IVT, TLS, SINGLES	329	CALL	FOUR LAKES

SPRAYERS & IMPLEMENTS

2014 JOHN DEERE 1890

FOUR LAKES
AIR DRILL, 40FT, 7.5" SPACING, SEED BOX, STARTER KIT

\$174,999

Year	Make	Model	Description	Hours	Ad Price	Location
2023	DM	LT42	DEMCO SPRAY TRAILER, QUICK-DRAW, PUMP, REMOTE START, HONDA	N/A	\$120,999	COLFAX
2015	JD	1890-1910	AIR DISC DRILL, 36FT, 7.5" SPACING, 1910 CART	N/A	\$174,999	TEKOA
2023	JD	N540C	AIR DRILL, 40FT, 7.5" SPACING, CCS, STARTER KIT	N/A	\$242,999	MOSCOW
2022	AP	4712-SL	AGPRO 4712-AL NO-TILL DRILL	N/A	\$309,999	COLFAX
2020	JD	R4045	SPRAYER, 120' STEEL BOOM, FLOATERS	1096	\$349,999	COLFAX
2023	JD	N550-1910	AIR DRILL, 50FT, 7.5" SPACING, STARTER, 1910 CART	N/A	\$379,999	TEKOA
2019	JD	R4045	SPRAYER, 120' CF BOOM, EXACTAPPLY, DUALS	1014	\$399,999	TEKOA

HAY EQUIPMENT

2023 JOHN DEERE W235M

FOUR LAKES
WINDROWER, 16' HAY HEAD, STEEL CONDITIONER, HOURS: 215

\$184,999

Year	Make	Model	Description	Hours	Ad Price	Location
1989	JD	375	BALER, ROUND	NA	\$3,999	COLFAX
2015	JD	830	MOWER CONDITIONER 9'8" CUT WIDTH	NA	\$19,999	TEKOA
2016	MD	M155E4	WINDROWER, 16' DOUBLE AUGER HEAD	2101	\$65,999	TEKOA
2018	JD	L341	LARGE SQUARE BALER, TANDEM	N/A	\$89,999	FOUR LAKES
2017	NH	SR260	NEW HOLLAND WINDROWER, 16' HAY HEAD, URETHANE	1003	\$119,999	FOUR LAKES
2019	JD	W260	WINDROWER, 16' HAY HEAD, STEEL CONDITIONER	1667	\$136,999	FOUR LAKES

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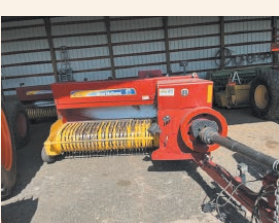


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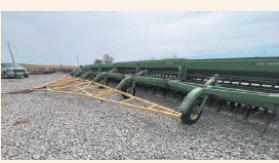


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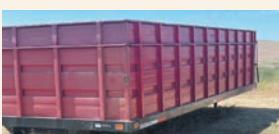
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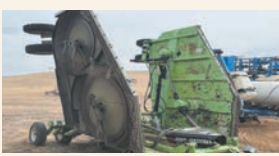
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2005 FEATHERLITE 2-B RSE WALK TRU B RSE TRAILER, tack on , dressing ran , nice & clean little trailer **\$8,000**



1983 48' W LSON ALUMINUM CATTLE TRAILER, flo s 50% ale s 50% 1x245 radials 50%. **\$10,000**



2004 IHW ATER TRUCK, 4200 gal stainless steel tankau t d rans, C ummins N14, 3 70 b, appr imately 1280 00 miles **\$40,000**



2000 IH 200 GALLON, stainless steel, 9 sp, C ummins, appr imately 6350 00 miles, f at & rear spray, pu mps. **\$40,000**

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10X 0' AUGER W THS W NG OUT B ER **\$3,500**



1993 JD 9600 W 0' BR, 4930 sep h s, ne w ires . **\$15,000**



2010 JD 9770, 4577 sep hrs, 630 Draper header w/ cart, clean machine.... **\$100,000**



2009 JD 9770 W/2017 30' DRAPER HDR & CART, 4WD, 3693 hrs.. **\$110,000**



1996 GLEANER R72 W/30' MACDON HEADER & CART, 4WD, rear wheel assist, chopper, rear tires like new.... **\$25,000**



2014 JD S680, 2,633 sep hours. good tires, JD 6350 Draper header. All belts, bearings, and rollers replaced June 2025, high speed Patriot header cart.... **\$158,500**



2013 BRENT 1082 GRAIN CART, roll tarp, newer tires, PTO drive, great working condition **\$45,000**



2012 JD S680 LEVEL LAND COMBINE, DUALS, 2029 sep hrs, w/2012 MacDon 40' D65-5 Draper header & cart **\$130,000**



2013 BRENT 882 GRAIN CART, 30.5x32 tires in good shape, well maintained **\$32,500**

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'23 CASE IH 580Q, 1024 Hrs, PowerShift Transmission, 36" Tracks, Luxury Performance Cab, Cold Weather Starting Aid, Engine Brake, Front Bumper Weights, True Ground Speed Radar, RH Armrest, AFS Pro 1200, High Cap Hyd Pump, Power Beyond Supply and Return, Performance Lighting, Dual Beacon, LED Cab Roof Work Lights, 2 Pumps Smart to Queue, 6 Electric Remotes, 1000RPM PTO, High Cap Bar w/ Diff Lock\$469,900

'19 CASE IH 580Q, 5130 Hours, Powershift, Deluxe Cab, LED Cab Roof Work Light Package, Single Beacon Light, RH Window Bar Display, Guidance Ready, Telematics, Cold Weather Starting Aid, Engine Compression Brake, True Ground Speed Sensor, Back-up Warning Alarm, High Capacity Draw Bar, High Capacity Hydraulic Pump, 6 Electric Remotes, Power Beyond Supply & Return, Hi Capacity Bar w/ Diff Lock, Undercarriage Scrapers, 36" CAMSO, 650 AG Tracks, Front Bumper Weights\$234,900

'18 CASE IH 580Q, 4398 Hours, PowerShift, Deluxe Cab, LED Cab Roof Work Light Package, Single Beacon Light, RH Window Bar Display Ready, Telematics, Cold Weather Starting Aid, True Ground Speed Sensor, High-Capacity Draw Bar, High-Capacity Hydraulic Pump, 6 Electric Remotes, Power Beyond Supply & Return, Hi Capacity Bar w/ Diff Lock, Drive Wheel Scrapers, 36" CAMSO Tracks, Front Bumper Weights\$224,900

'08 JD 9430, 6250 Hrs, 710/70R42 Tires, Hyd Flow 44 GPM, 4 Hyd Outlets, Auto Race Ready, 1000 PTO, 3PT\$159,900

'98 CASE IH 9370Q, 9711 Hours, Powershift, 4 Remotes, Trimble EZ-Steer, FM750, 2000 hours on reman Engine, Good Tracks, Consigned\$65,000

CASE IH 9380Q, 13,000 Hour, 36" Tracks, 4 Remotes CALL FF!



'20 JD 9520RX, 3511 Hrs, 36" Tracks, PTO, High Flow Hydraulics, 5 Valves, Premium Cab w/ Leather, Refrigerator, Premium Lighting w/ Front and Rear HID Lights, Autotrac Ready with 4600 Processor\$379,000

4WD 150-HP & OVER

'08 JD 8530, 8200 Hrs, 420/85R34 Fronts, 480/80R50 Rear Duals, MFWD, 4 Hyd Outlets, 1000 PTO, 3PT\$139,900

'11 NH T8.360, 6150 Hrs, 4WD, Duals, Front Weights, Deluxe Cab, Consigned\$115,000

'23 CASE IH STEIGER 470 AFS CONNECT, Luxury Performance Cab, PowerDrive, Engine Brake, Cold Weather Starting Aid, True Ground Speed Radar, RH Armrest, AFS Pro 1200, High-Capacity Pump, Power Beyond Supply & Return, Performance Lighting, Dual Beacon, LED Cab Roof Work Lights, 710/70R42 R1 Duals, Wheel Weights, Ballast Package, Rear Weight Support, Tow Cable\$368,000

'23 CASE IH STEIGER 500 AFS CONNECT, Powershift Heavy Duty Version, Engine Brake, Cold Weather Starting Aid, True Ground Speed Radar, RH Armrest AFS Pro 1200, High Capacity Hydraulic Pump, Power Beyond Supply & Return, Performance Lighting, Dual Beacon, LED Cab Roof Work Lights, Luxury Performance Cab, PTO, Hitch Drawbar, 4 Rear Remotes, Parallel Flow Hydraulic, AutoGuidance, Connectivity, Front Ballast, Rear Ballast, Wheel Weights, Rear Weight Support, Tow Cable, 710/70R42 Duals\$399,500

'22 CASE IH 500W, 1352 Hours, Luxury Cab, Power Drive, HHP, Engine Brake, Cold Weather Starting Aid, True Ground Speed Radar, RH Armrest AFS Pro 1200, High Capacity Hydraulic Pump, Power Beyond Supply and Return, Performance Lighting, Dual Beacon, LED Cab Roof Work Lights, Luxury Performance Cab\$389,900

'22 CASE IH PUMA 150, 578 Hours, Mechanical Cab Suspension, Bluetooth Radio, 2 Tele/Heat/Rem Adjustable Mirrors, ISOBUS Class 3 Speed Control, 200 Amp Alternator, 3 Electronic Rear Remotes\$171,900

'12 CASE IH 450W, 4654 Hrs, Luxury Cab, 16 Speed Powershift, 1000 RPM PTO, High Capacity Hydro Pump, 4 Hydraulic Remotes, 710/70R38 Tires, Wheel Weights\$215,900

UNDER 150-HP

'21 CASE IH MAXXUM 125, 1585 Hours, Active Drive 4 Suspended Cab, Telescoping Mirrors, Roof LED's, 200 Amp Alternator, Grid Heater, Rear Wheel Weights, L105 Loader, 3 rd Function, 480/65R28 Fronts, 600/65R38 Rear, Consigned\$120,000

'14 KUBOTA M59TL, BT 1200 Backhoe, 84" Bucket, 3 Range Hydro-Shuttle, Consigned\$49,500

'21 MF 1835E, 124 Hrs, Hydro, 4WD, Loader, Palleforks, Post Hold Digger, 3PT, PTO, Cons\$21,900

'81 YANMAR 1610, 4WD, Rear Blade, Good Tires, 16HP, 3PT, 540 PTO 9-3 Trans, Cons\$9,450

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DRILLS

'20 CASE IH 3555, 555 Bush ls, High Flow Hydraulic Cat rb, Deluxe Auger Screen, 650/75R38 High Flow Duals, 8 Run Double Shoot, Light Bar, Amber Rotating Beacon, Bulk Tank Lights, Sectional Command, Rear Ladder w/ Folding Steps, Rear Tow Hitch, Tank Fill Indicator, Tillage Mounted Work Saver\$185,000

'15 CASE IH FH700, 60X 12", High Flow Hydraulic, 550LB Trips, 5.5" Rubber Press Wheels, Air TBT, Double Bleed\$145,000

'12 CASE IH PH800, 12" Centers, 5" Pneumatic Packer Wheels, Precision Opener, Mud Scrapers, Bourgault Opener & Points, Consigned\$59,000

'12 CASE IH ADX2230, Single Shoot, 5 Run, 230 Bushel Capacity, Steel Tank, 30.5L-32R Tires, Consigned\$23,000

'07 FLEXI-COIL 4350, 6430 Bushels, Variable Dual Fan, 10" Auger, Velocity Sensors, 18.4x38 R1 Duals, Transport Lights\$37,900

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'19 NH3 RAVEN SYSTEM CART, Custom Made NH3 Cart w/ 800 Gallon Baffle, Raven NH3 Capacitors, 3-Off & Cat rb Valves, TBT, Consigned\$15,000

'13 JD 455, 35"x7.5" Spacing, Grass Seed Box, Skids on 15" Spacing, Hoffman Track Scratchers, Liquid Fertilizer, 400 Gallon Tank, 2x13" Press Wheels\$49,000

BALERS

'19 NH RB450, 4x5 1.8M Silage, Endless Belt, Net and Twine, DLX Wrap, 18L1.6 Tires, Dual Wheels, Manual Hyd Pickup Lift, 5 Bar Reel, Rubber Windguard, Clevis Hitch\$42,900

'03 NH 580, 16x18 Bale, Hydraulic Pickup, Bale Extension, 1/4 Turn Chute, New Rubber Tires, Consigned\$13,900

JD 468, Mega Wide Plus Round Baler, 21.5L-16.1 SL Tires, 540 PTO, Twine Only, Wind Pickup, Monitor\$12,900

'16 NH BC5060, Small Square Baler Twin, Quarter Turn Chute, Less than 2500 Acres\$15,900

'13 NH BC5080, 16x18 Bale, Hydraulic Swing, Hydraulic Pickup, Light Kit, Bale Extension\$16,900

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TELEHANDLERS

'16 JCB 525-60, 4691 Hrs, 5000LB Lift Capacity, Quick Attach Forks, Airless Tires, New Paint\$34,900

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'14 BOBCAT T590, 3251 Hrs, Open Cab, Good Tracks, STD Hydro, Foot Controls, Traction Lock Over Drive\$30,500

'23 NH C345, EH2 Aircab, 17.7" Tracks, 84" HD Ext Bucket w/ Smart Teeth, Block Heater, HVAC Cab, Air Ride Suspension Seat, 2 Speed EH Cat rb's, Steel Light's, Glass Door, High Flow PKG, Heavy Duty Rear Door, Eco Disc Mulcher Attachment, Great Condition, Consigned\$135,000

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ED-KA, 16' HARROW\$29,900

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VERMEER R2800, Basket V-Rake, 28", Full Hydraulic Control, Rubber Mounted Rake Teeth\$19,500

'21 SITREX SM-300, Hay Tedder Rake, PTO Driven, Like New, Consigned\$5,495

'25 Sotrex RP3, 3 Wheel Windrow Turner !!NEW!!\$1,530

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'21 CASE IH PATRIOT 4440, Luxury Cab, 380/90R36 Tires, 135", 7 Section, 20" Spacing, AIM Command Flex, AutoBoom Height Control, 1 Camera, AFS Pro 700, AFS 372 Receiver, Nav II Controller\$294,000

'19 CASE IH 4440, 2700 Hrs, 120" Boom, 7 sensor Auto Boom Height Control, 1200 gal tank, AIM Command Flex, Case IH Pro 700 auto steer package, 710/70R38 Tires\$275,900

'17 CASE IH 4440, 3200 Hrs, 120" Boom, 7 Section, 20" Spacing, Luxury Surveyor Cab, Active Suspension, 280/90R46 Wheels, Manual Adj Mirrors, 3" Front Fill, SS Tank, CR 11 Single Nozzle Body, Boom Flush Valve, AFS Pro 700, AIM Command Flex, AutoBoom Height Control, Combo Rate Dual Body Shut-Off\$195,000

'16 CASE IH 4440, 4100 Hours, 120" Boom, AccuBoom Section Control, AutoBoom Height Control, Pro 700, AIM Command, Foam Marker, Alliance 650/65R38 Turf Tread\$179,900

CASE IH PATRIOT 4430, 3268 Hours, 100' Boom, 6 Section, 20" Spacing, DLX Surveyor Cab, 650/65R38 Tires, Power Adj Mirrors, 3" Fill, AFS Pro 700, AFS 372 Receiver, AutoBoom Height Control\$132,900

FLEXI-COIL S67XL, Full Type Sprayer, 1500 Gallon Tank, 100' Suspended Boom, Raven Auto-Boom Height control\$14,900

'24 JD 616R, 529 Hrs, Signature Edition, 1600 Gallon Tank, 120" Boom, Exact Apply, Command Drive, Boom Trac Pro 2, Integrated StarFire 7500 Receiver, 65 Plus Command Center Display, LSW 800/55F46 Floats, Set of Skinny's and Fenders to Match\$569,000

SCHABAU SE8500, 90' Boom, 1500 Gallon Tank, 100 Gallon Rinse Tank, Triple Nozzle, 5 Section Control, 380/90R46 Tires, AutoBoom Height\$16,900

'12 AGPRO NH3 APPLICATOR, Custom Built, 1000 Gallon Bottle, 12" Centers, McGregor 25"x1 1/4" Coil Shanks, Rolling Basket Harrow, 11L-15 Tires, Raven Control & Shut-off Valves, Consigned\$34,000

AG 100 FERTILIZER SPREADER, Ground Drive, 66cuft Hopper, Stainless Box, Consigned\$3,900

'20 JD R4045, JUST IN!! Call NP for more information\$284,900

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(2) '23 CASE IH 8250, Harvest Command AutoSteer w/ Camera, Luxury Cab, Pro 700 Large Chute to Ch Screen, Call FF for More Information and Hrs\$674,000 EA

(2) '23 CASE IH 8250, Luxury Cab w/ Leather Seat, Harvest Command w/Camera, Power Plus CVT Drive, Yield Monitor, Auto Cleaning Fan, In-Cab Cage Vane Cat rb Adjust, Pro 700 Nav Cat rb ler, Engine Block Heater, Upper Chute Auger, Diff Lock, Grain Tank Cooler, Hilco Leveler\$91,500 EACH

'21 CASE IH 8250, 1063 Sep Hrs, Luxury Cab, Auto Guidance, Yield Monitor, HVSTC w/Camera, Power Plus CVT Drive w/ Feederate, 40" Auger w/Pivoting Spout, Upper Cross Auger Control, Large Color Touch Screen, Diff Lock, 620/70R42 Duals, 750/65R26\$524,900

'14 CASE IH 8230, 1924 Sep Hours, 520/85R42 Duals, 600/65R58 Rear, Ch per, GPS\$129,900

'05 CASE IH 8010, 3554 Engine Hours, 4WD, Leveler, 1 2 CH 3020 35" Header Included, Cons\$119,900

IH 1470, 2100 Series Handle, New Style Fan, 1010. Header, 2300 Series Cage, New Tires, Consigned\$9,900

CASE IH 1680, 6900 Engine Hours, Hilco 2000 Leveler, Rear Weight's, Great Condition, Consigned\$12,000

'02 GLEANER R72, Duals, 2WD, 30" Header Included, Consigned\$29,900

'21 Case IH 9250, 1365 Sep Hrs, Luxury Cab, AM/FM/BT Radio Pro 700, Large Chute to Ch Screen, Auto Guidance Nav Cat rb ler, Hilco Lvlr, Command AutoSteer, Power Plus CVT Drive w/ Feederate, Yield Monitor, Harvest Command w/ Cameras, Auto Cleaning Fan, Block Heater, Independent Chute Auger Cat rb, Diff Lock\$439,900

'22 Case IH 9250, 1201 Hrs, Leather Seat, Distance Light's, Hilco Lvlr, Nav Cat rb ler, AutoSteer, Yield Monitor, Power Plus CVT Drive w/ Feederate, Ext Wear Rtr w/ Spikes, Auto Clean Fan, 50" Unload Out Header, Pivoting Spout, Upper Chute Auger Cat rb, Fine Cut Ch per, Engine Block Heater\$489,900

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LEVEL LAND

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'13 CASE IH 8230, level land, 2261-Sep-hrs, header tilt, rock trap, cross-auger control, fine cut chopper, HID lights, Diff lock, AFS auto-steer, 520 front duals, 750/85R42 rear\$124,900

'02 CASE IH 2388, 3458-Sep-hrs, level land, feeder reverser, single spd hydro, 2WD, 20.8x42 duals, 18.4x26 rears, new rubber bars, Field Tracker\$24,900

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Washington forecast for record apple harvest, big year expected for U.S.

By KYLE ODEGARD
Capital Press

Washington, the nation's top apple producer, is forecast for a record harvest of 180 million 42-pound bushels this season, up 1% from the previous year, according to USApple.

The state's crop for 2025-26 is expected to be valued at nearly \$2.3 billion.

New York is anticipated to rank No. 2 for production, followed by Michigan and Pennsylvania, with Oregon fifth.

Oregon's harvest is predicted to hit 3.9 million bushels, up 40% from 2024-25.

California was sixth with 3.8 million bushels, up 1.9%.

National production for 2025-26 was forecast at 278.5 million bushels, up 1.3% from the previous year.

This would be the third straight year of above average harvests. The crop is expected to be 3.6% above the five-year production average, which includes the (unofficial) record of 292 million bushels in 2023-24.

USApple's latest forecast was unveiled during the national trade association's 130th annual Outlook Conference in Chicago in mid-August.



Courtesy Washington State University

Cosmic Crisp, shown here in this file photo, is one of the apple varieties on the rise, according to USApple. The Washington State University-developed apple is forecast to be the sixth in production in the U.S., with all of that crop coming from Washington.

"The U.S. grows the best apples in the world and this year we will certainly have plenty for domestic and global consumption," said Chris Gerlach, USApple vice president

of insights and analytics.

"That said, growers carefully select what comes off the tree to ensure only the highest quality fruit makes it to the store. And with skyrocketing labor costs, growers are having to be even more disciplined in their harvest decisions," Gerlach said, in a news release.

Gala is expected to remain the No. 1 variety at nearly 47 million bushels, or 16% of the market.

Other top apples are Red Delicious (39 million bushels, 13%), Honeycrisp (34 million

bushels, 12%), Granny Smith (32 million bushels, 11%) and Fuji (25 million bushels, 9%).

Cosmic Crisp was sixth at 18.4 million bushels, or 6% of the market, with all the crop coming from Washington, according to the USApple Industry Outlook report, released in early August.

The Washington State University developed apple first reached consumers in 2019.

Honeycrisp, Granny Smith and Cosmic Crisp are varieties on the rise, while Gala and Fuji are trending downwards.

Though exports declined 5% year over year in 2024-25, the U.S. maintained a strong trade balance valued at approx-

imately \$900 million.

The nation exported 44 million bushels while imports accounted for less than 5 million bushels.

China leads the world in apple production with 2.6 billion bushels, or roughly 51% of global supply. The U.S. ranks second with 5.3%, followed by Turkey at 4.7%, Poland at 4% and India at 3%.

"With China down 100 million bushels and Turkey's crop off by 40%, the U.S. has a real opportunity," Gerlach said.

"Given Turkey's role as a major supplier to India, this could open the door for us to regain market share there," he said.

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U.S. and Brazil farm interests clash on trade practices

By **DON JENKINS**
Capital Press

U.S. and Brazil farms groups exchanged accusations in comments sent to U.S. officials investigating Brazil's trade practices, highlighting sources of friction between two agricultural powerhouses.

U.S. cattlemen complain that the beef trade between the countries is one-sided, and pork producers are fed up with Brazil capitalizing on California's animal-welfare law. Corn growers accuse their Brazilian counterparts of cutting down forests to overproduce.

Brazilian farm groups say their country is committed to stopping illegal deforestation and following international trade rules. They suggested the U.S. and Brazil, the world's top-two ethanol producers, work together to



Don Jenkins/Capital Press

U.S. and Brazil agricultural groups differ on many trade issues, but apparently agree Brazilian coffee exports to the U.S. are a blessing for both countries.

persuade other countries to mandate use of biofuels.

One point of agreement appears to be that a high tariff on coffee, not grown in the continental U.S., won't help anyone's image.

"Coffee is the quintessential kitchen table issue," said the Brazilian Coffee Exports Council, in remarks similar

to those by the National Coffee Association of USA.

The U.S. Trade Representative initiated the investigation shortly before President Trump announced in late July he was imposing a 50% tariff on Brazilian goods, on top of existing tariffs.

Brazil has filed a complaint with the World Trade

Organization, saying the high tariff is apparently related to politics, not economic relations, and noting the U.S. has a trade surplus with Brazil, not a deficit.

The U.S. investigation will look into digital trade, intellectual property protections, anti-corruption enforcement, ethanol market access and illegal deforestation. The public's deadline for submitting remarks and recommendations expired Aug. 18.

Although Brazil has an overall trade deficit with the U.S., it had a \$7 billion trade surplus in agricultural goods with the U.S. last year. Much of the trade imbalance can be attributed to ethanol, beef and pork.

Brazil shipped \$211 million worth of ethanol to the U.S. in 2024, while the U.S. sent \$53 million worth to Brazil. The Brazilian Confederation of Agriculture

and Livestock attributes the imbalance to exchange rates, shipping costs and the growth in domestic production, particularly of corn ethanol from Brazil's Midwest.

The National Corn Growers Association blames Brazil's 18% tariff on U.S. ethanol, as well as Brazilian overproduction aided by the conversion of what was once tropical rainforests. The conversion has fueled a fast-growing surplus of Brazilian commodities, lowering global prices and hurting farmers in the U.S. and elsewhere, according to the corn growers.

The U.S. grew 31% of the world's corn in 2024, while Brazil grew 11%, according to the USDA. The USDA this month projected the U.S. will set records for corn production and exports during the 2025-26 marketing year.

See **PRACTICES**, Page B7

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Ferguson tells EFSEC to check with tribe about solar project

By **DON JENKINS**
Capital Press

Washington Gov. Bob Ferguson ordered a state council to go back and consult with the Yakama Nation about a proposed solar and battery installation that the tribe says may harm tribal culture.

Ferguson said he won't approve the Carriger solar project in Klickitat County until the tribe has a chance to comment on measures intended to protect the tribe's use of adjacent land, according to a letter he sent Aug. 22 to the Energy Facility Site Evaluation Council.

The letter is a setback for Cypress Creek Renewables, a company owned by Swedish investment firm EQT Infrastructure.



Don Jenkins/Capital Press

Washington Gov. Bob Ferguson wants the Energy Facility Site Evaluation Council to check with the Yakama Nation before recommending he permit the Carriger solar project in Klickitat County.

Cypress Creek hopes to install solar panels and batteries on about 2,000 acres of farmland near Goldendale in south-central Washington.

EFSEC recommended in

June that Ferguson permit the project over the objections of the tribe and county commissioners. Ferguson's letter addressed only the tribe's concerns.

The Yakama Nation had

pressed for formal hearings at which tribal members could have talked directly to EFSEC members about their concerns. EFSEC bypassed hearings in favor of an informal meeting between the tribe and EFEC Chairman Kurt Beckett.

Beckett relayed the tribe's concerns in a memo to EFSEC's voting members. The memo was not made public, and the tribe complained it didn't have a chance to see how their concerns were summarized.

Ferguson did not order EFSEC to hold the hearings. He told EFSEC to send him a new recommendation in 60 days. The solar panels and batteries will help the state meet its clean-energy goals, and Cypress Creek must start construction by July 4 to qualify for federal tax credits, Ferguson said.

"Carriger solar is one of a select number of clean energy projects that will be able to achieve this nar-

row time window," Ferguson stated.

EFSEC issued a statement saying it will work with the Yakama Nation to meet the governor's deadline. Efforts to obtain comment from the tribe and Cypress Creek were unsuccessful.

EFSEC's six state employees recommended Ferguson approve the project. Klickitat County's representative, Matt Chiles, asked Ferguson to deny the permit.

The project would be highly visible and is unpopular among residents, according to Chiles. The solar panels will take up farmland, and the batteries could catch fire, Chiles said.

Eastern Washington counties and tribes have emerged as critics of solar projects that alter the landscape. Ferguson said he will ask EFSEC to give his office information about how it consults with tribes.

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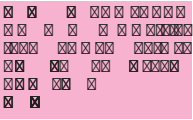
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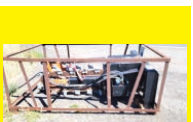
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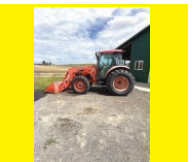
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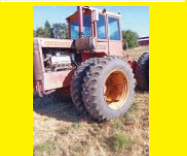
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The challenge and reward of growing tomatoes in Central Oregon

By KYLE ODEGARD
Capital Press

TERREBONNE, Ore. — Tomatoes are finicky plants that want the temperature to hover around 85 degrees, which doesn't happen much in Central Oregon.

Nights can bring frost even in August, while summer temperatures regularly exceed 90 degrees.

Despite the challenging environment, a few small farms in Central Oregon are focusing on tomatoes by trellising plants inside heated greenhouses.

"It takes a little effort to grow tomatoes out here, but that's not to say it's impossible," said Caleb Thompson, owner of Sungrounded Farm.

He chatted as he stood on a ladder and trimmed tomato



Farmhand Amelia Bincham leans trellised tomatoes so they grow diagonally in a greenhouse on Aug. 14 at Sungrounded Farm near Terrebonne, Ore.



Aaron Stubbs, owner of Fibonacci Farm in Bend, Ore., demonstrates his trellising system on Aug. 14. Experts said tomatoes might have a natural outdoor season of a few weeks in Central Oregon, but small farms are harvesting in greenhouses from late June through September.

plants about 8-feet tall.

Experts said tomatoes might have a natural outdoor season of just a few weeks in Central Oregon, but small farms are harvesting from late

June through September.

"Greenhouses are totally imperative," said Aaron Stubbs, owner of Fibonacci Farm in Bend, Ore.

Heated greenhouses allow

tomatoes to get an early start, and the structures also keep plants cool in the summer, with shade cloth covering the top, sides rolled up and fans running for air flow.

"Our job here is to play defense and manipulate what we can," Stubbs said.

While tomatoes require a lot of labor — plants have to be trimmed and re-hung every week or so — they can produce for a relatively long time and have high returns, farmers said.

"Tomatoes are a huge part of what we do," Stubbs said.

Sungrounded, which operates near Smith Rock State Park, does more than half of its

business at two farmers markets in nearby Bend. Tomatoes are a big draw for customers, said Ashley Thompson, Caleb Thompson's wife and business partner.

The farm, which has four seasonal workers, also has a 75-member subscription box program in the summer.

Fibonacci and Sungrounded each grow about 40 crops on roughly 2 acres, so trellising tomatoes makes sense to save space, especially in valuable greenhouse real estate.

"They grow so big and so vigorously, but the fruit can have so many problems," Ashley Thompson said.

If tomato bushes aren't trimmed they turn into a jungle, which limits airflow and can cause fungal issues or other diseases.

Unkempt plants also tend to produce smaller and less uniform tomatoes.

Fibonacci and Sungrounded's owners start tomatoes in January inside their houses, pot up in nurseries in March and plant in heated greenhouses in April.

Sungrounded grafts plants onto rootstock to create more vigorous tomatoes and limit soil disease pressure.

Variety selection also has been key to success. Sungrounded grows only seven types of tomatoes and Fibonacci grows nine.

The farms focus on proven winners but also experiment

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TOMATOES:

Continued from B6

with new varieties in small trials.

Stubbs and the Thompsons said grants from the High Desert Food and Farm Alliance allowed them to dive into growing tomatoes.

Fibonacci used on-farm efficiency grants to purchase a greenhouse heater and a Qlipper trellising sys-

tem that saved a huge amount of labor — Stubbs and his business partner Lauren Rasmussen are the farm's only workers.

Fibonacci has a booth at the Bend Farmers Market on Wednesdays, and partners with another ag operation, Boundless Farmstead, for a 235-member subscription box program.

“Our strengths played into each other’s weak-

nesses and it worked out nicely," Stubbs said.

Fibonacci, of course, is supplying tomatoes for the partnership.

"Tomatoes are my favorite food. I eat them every day," Stubbs said.

"I eat them so I can confidently talk about them at the market," he said, with a laugh.



Ashley Thompson, owner of Sun-grounded Farm near Terrebonne, Ore., said trellissed tomatoes inside green-houses have to be trimmed and re-hung every week or so.

Kyle Oelgaard
Capital Press

PRACTICES:

Continued from B3

Brazil sold \$1.13 billion worth of beef to the U.S. in the first six months of this year, while the U.S. sold a “poultry” \$424,654 worth to Brazil, according to the National Cattlemen’s Beef Association.

Non-tariff barriers have all but closed Brazil to U.S. beef, according to NCBA. The U.S. already imposed a 26.4% tariff on Brazilian beef. Given Brazil's weaker currency and lower cost of production, an additional 50% won't slow down Brazilian beef exports, NCBA predicted.

Cattlemen's groups also charge Brazil with having a spotty record of meat inspections and the timely reporting of livestock diseases.

The Meat Import Council of America said Brazil helps make up for a shortage of lean beef trim, which is blended with higher-fat domestic trimmings to make hamburger. Limiting or barring Brazilian beef could affect the price of hamburger, according to the council.

Brazil exported \$104 million worth of pork to the U.S. in

2024, while U.S. pork producers have been virtually shut out of Brazil by unjustified food-safety concerns, according to the National Pork Producers Council.

While U.S. producers struggle to comply with California's Proposition 12 pig-housing requirements, Brazilian exporters are increasing pork shipments to California, according to the council.

"NPPC members are increasingly frustrated with Brazil's growing shipments to California, which undercut U.S. producers, rural America and U.S. agriculture," the council stated.

Brazil has more arable land than any other country in the world and is one of the few countries that still has the potential to increase agricultural production, according to the USDA Economic Research Service.

Since 2019, about 24.4 million acres have been deforested, roughly the size of Indiana, according to MapBiomass, a partnership of universities, tech companies and non-governmental organizations in Sao Paulo. Some 97% of the land has been converted to agriculture.

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Courtesy Northwest Cherry Growers

Farmers said this year’s cherry season went poorly, despite a large crop with high quality. A labor shortage early in the season was followed by high retail prices derailing demand for the fruit.

A beautiful crop and a ‘bloodbath’ of a cherry season

By KYLE ODEGARD
Capital Press

Cherry growers said they had a large crop of beautiful fruit but the season was a “bloodbath” or “trainwreck” due to labor and market challenges.

At the start of the season, immigrant workers’ fears of federal raids resulted in a labor shortage for some farms, said Ian Chandler, chairman of the Oregon Sweet Cherry Commission.

That was followed by high retail prices derailing demand.

Chandler, owner of CE Farm Management, grows 300 acres of cherries in Wasco County, Ore., and said he had \$250,000 to \$300,000 in unharvested fruit — and the cherries that were picked came at a loss.

Mike Omeg, director of operations for Orchard View Farms, headquartered in The Dalles, Ore., said he simply tried to minimize the damage this season.

Orchard View didn’t have a labor shortage but the season still was a bust.

“When the cherry returns are less than what it takes to pick, pack and grow the crop, you are losing money

big-time,” Omeg said.

Dane Klindt, who grows 600 acres of cherries with K&K Land and Management in Wasco County, Ore., said some varieties overlapped and didn’t fall in line with normal ripening patterns.

“Skeena peaked right after Bings. We were picking them pretty much right on top of each other,” he added.

The condensed season didn’t help with oversupply and diminished demand.

Klindt said immigrant workers were hesitant to come up from California at the start of the season due to worries about Immigration and Customs Enforcement sweeps.

Nearly 20 of his H-2A program workers also were held up at the border for three weeks.

“I’ve been using the H-2A program for three years now and I’ve never had this happen,” Klindt said.

“We were able to harvest most of our cherries. There were a few that I left on trees, but that was due to the market, not labor,” he added.

See CHERRY, Page B12



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Farm Credit lenders ‘strong’ despite ‘credit quality deterioration’

By MATEUSZ PERKOWSKI
Capital Press

Lending profits and volumes have increased for a national network of agricultural lenders even as farmers have increasingly fallen behind on debt payments to member companies.

The Farm Credit System, which consists of 59 banks and associations dedicated to financing agriculture, recently reported a 6% hike in its net interest income during the first half of 2025, to nearly \$6.3 billion.

In that time, the system’s total loan volume expanded nearly 2%, to \$436 billion, according to the Federal Farm Credit Banks Funding Corporation, which raises money for the network.

“The system’s strong balance sheet and robust capital levels position it to serve our member-borrowers should challenges



Capital Press file photo

The Farm Credit System, which consists of 59 banks and associations dedicated to financing agriculture, recently reported a 6% hike in its net interest income during the first half of 2025, to nearly \$6.3 billion. During the same time, nonperforming loans have increased by \$1 billion.

around trade and geopolitical conditions intensify in the months to come,” according to FFCB.

While the network’s financial performance remained solid overall, it has experienced “credit quality deterioration” in certain

agricultural sectors, contributing to an increase in “nonperforming assets,” such as loans that are delinquent or past due.

In the past six months, such nonperforming assets have risen by nearly \$1 billion, from roughly \$3.5 bil-

lion to \$4.5 billion, according to FFCB.

Network lenders also charged off about \$272 million of bad debt, thus recognizing it as a financial loss, compared to \$158 million at this point last year.

Because system lend-

ers have been setting aside more money for potential losses — \$550 million in the first half of 2025, compared to \$159 million at this point last year — the network’s overall profit has remained roughly flat at \$4 billion.

Financial problems faced by farmers and other agricultural borrowers are reflected in other federal statistics as well.

In the past year, 282 companies have filed for Chapter 12 bankruptcy protection, which specifically applies to family farm and fishing operations, representing an increase of nearly 56% compared to mid-2024, according to federal judicial statistics.

Business prospects for farmers and other companies do not look especially optimistic for the remainder of 2025, according to FFCB.

See FARM, Page B



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Warm weather, healthy wheat crop keep falling number hotspots low

By **MATTHEW WEAVER**
Capital Press

Warm weather means very few low falling number hotspots reported this year.

"I have heard we have maybe one or two hot spots that are small and regional, but down from last year, and last year was a good year, too," said Amber Hauvermale, falling number project leader and a Washington State University associate professor.

A falling number test measures the amount of pre-harvest sprouting and alpha-amylase, an enzyme that breaks down starch. The starch damage impacts the baking characteristics of the wheat, harming the final product.

Hauvermale attributes the low amount of incidents this year to warmer weather at the end of July. Farmers are seeing the effect if their grain had some issues, she said.



Courtesy Alson Thompson/USDA

Amber Hauvermale sorts through grain samples in order to calibrate the new rapid test in 2023. Washington State University and USDA researchers will sort through up to 3,000 samples in 2025 to assess the starch problem's presence in this year's crop, as well as varieties in development.

"A lot of management can happen in the field prior to harvest by allowing the grain to

sit just a little bit longer," she said.

The industry was caught off-guard by "staggering" starch damage losses in 2016. Falling number is estimated to have cost farmers \$140 million that year.

Hauvermale isn't aware of any farmers receiving a reduced price this year.

"It's maybe an isolated lot or field," she said. "There's so much good grain this year that it's very easy to have it blended away. The overall health of the grain this year is looking really good."

Early variety trial testing Hauvermale and col-

league Alison Thompson, USDA research biologist at the USDA, are working with WSU, Oregon State University and commercial variety development programs to conduct early testing.

In spots where checks "flag hot," they'll screen the entire location.

"It's giving us kind of a streamlined way to look at falling numbers on a much larger footprint," Hauvermale said.

It allows researchers to report earlier those varieties that might have problems to seed representatives and breeders, before they are released, she said.

The researchers are also working with HighLine Grain Growers to perform spot checking to identify potential prone varieties.

Rapid test update

EnviroLogix released a rapid test designed to replace the "cumbersome" and highly variable longtime industry standard falling number test. It is now commercially available.

Hauvermale said there has been local interest from several individuals who might use it on their farm.

There's a lot of interest from other parts of the U.S. and globally, she said.

"A lot of the large domestic mills are currently using it, and also their elevators," she said.

An instructional video on how to use the rapid test is available on WSU's small grains website: <https://small-grains.wsu.edu/farvideo/>

As more people become familiar with the test, Hauvermale anticipates more interest.

Soundness and quality

Among the various frustrations with the old test was the fact that there was no way to tell whether a farmer might have low falling number due to the enzyme alpha amylase or localized weather conditions.

The new test measures enzyme activity, which helps researchers determine whether low falling number is due to alpha amylase or something else.

See WARM, Page B11

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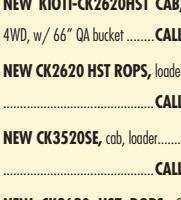
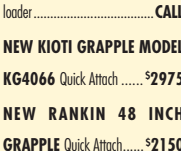
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WARM:

Continued from B10

“We don’t know what that something else is yet,” Hauvermale said. “We don’t have the ability yet to say pre-harvest sprouting or late-maturity alpha amylase-related, but we can infer that based on weather data. We’ve come a ways.”

In those instances where wheat varieties have high falling numbers but the test indicates high enzyme activity, the researchers are realizing some varieties have alpha amylase-resistant starch.

“Which is actually a good thing, because the risk of low falling number due to alpha amylase activity would be lessened in those varieties,” Hauvermale said.

The new testing method with the variety trials may lead to a “re-education process” about the implications of locations and varieties with low falling number and high alpha amylase activity.

“I think it opens up a bigger discussion about how we define soundness in wheat, outside



Matthew Weaver/Capital Press file

Amber Hauvermale, Washington State University associate professor, compares the EnviroLogix rapid test against the long-running standard falling number test July 24, 2024 at HighLine Grain Growers' facility in Coulee City, Wash. This year, researchers are running samples through both tests to get a fuller picture, Hauvermale says.

of quality,” Hauvermale said. “Soundness” is the absence of pre-harvest sprouting and associated damage. “I think they’re separate things.”

“Under the avalanche”
Researchers will run 1,500 to 3,000 samples, primarily variety trial samples.

“We’re under the avalanche right now,” Hauvermale said

with a laugh.
The state Department of Agriculture runs samples using the older falling number tests while the researchers test the retained flour using the rapid test.
“Having the two tests running together also tells us a lot,” Hauvermale said. “It’s a really collaborative effort this year.”

FARM:

Continued from B9

In its most recent quarterly report, the funding corporation says the overall outlook for the U.S. is “characterized by slowing economic growth, persistent inflation, a resilient but potentially softening labor market and ongoing geopolitical conflicts and tensions.”

In regard to agriculture in particular, the FFCB expects that potential trade disruptions, weather problems and disease outbreaks “may keep agriculture market volatility elevated for the next few years.”

The FFCB’s report also raises the possibility that growers who rely on off-farm income may “be more adversely impacted by a weakened general economy.”

However, the funding corporation noted that “cost-saving technologies” and improved methods for marketing farm prod-

ucts and managing risk will allow some farmers to perform better than others.

Disaster payments and other forms of government assistance to growers may also mitigate the volatility experienced by the agriculture industry, the FFCB said.

The performance of AgWest Farm Credit, a network lender that primarily serves the Northwest and parts of California and Arizona, is largely in line with the system as a whole.

In mid-2025, AgWest’s net interest income rose to about \$461 million, up 8.5% compared to the same period last year, but higher provisions for potential losses and other factors caused its overall profit to dip by about 3%, to \$361 million, over the past six months.

The company’s total loan volume remained roughly flat during that time, at \$31.7 billion, while non-performing assets increased from \$358.5 million to \$595 million.

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CHERRY:

Continued from B8

Omeg said this season raised questions about the future of the cherry industry, including whether growers were producing too much fruit.

Lesley Tamura, Columbia Gorge Fruit Growers board chairwoman, said farmers would need to take a hard look at their bottom lines and figure out how to make cuts.

Some growers have both cherries and pears, and there's general anxiety about pears this season due to the closure of canneries and a bigger crop.

Pear orchards in the mid-Columbia region aren't as reliant on migrant labor as cherries, however, growers said.

"We are very reliant on our domestic labor force and our H-2A labor force rather than migrant workers coming out of California," said Tamura,

a pear grower. Chandler anticipated growers will walk away from cherry orchard leases in the future, especially if the acreage is marginally productive due to age, water restrictions, weather or other factors.

He said it was three bad years in a row for cherries. "My wife and I are both looking for off-farm jobs," he added.

Chandler's family farm also will take on more debt and he wondered if "little guys" can afford to keep growing cherries.

Klindt expects to see more consolidation as smaller farms exit agriculture.

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Oregon farmer films Civil War-era short movie

By MATEUSZ PERKOWSKI
Capital Press

This summer, Oregon farmer Joe Rossi's property in North Portland has doubled as the set of his self-written short film about a Civil War-era rivalry.

Rossi, who began dabbling in movie-making two decades ago, wrote the script about 6 months ago for the roughly 30-minute film,

"James Prescott and the Battle of Marysville."

"I've had it 20 years in my head, so it kind of wrote itself when I put it on paper," he said.

The film centers on two fictional Union military figures, James Prescott and Parker Rose, who turn into adversaries in the waning days of the Civil War.

See CIVIL WAR, Page B13

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CIVIL WAR:

Continued from B12

“When adversity strikes, it’s a clash of characters,” Rossi said. “They turn on each other.”

The theme explores the conflict between the aggressive Prescott, who is seeking glory before the war ends, and the more defensively-oriented Rose, who’d prefer to minimize bloodshed, Rossi said.

“It’s not a war movie. It’s a character-driven drama,” Rossi said.

Interior and exterior scenes have so far been shot at Rossi’s farm on the outskirts of Portland, with additional battle scenes to be filmed in September at a friend’s farm near Sandy, Ore.

The movie’s cast and crew are all volunteers — “friends and friends of friends” — as well as high school and college video production students, and re-enactors from an artillery division of the Northwest Civil War Council nonprofit, he said.

“Everything this year went my way with people wanting to do it and being available,” he said

See CIVIL WAR, Page B15



Photos by Hai Nguyen of Sunstone Photography, via Joe Rossi
Troy Rulmy , the actor play ng the title role of Col. James Prescott, rides a horse in a scene from, “James Prescott and the Battle of Marysville.” The short film, written by Oregon farmer Joe Rossi, is filming this summer at Rossi’s farm on the outskirts of Portland, Ore.



An interior set is constructed inside the barn of Rossi Farms, a fifth-generation family operation on the outskirts of Portland, Ore. The farm’s owner, Joe Rossi, wrote a Civil War-era short film, “James Prescott and the Battle of Marysville,” that he’s filming this summer.

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West Coast fuel prices going up as rest of country enjoys reprieve

By **DON JENKINS**
Capital Press

West Coast fuel prices, already the highest in the Continental U.S., will continue to rise, even as the rest of the country looks forward to gasoline dropping below \$3 a gallon, the U.S. Energy Information Administration forecasts.

The EIA reported Aug. 28 that gasoline prices in all regions, except the West Coast, are lower than last year. Crude oil prices are expected to fall as OPEC increases production, lowering the average price of regular gas next year to \$2.90 a gallon, excepting, again, the West Coast.

The West Coast has limited refining capacity and high fuel



A truck rolls down Interstate 5 in Washington on Aug. 28. Washington's average diesel price has increased 55 cents per gallon compared to one year ago, the most in the nation, according to AAA.

Don Jenkins/Capital Press

taxes, according to the EIA. Fuel supplies, already stretched thin, will get tighter when Phil-

lip's 66 and Valero close refineries in the next 12 months, the EIA predicts.

The West Coast, where fuels flow across state lines, will lose 11% of its refining capacity. The U.S. is the largest oil exporter in the world. But the West Coast, cut off from major U.S. refining regions, may have to rely on imported fuel from Asia, according to the EIA.

"The supply shortfall left by their (the refineries) exit

is therefore likely to have an outsized impact on the region because it cannot be easily filled by other refineries elsewhere," the EIA stated.

Hawaii sometimes has the most-expensive fuel in the U.S. But on the mainland, California, Washington and Oregon, in that order, consistently have the highest fuel prices.

In the past year, Washington has closed the gap with California, leading the U.S. in rising fuel prices. Washington's average regular gas price on Aug. 28 was 22 cents higher than last year. The average cost of diesel was 55 cents higher, according to AAA.

California's average gas price actually fell 3 cents a gallon, while its diesel increased

by 18 cents. Washington diesel now costs a dime less than California's diesel. Hawaii, California and Washington are the only states where the average price of diesel tops \$5 per gallon.

Washington's nation-leading surge in fuel prices has coincided with a hike in fuel taxes and a near doubling in the cost of complying with cap-and-trade.

The Legislature raised the gas tax by 6 cents per gallon and the diesel tax by 9 cents on July 1. Washington's 55.4 cents per gallon gas tax is the third-highest in the U.S. and its 58.4 cents diesel is second-highest.

Cap-and-trade allowances sold a year ago for \$29.92 apiece, adding an estimated 24 cents per gallon to gas and 30 cents to diesel. At the most recent auction in June, allowances sold for \$58.31, adding 47 cents to gas and almost 60 cents to diesel.

Oregon gas jumped 18 cents a gallon and diesel jumped 50 cents, the second-most in the U.S. behind Washington.

The Oregon Legislature will convene Aug. 29 for a special session on transportation funding. Gov. Tina Kotek's proposals include raising the gas tax by 6 cents to 46 cents a gallon.



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Oregon farmer Joe Rossi and his younger daughter, Genevieve, dressed up in Civil War-era garb for his short film, “James Prescott and the Battle of Marysville,” in which he also plays the role of a fictional military figure, Parker Rose.

Photos by Hai Nguyen of Sunstone Photography, via Joe Rossi



An interior scene is shot inside the barn of Rossi Farms, a fifth-generation family operation on the outskirts of Portland, Ore. The farm’s owner, Joe Rossi, wrote a Civil War-era short film, “James Prescott and the Battle of Marysville,” that he’s filming this summer.

CIVIL WAR:

Continued from B13

Though the plot and characters are fictional, Rossi said he was inspired by real events from the Civil War.

“It’s based on things that really happened and how people were thrown together,” he said.

Rossi said relying on volunteers kept the costs down, but he paid for their food and some of the wardrobe.

Though the end product will likely be about a half-hour long, the filming will be spread over several days, as about five minutes of the finished movie requires about an hour of shooting, he said.

When he’s not working as a filmmaker, Rossi is a fifth-generation Oregon farmer who normally runs the operation with his oldest daughter, Gabrielle, who is currently working at the USDA’s Office of the Deputy Secretary.

They continue to grow crops and run an event venue on the same property that his family began working more than a century ago, which has since become surrounded by urban development.

Rossi plans to host a “red carpet” film premiere at his farm, tentatively scheduled for Nov. 16, but he’ll also submit the movie to film festival competitions and eventually post it on Youtube.

In addition to being a memorable experience for the participants, Rossi said his project will help the student film-makers gain some experience.

“It’s fun because it’s real-life work. They get to spend the summer working on a real project,” he said.



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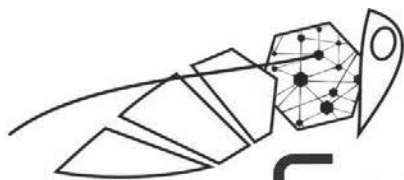
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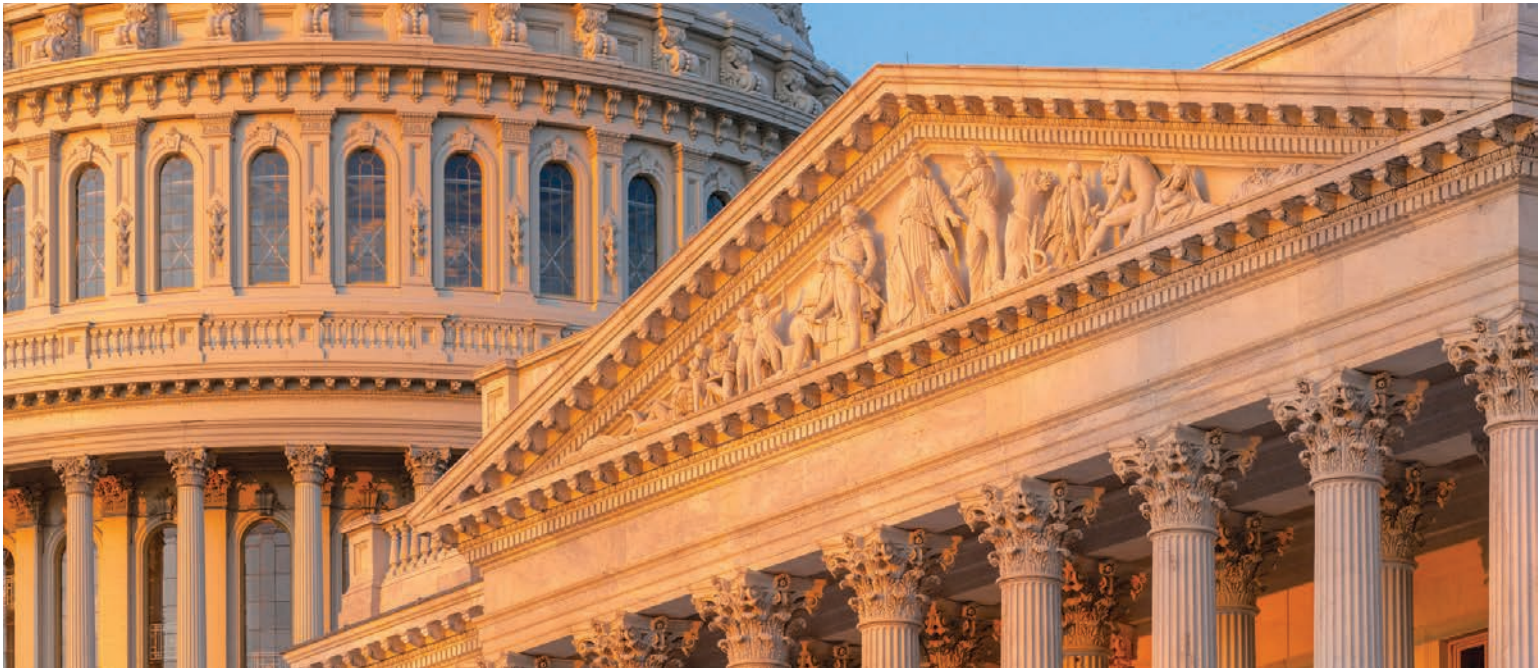


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If not extended, the 2018 Farm Bill expires Sept. 30. Wheat industry leaders are pressing Congress to pass a bill to address issues not covered by the recently passed “Big Beautiful Bill” tax legislation.

Washington wheat leaders: ‘Farm bill or bust,’ outlook ‘very likely’

By **MATTHEW WEAVER**
Capital Press

The Washington Asso-

ciation of Wheat Growers is emphasizing the need to have a farm bill by the end of the year. The 2018 bill has been extended twice and expires Sept. 30. WAWG executive director Michelle Hennings and

president Jeff Malone, a farmer in Douglas and Grant counties, both wrote about the need for a new farm bill in the August/September issue of Wheat Life, the state industry’s magazine.

“The One Big Beautiful Bill delivered a lot of wins for agriculture,” Hennings told Capital Press, noting that it modernized several farm programs for growers. “But there were some things that did not get

re-authorized. We need to pass the rest of what’s left.”

From discussions, the House Agriculture Committee feels passage this year is “very likely,” Hennings said.

“We are further along than where we were due to the important modernized farm programs that were passed in the One Big Beautiful Bill,” she said. “The programs that are

See WASHINGTON, Page C3



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WASHINGTON:

Continued from C2

left to reauthorize aren't as controversial as some others. We hope for bipartisan support to pass the 'farm bill 2.0' to modernize programs needed for farmers, especially when farm economies are at their lowest."

CRP

That includes the USDA Farm Service Agency's Conservation Reserve Program, or CRP.

Farmers enroll in the voluntary program to convert highly erodible and environmentally sensitive acreage to vegetative cover, receiving annual rental payments and cost-share assistance.

CRP is used "significantly" by Washington wheat farmers, Hennings said, particularly to meet the state's water and air quality standards.

Access to credit for producers, increased loan limits and some research funding also need to be re-authorized, Hennings said.

"Those are really important programs for producers, especially when we're looking at farm economy right now, with low price and high input costs," she said. "Those types of programs are vital for us right now."

"Conservation for me is a big one," Malone said. He relies on CRP to provide income stability and long-term planning tools. "We're still at a \$50,000 payment limitation that was set back in the 1980s. It should be closer to \$150,000."

'Farm bill or bust'

Malone's Wheat Life presidential address is entitled "Farm bill or bust" and it can be found online at: <https://wheat-life.org/farm-bill-or-bust/>

Farmers are still farming under the 2018 Farm Bill, "and it's just not working," Malone said.

"We're just farming way different than we were back then," he said. "All of these farms got bigger because we've had to,

there's less and less farmers out there. To stay alive, to keep farming, you have to get bigger. The current farm bill is just not set up for that kind of farmer."

Urban and rural interests

The industry has not supported splitting up the farm bill in the past, citing concerns about the chances of passing the bill along rural/urban lines, particularly without the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), which comprises the majority of the bill.

Traditionally, the farm bill has succeeded because it brings together urban and rural interests, Malone

wrote in Wheat Life.

"Food stamps and nutrition assistance are in the same conversations as commodity programs and conservation incentives," he wrote. "That's not an accident. That structure is what ensures that lawmakers from New York or Chicago will sit down at the table with those from Montana or Washington state. It's that structure linking nutrition, conservation and farm policy that gives the bill political strength to succeed."

"Personally, I feel a little bit defeated because here I thought we were going to be getting a farm bill done two years ago,

and here we are, they just keep kicking the can down the road," Malone told Capital Press. "Nobody can seem to get together and realize what kind of a situation we're in. Everybody just wants to fight about politics. In the grand scheme of things, we've got to work together, get everybody on board and get something passed."

Thompson listening session

Rep. Glenn "G.T." Thompson, R-Penn., chair of the House Agriculture Committee, recently held a Central Washington listening session in Prosser.

Much of the discussion revolved around local

farm economies, including input costs and interest rates, Hennings said.

"Farmers are at a point that they've been going through this for a few years now, they're using up their equity in their land," she said. "They're having to pay bills and not being able to make ends meet."

Thompson is pushing to pass the farm bill by the end of the year, Hennings said.

Next steps

WAWG will participate in NAWG's congressional fly-in to meet legislators in Washington, D.C. in September.

They'll "thank every-



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'08 CASE IH STEIGER 4350, 8120 hrs, Lux Cab, 30" Tracks, 4 Remotes, #1387\$150,000



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- '23 CASE IH 500Q AFS CONNECT, 1800 hrs, PTO, 36" Tracks, 6 Rmt, HO Pump, Lux Cab, #1400\$459,000
- '23 CASE IH 500Q AFS CONNECT, 970 hrs, PTO, 36" Tracks, 6 Rmt, HO Pump, Lux Cab, #1428\$525,000
- '20 CASE IH 500Q, 5140 hrs, PTO, 36" Tracks, 6 Rmt, HO Pump, Lux Cab, #1430\$250,000
- '18 CASE IH STEIGER 620Q, 3300hrs, Lux Cab, 36" Tracks, 6 Rmts, PTO, HO Pump, #1435\$395,000
- '11 CASE IH STEIGER 550Q, 7200 hrs, Dlx Cab, 36" Tracks, 6 Rmts, Std Pump, No PTO, #1433\$150,000
- '08 CASE IH STEIGER 4350, 8120 hrs, Lux Cab, 30" Tracks, 4 Remotes, #1387\$150,000
- '99 CASE IH 9380Q, 30" Tracks, Auto Steer, PTO, Newer Engine, Transmission and Axle work# 1436\$55,000
- '14 CHALLENGER-MT775E, 3004 hrs, PTO, 3pt hitch, 24" Tracks, 5 Remts, #\$180,000
- '14 CHALLENGER-MT775E, 6025 hrs, PTO, 3pt, 14" Tracks, 6 Rmts, #1313\$135,000
- '01 JOHN DEERE 8410T, 4 Remotes, PTO, Power Shift, Clean unit #1360\$50,000

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- '22 CASE IH MAGNUM 280 AFS CONCT CVT, 1300 hrs, MFD, Susp Axle, PTO, #1392\$280,000
- '22 CASE IH MAGNUM 280 AFS CONCT CVT, 1200 hrs, MFD, Susp Axle, PTO, #1383\$280,000
- '23 CASE IH MAXXUM 135 ACT 4, 250 hrs, MFD, 3pt, PTO, #1401\$150,000
- '21 CASE IH MAXXUM 135 ACT 8, 800 hrs, MFD, 3pt, PTO, #1342\$135,000
- '21 CASE IH MAXXUM 135 ACT 4, 871 hrs, MFD, 3pt, PTO, #1398\$120,000
- '20 CASE IH MAGNUM 240 CVT, 1840 hrs, MFD, Susp Axle, PTO, Duals, #1424\$180,000
- '78 STEIGER PANTHER 3, ST325, 4-Remotes, Duals, Cat Engine, ConsD62\$10,000

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- '22 CASE IH 8250, 700 Hrs, Harvest Command, 4WD, Redekop Chopper, Duals, Lux Cab, #1029\$375,000
- '22 CASE IH 9250 HILLCO, 795 hrs, Harvest Command, Chopper, Duals, Lux Cab, #1047\$550,000
- '22 CASE IH 9250 HILLCO, 755 hrs, Harvest Command, Chopper, Duals, Lux Cab, #1055\$550,000
- '16 CASE IH 8240, 2303 Sep hrs, Chopper, 620x42 Duals, 2WD, Lux Cab\$195,000
- 2010 CASE IH 7088 HILLSIDE, 2400 hrs, chopper, 4WD, Duals #1069\$95,000
- '07 CASE IH 8010, 2889 hrs, Duals, 4WD, Chopper, #1035\$95,000
- '13 JD S680 HILLCO, 2025 hrs, Duals, 4WD, Chopper, c/w FD75, 40' #\$325,000
- 2004 JD 9660 STS, 2540 hrs, Duals, Chopper, 630 Auger, #1066\$50,000

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- '22 MACDON M1240 WINDROWER, 430 hrs, 16ft Rotary Header, #CA249\$175,000

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- '08 CASE IH ATX 400, 45", 12", 3/4" Point, 5 1/2" Packer, Intel Ag, 2230 Cart, Trimble, #275\$150,000
- '18 BOURGAULT 5810, 42", 12" Spacing, 5.5" Packers, with L6350 Cart, Double Shoot, 6500 Acres, #Cons\$200,000
- '14 HORSCH ANDERSON JOKER RT370, 37", New Blades, #ConsD71#460\$60,000

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Appeals court dissent lays out argument for Trump's tariffs

By **DON JENKINS**
Capital Press

President Trump's tariffs have lost three times in court, but the latest defeat had a consolation prize — four federal judges articulated the case for keeping the tariffs.

In a 7-4 decision Aug. 29, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit ruled Trump's reciprocal and fentanyl-related tariffs are illegal.

The four dissenters became the first judges to hold in favor of Trump's tariffs.

In the dissent, Judge Richard Taranto, an Obama appointee, wrote that Congress made an "eyes-open" choice in 1977 to let presidents set tariffs in an international emergency.

"We know of no persuasive basis for thinking that Congress wanted to deny the president use of the tariffing tool ..." he stated.

Judges Kimberly Moore and Sharon Prost, appointed by George W. Bush, and Judge Raymond Chen, another Obama appointee, signed Taranto's dissent.

The appeals court left the tariffs in place until at least Oct. 14 to give the Justice Department time to appeal to the U.S. Supreme Court. The tariffs give the U.S. leverage in trade talks; pressure China, Mexico and Canada to stop the flow of fentanyl, and raise government revenue, according to the Trump administration.

See **TRUMP**, Page C6

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Photo courtesy of White House

President Trump, seen here addressing Congress March 4, says the U.S. will have a big year if courts eventually uphold his tariffs. Four federal judges dissented from an opinion striking down the tariffs.

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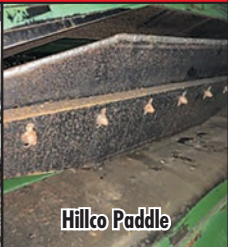
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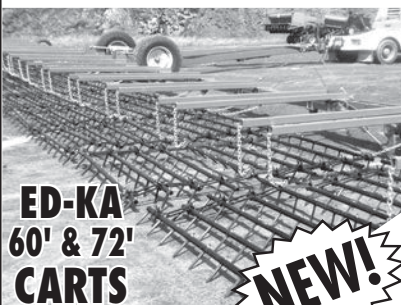
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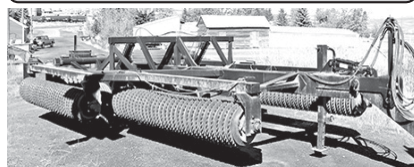
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TRUMP:

Continued from C5

"A big year ahead for the USA, maybe the BEST EVER, if the Tariffs are finally approved by the Courts!!!" Trump said on social media.

Until Taranto's dissent, Trump's reciprocal and drug-trafficking tariffs had been shut out in court. The U.S. Court of International Trade ruled 3-0 against the tariffs and so did a District Court judge in Washington, D.C.

Trump bases his tariffs on the International Emergency Economic Powers Act. The law lets presidents "regulate" imports in an emergency. Notably, according to the Federal Circuit majority, the law doesn't mention "tariffs," or synonyms such as "duties" or "taxes."

Congress needs to be clearer about authorizing tariffs with such vast economic and political consequences as Trump's tariffs, according to the majority opinion.

The opinion stopped short of saying IEEPA rules out all tariffs. In a concurring opinion, four of the seven judges went that far. They said Trump can't levy any tariffs under IEEPA.

If Trump can declare an emergency to raise tariffs to cut the deficit, "not much remains of congressional authority over taxation," Judge Tiffany Cunningham wrote.

The dissenters disagreed with both the "no-tariffs" and "not-these-tariffs" positions.

Taranto opened the dictionary and found "regulating" synonymous with "controlling," "governing," or "directing." Tariffs would be a way to do all that, he wrote.

Federal lawmakers in the 1970s were keenly interested in the limits of presidential power and would have been aware of a 1974 court decision interpreting "regulate" imports" to include levying tariffs, Taranto wrote.

Other laws permit presidents to impose tariffs after trade investigations. The Trump administration says it relies on IEEPA because of its "speed and agility."

Five small businesses and 12 states, led by Oregon Attorney General Dan Rayfield, filed suits against the tariffs. The suits were merged into one case, V.O.S. Selections v. Trump.

"Past presidents have implemented tariffs — but they have done so legally, through Congress," Rayfield said on X. "This case is different: It's an abuse of emergency economic powers by the president. That's why we're fighting it in court — and why we're winning."

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Potato chip specialist Teton Valley opens new processing facility

By **BRAD CARLSON**
Capital Press

CALDWELL, Idaho — Potato chips are becoming big business for Teton Valley Brands, which recently expanded substantially.

“This is just very, very Idaho,” Gov. Brad Little said at a recent ribbon-cutting ceremony at Teton Valley’s new processing and packaging facility at 211 S. 34th Ave., Caldwell. “Families. Starting from nothing. Great ideas. Hard work. Marketing ... It’s just an iconic Idaho story and I’m very proud to be here today. Congratulations.”

He was pleased to learn that founder Kyle Nehring — who started the business at his home and quickly enlisted help — remains head taster. This sheds light on the culture of the company, “where from the soil to the shelf, they’re involved every step of the way,” Little said.

Cranney Farms, near Oakley in the state’s south-central region, supplies the potatoes — chipping varieties such as Lamoka — and is a sizable equity partner in Teton Valley Brands.

“We’re excited. This is the only potato chip facility at scale in Idaho,” said Todd Cranney, who serves on the Teton Valley board of directors.

For Cranney Farms, potatoes for processing into fried products generate the most revenue, followed by potatoes for the fresh market and for dehydrated products, respectively. Chips are the smallest contributor, but “that is growing exponentially as this grows,” he said.

“We think this has great possibilities to grow,” Cranney Farms CEO

Ryan Cranney said. “We are seeing huge spikes of growth,” Teton Valley President and CEO Matt Price said.

The company has been operating in its current form for about four years. It has its Idaho brand, does some co-manufacturing for other busi-

See TETON, Page C8



Brad Carlson/Capital Press

Potato chip maker Teton Valley Brands, which has multiple products and a new facility, continues to grow.



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TETON:

Continued from C7

nesses and recently began offering a Wagyu beef tallow chip through a venture with Boise-based Agri Beef's Snake River Farms.

"Between those three things, business is way

up and to the right," Price said, referring to Teton Valley's revenue growth over time. Customers include grocery and convenience store chains.

Cranney Farms principals, Price and several others have been instrumental in Teton Valley's early momentum and recent

growth, Nehring said.

"This doesn't happen with just a couple people," said Nehring, whose family's farm is in the state's Teton Valley region.

The new facility is about 15,000 square feet. The previous location, in Nampa, was about 2,200.

More than 40 people work for Teton Valley Brands, including consultants and 22 full-time staff.

"What a great story," Little said. "With the exception of one or two companies, Idaho's success has always been built by Idaho entrepreneurs

with good ideas and hard work."

Idaho, which leads the U.S. in potato production, "spends a lot of time and effort on that Idaho potato brand," the governor said.

Teton Valley Brands has a licensing agreement with the Idaho Potato Commission.

Court rules Trump tariffs illegal; tariffs in place pending appeal

By DON JENKINS
Capital Press

A federal appeals court ruled 7-4 that President Trump's reciprocal and fentanyl-related tariffs are illegal, but let the tariffs stand to give the Justice Department time to appeal to the U.S. Supreme Court.

The U.S. Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit issued the ruling Aug. 29 shortly after government lawyers submitted sworn statements from four cabinet members warning the court

that overturning the tariffs would be a "dangerous diplomatic embarrassment."

The majority opinion noted its decision was based on the law, not policy considerations. "We are not addressing whether the president's actions should have been taken as a matter of policy," the court stated.

Trump blasted the ruling in a social media post. "If allowed to stand, this decision would literally destroy the United States of America," he wrote.

The court ruled the International Emergency Economic Powers Act doesn't allow the president to impose tariffs. The law authorizes the president to "regulate" imports in an emergency. If Congress had wanted "regulate" to include setting tariffs, it would have said so, the court ruled.

The majority also said giving the president sweeping powers to levy tariffs was a question for Congress to decide.

The four dissenting

judges disagreed. They said Congress, with "open eyes," gave the president broad authority to respond to economic emergencies that threaten the U.S.

The majority stayed their ruling until Oct. 14. In his social media post, Trump counted on the Supreme Court to uphold the tariffs. "Now, with the help of the United States Supreme Court, we will use them to the benefit of our Nation, and Make America Rich, Strong, and Powerful Again."

The ruling upheld a 3-0 decision by the U.S. Court of International Trade. Suits against the tariffs were brought by five businesses and a 12-state coalition led by Oregon Attorney General Dan Rayfield.

The letter filed just hours before the ruling contained sworn statements from Commerce Secretary Howard Lutnick, Treasurer Secretary Scott Bessent, Secretary of State Marco Rubio and U.S. Trade Representative Jamieson Greer.

The four cabinet members warned striking down the tariffs would undermine trade talks and negotiations to end the Russia-Ukraine war.

Tariffs have allowed the U.S. to negotiate "asymmetrical" trade deals with the United Kingdom, European Union, Japan, South Korea, Vietnam, Indonesia and the Philippines, Lutnick said.

The deals will help the U.S. erase a trade deficit that systematically transfers U.S. wealth overseas, he said.

"Curtailing presidential authority now would be catastrophic," Lutnick said. "An adverse decision by this court would lead countries to question the strength of the executive branch and the word of the president."

The trade deals are "frameworks" for negotiating binding agreements, Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent said.

"The success of the negotiations depends on

See TARIFF, Page C9



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TARIFF:

Continued from C8

the credible threat of the prompt imposition of tariffs,” he said.

The U.S. imposed high tariffs on India to pressure it to stop buying Russian oil, Rubio said. Reducing demand for Russian oil will give Trump leverage in

peace talks, he said.
The letter included an estimate by the Congressional Budget Office that Trump’s tariffs will reduce the budget deficit by \$4 trillion by 2035.

The estimate assumes tariffs will stay high for 10 years. Tariffs have increased by 18 percentage points since Trump took office, according to CBO.

Local farm leaders
headed to South Africa
for cultural exchange

Capital Press

An Oregon farmer and a California dairy woman are among a small group of agricultural leaders headed to South Africa in September for a cross-cultural exchange.

Jon Iverson, manager of Iverson Family Farms in Woodburn, Ore., and Jennifer Beretta of Beretta Dairy in Santa Rosa, Calif., are making the trip with the American Farm Bureau Federation’s Partners in Advocacy Leadership program.

Iverson and Beretta will be in South Africa from Sept. 2-13 touring farms and learning more about agriculture in the country.

Their group will visit one of largest grain farms in South Africa, a dairy, a 4,000-head merino sheep farm, a winery and a



Courtesy American Farm Bureau Federation

Jon Iverson, a farmer from Woodburn, Ore., is headed to South Africa to visit and study agricultural operations as part of the American Farm Bureau Federation’s Partners in Advocacy Leadership program.

lemon, olive, pomegranate and essential oil farm.

“I am most excited



Courtesy Jennifer Beretta

Jennifer Beretta, a dairy farmer from Santa Rosa, Calif., said she’s looking forward to her trip to South Africa, partly because she’ll see how a dairy farm operates in that country.

about visiting the dairy to see the similarities and differences,” Beretta said, in a news release.

See TRIP, Page C10

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TRIP:

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The group will look into labor challenges, sustainability and innovative farming practices in South Africa, and also meet with U.S. Embassy officials and agricultural leaders to discuss topics such as trade and food security, she said.

Iverson, whose farm is best known for the

Wooden Shoe Tulip Festival, noted South Africa's diverse mix of agriculture, not only in crops grown but in size and technology used.

"It should give us a great idea of how different farms meet today's farming challenges, especially those around workforce," he said, in a news release.

"My goal is to come home with some solutions to address the U.S. agri-

cultural workforce issues and share them with my state's congressional delegation," Iverson said.

Iverson also was curious why so many South Africans are choosing to come to the U.S. on guest worker visas.

Beretta said it was an honor to represent her family, her farm and her community on the international stage.

"As a fourth generation

dairy farmer, I believe it's critical to understand how agriculture connects us across borders, and how we can collaborate to strengthen the future of farming, both at home and abroad," she added.

Iverson and Beretta are part of the 12th class of Partners in Advocacy Leadership, a two-year program that has 10 people per cohort.

The program focuses on

farmers and ranchers age 30 to 45. Participants learn how to become advocates for agriculture and effectively discuss issues with the public, politicians and the media.

This class of the Partners in Advocacy Leadership program has an overall focus on labor issues. Previous trips for this class included New York City, Washington, D.C. and Chicago.



A greater sage grouse nesting area, or lek

BLM photo

BLM aims to revise sage grouse plans

By BRAD CARLSON
Capital Press

The U.S. Bureau of Land Management seeks public comments through Oct. 3 on proposed amendments to greater sage grouse management plans in eight Western states.

National conservation group the Center for Biological Diversity immediately issued a statement in opposition to the Sept. 2 draft plan.

The amendments — to impact BLM-managed public lands in California, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, North Dakota, South Dakota, Utah and Wyoming — would continue to ensure responsible habitat stewardship while making more public land available for energy development and mining, according to a bureau news release.

The proposed changes support "Unleashing American Energy," an executive order President

Donald Trump signed Jan. 20, according to BLM.

The U.S. has abundant energy and natural resources that have powered the country's economic prosperity historically, but in recent years, "burdensome and ideologically motivated regulations have impeded the development of these resources, limited the generation of reliable and affordable electricity, reduced job creation and inflicted high energy costs upon our citizens," according to the executive order.

The order called for immediate review of all agency actions that "potentially burden the development of domestic energy resources" and said agency heads would develop and carry out action plans to "suspend, revise or rescind all agency actions identified

See SAGE, Page C11

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SAGE:
Continued from C10
as unduly burdensome.”
Proposed changes to the sage grouse management plans incorporate key research published since original plans were approved, including new information about how the birds respond to drought and disturbance, according to the BLM release.
The current comment period relates to changes to the Proposed Resource Management Plan Amendment for Greater Sage Grouse Rangewide Planning, detailed in a Sept. 2 BLM document. The U.S.

Environmental Protection Agency on Nov. 15 issued a final environmental impact statement, which initiated a 30-day BLM protest period and 60-day governors’ review.
BLM coordinated with the Western Governors Association Sage Grouse Conservation Task Force to “better align BLM’s adaptive management process with state policies and programs to manage sage grouse populations,” according to the range-wide planning document.
New draft plans strip away protections for the grouse on about 50 million acres of public lands

across the West, according to the Center for Biological Diversity statement.
Under presidents Barack Obama and Joe Biden, proposals “were intended to prevent the extinction of the iconic dancing bird.”
The new document “presents numerous substantial revisions that gut the plans, including giving states authority to decide when and where protections apply.”
Proposed amendments would give states discretion to amend or waive some existing protections, which would create conflicts of interest due to

the influence of extractive industries and would allow for new rights of way in important habitat, according to the center.
“The Trump administration is obliterating the only thing standing between the greater sage grouse and extinction,” said Randi Spivak, public lands policy director of the Center for Biological Diversity. “Trump’s cronies in the mining and fossil fuel industries have been licking their chops over stripping away these protections ever since the election.”
Sage grouse were considered for Endangered Spe-

cies Act listing in the early 2010s. Instead, land management plans with added protections from extractive uses were enacted in 2015 and revised in 2018 and last year.
In priority habitat areas, the protections limit where mining, oil and gas, and other heavy industry can operate and where electrical transmission lines can be placed, according to the Center for Biological Diversity. The protections also limit how much disturbance is allowed in the priority areas, which were designated to protect the birds and their mating grounds.

Onion variety showcase features high-yield performer

By **BRAD CARLSON**
Capital Press

WILDER, Idaho — Newish onion variety Delightful’s 2025 yield was much higher than officials with seed producer Crookham Co. expected.
And another variety, Defender — which set a yield record in 2023 — performed well again this year.
“The weather was extremely conducive to growing a nice crop, so it was not super surprising,” said Ryan Johnson, long-day onion breeder with Caldwell-based Crookham.
Onion Reveal 2025, held Aug. 26 at the company’s farm, showcased nine varieties. Seven were named and are part of Crookham’s commercial onion portfolio. Two were numbered, signifying an earlier, pre-portfolio stage.
Defender is a yellow super colossal long-day onion that starts to form bulbs when the longest days of the year arrive. Delightful is a yellow jumbo intermediate-day-length onion that is planted earlier and grows through a shorter season.
Crookham Co. also featured long-day onions Caldwell, Caliber, Epic, Tantrum and Trident from its commercial portfolio. All are yellow except for the red Tantrum.
“High-yielding varieties are always the goal,” Johnson said.
In addition to boosting crop

revenue, a high-yielding onion can enable more control over the plant population — increasing plant density to decrease bulb size, for example, “if that is the goal of the grower,” he said.
Delightful, this year available in sizable quantities for the first time, does well in nor-

mal to mild growing conditions, Johnson said. Caliber, in contrast, is better adapted to harsher conditions.
Onion Reveal can provide valuable information each year regardless of how a particular variety performs. Varieties were tested by high heat and

drought in 2020 and 2021, for example.
“We’re always learning new things about these varieties even though they’ve been commercial for several years now,” Johnson said.
“We have implemented several changes to take on a more

regenerative approach to growing not only these bulbs, but the seed — the goal being creating a healthier environment for the plants to thrive in,” he said.
RegenAg Nation, based in Wilder, has provided

See SAGE, Page C13

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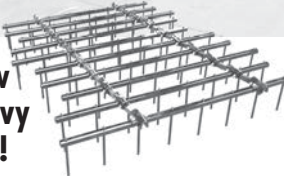


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Courtesy Oregon Department of Agriculture

An official with the U.S. Wheat Associates says that U.S. trade negotiations have been positive for wheat farmers.



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U.S. Wheat vice president: Global trade needs reset

By **MATTHEW WEAVER**
Capital Press

Trade negotiation results have been “largely positive” for wheat so far amid trade uncertainty, a U.S. Wheat Associates leader says.

“I think it’s really important that farmer-led organizations keep an open mind, both about current policies and future discussions,” Dalton Henry, vice president of policy for U.S. Wheat, told Capital Press.

Some crops, particularly those dependent on China, are experiencing negative impacts, Henry said.

But for wheat, “Customers overseas know the U.S. is the world’s most reliable supplier, and while the current U.S. trade policy may be adding some uncertainty to overall bilateral relationships, it really hasn’t changed anything about the ability to access U.S. wheat supplies,” Henry said.

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Brad Carlson/Capital Press

Tantrum was among varieties featured at Crookham Co.'s Onion Reveal event Aug. 26 near Wilder, Idaho.

ONION :

Continued from C11

Crookham Co. with inputs and agronomic consultation, agronomy business development specialist Roger McKinley said.

Optimizing soil health and reducing chemical usage are among the goals of regenerative agriculture, which “is going to be conventional agriculture in 10 years,” he said. Large consumer product goods companies, for example, “have massive sustainability goals.”

Crookham Co.’s onion breeding saw some benefits

in 2025, the second season the regenerative practices have been used, Johnson said. In 2026, “we expect to see increased plant health overall, and better yields.”

The Delightful onion variety’s good yield this year — 26-34% above the southeast Oregon-southwest Idaho growing region’s average — was welcomed, said Lyndon Johnson, Crookham Co. sales development manager.

Given trends including low profit margins per unit of space and low prices for onions, “you have to have high yields if you expect to stay in the game,” he said.

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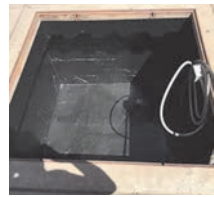
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TRADE:

Continued from C13

ers have pointed to “stubbornly low” prices, telling customers that wheat is “on sale.”

“I think the pricing environment we are in right now is only going to sharpen the focus on the need for a trade policy reset,” Henry said. “In the U.S., new agreements are going to have to deliver meaningful market access - either in the form of access to new markets or preferential access relative to our competitors.”

At the World Trade Organization, any future agreement will have to actually manage and control bad actors, especially in the area of subsidies that tend to result in overproduction, Henry said.

‘Strong enthusiasm’ for farmers

In a post on the U.S. Wheat website, Henry said that trade tensions, bilateral deal-making and pressure campaigns between governments are “hardly new” and “while turbulent at times, are more the norm” than broad free trade policies, which have only existed for about three decades.

Progress can be made in the trading environment, Henry said, although the answer is not absolute for every trade scenario.

The White House’s “outwardly chaotic” negotiating strategy, repeated tariff cliffs and artificial deadlines have had negative impacts, Henry stated. Bulk wheat is purchased two to five months into the future and a potential higher-than-anticipated retaliatory tariff or “exorbitant” port fee “scares the bejeezus out of global wheat buyers.”

“Go to a farm meeting in America’s heartland today and you’ll find fewer true free trade champions,” Henry wrote. “Instead, there is strong enthusiasm for the negotiated purchase commitments and one-off trade deals that are the current focus of the Trump administration.”

Read Henry’s post at: <https://tinyurl.com/5t8pfhra>

Global reset

A reset on global trade

Courtesy U.S. Wheat Associates
Dalton Henry, vice president of policy for U.S. Wheat Associates, the overseas marketing arm for the industry.

was needed, Henry said in his post, calling it one of three reasons for U.S. wheat farmers to be optimistic.

The WTO did “incredibly important work for global ag trade and could do even more.” But the current round of global trade negotiations began in 2001, without any “meaningful progress on a comprehensive outcome,” Henry wrote.

“Many countries perceive that the potential gains from an agreement are outweighed by the benefits of the status quo where bad actors flaunt current rules,” he wrote. “The United States has stepped back from a leadership position and took up one of an antagonist, which may be frustrating to many.”

Purchase commitments

Purchase commitments like those recently secured in Indonesia, Vietnam and Bangladesh open doors and build future opportunities, Henry wrote, citing market development work like U.S. Wheat’s.

“For those benefits to accrue, these purchase commitments need to be seen as binding and be in place for multiple years,” he wrote. “Then it’s up to organizations like U.S. Wheat and USDA to prioritize work in those countries when planning for trade servicing, technical assistance and other market development and access activities.”

To date, many of the memorandums of understanding (MOUs) put in place or under consideration meet these criteria, Henry wrote.

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TRADE:

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‘Messy process’

Since the White House’s April 2 reciprocal tariff announcement, “countries have been eager to find ways to purchase U.S. goods and to negotiate access, includ-

ing specific volumes for key products,” Henry wrote in the post. “Admittedly, this process is messy, but it is a way for countries, including the United States, to open their markets to some level of additional goods, while providing protection against a surge of imports that could

threaten or upend key domestic industries,” he wrote. The coming years will likely continue to be “uncomfortable” for trade-dependent industries, but there can be

light in the transition, Henry wrote. “We can bemoan the current U.S. trade policy for what it is — uncertain,” he wrote. “Or we

can engage and be part of the effort to find opportunities — both in the near-term and to prepare for the trade policy work of the future.”

U.S. Wheat vice president: Global trade needs reset

Capital Press staff

Two recreational shooters in southwest Idaho agreed to pay the U.S. Bureau of Land Management more than \$24,000 after firing illegal exploding ammunition that sparked the 2024 Leeds and Chalky Butte fires.

“These settlements show that unsafe recreation has real consequences, while ensuring the public is repaid for the damages and restoration of Idaho’s BLM lands, BLM Boise District manager Shelly Lynch said in a news release.

Recreational target shooting has been the leading cause of fires started by people in 2025 despite restrictions outlined in BLM’s Idaho Fire Prevention Order, according to the release. The order bans the use of steel component, tracer, incendiary or exploding ammunition as well as shooting at steel or exploding targets. The restrictions are intended to reduce wildfire risk.

“We ask the public to make safe choices when target shooting by following the order, using safe backdrops and carrying water or extinguishers,” said Chad Cline, fire information officer. “Preventing human-caused fires protects firefighters, communities and the public lands we all enjoy.”

Emergency calls Oct. 30 led BLM law enforcement personnel to a recreational shooter who admitted to firing exploding ammunition that sparked the Leeds Fire in Ada County, according to the release.

Based on witness statements and other evidence, the BLM fire investigator confirmed the Leeds Fire — which burned 355 acres of BLM, U.S. Bureau

of Reclamation, Idaho and private lands and prompted a multi-agency response — was human-caused and ignited by target shooting.

Estimated cost to the BLM was \$20,034 in fire suppression and damages. The shooter agreed to pay full restitution.

A BLM Boise District Ranger Nov. 1 identified a recreational shooter who admitted to starting the Chalky Butte Fire at the Chalky Butte Recreation Site in Owyhee County by firing exploding ammunition in celebration of a Boise State football team win, according to the release.

The shooter crashed a side-by-side vehicle into a ravine while trying to suppress the Chalky Butte Fire, which burned about two acres and cost BLM about \$4,355 in damages and suppression.

The shooter — who received citations for discharging a firearm in a recreational area, discharging an incendiary device, causing a fire, driving off-road and creating a hazardous condition — agreed to pay full restitution to BLM.

Neither shooter was identified in the release. BLM worked with the U.S. Attorney’s Office.

“Fires that recklessly originate on public lands often impact private property and harm our community,” said acting U.S. Attorney Justin Whatcott. “In both cases, our BLM Idaho fire partners were able to control the spread of these two fires and protect private property. The restitution paid by both perpetrators was necessary to offset the damages and fire suppression costs and will serve as a deterrent against improper use of our public lands in the future.”



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